



ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

ZOA President Morton A. Klein and Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)

CONGRESS LISTENS TO ZOA



Top: Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) Left: Cong. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)



Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)



Sen. Benjamin Sasse (R-NE)



Cong. Brad Sherman (D-CA)



Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)



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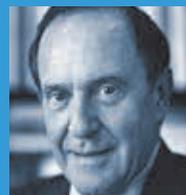
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HONORABLE DANNY DANON
Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations

FALL 2015

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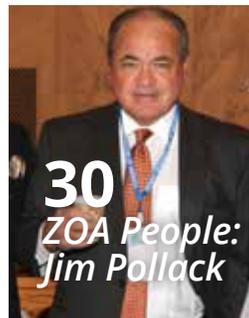
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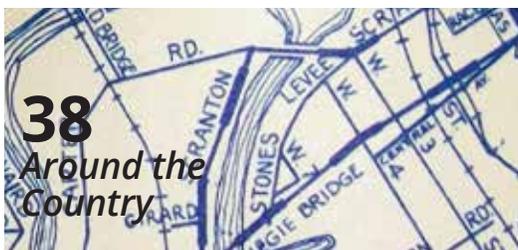
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President's Message

President Obama's Troubling Attitude Toward Radical Islam

Critics repeatedly claim that the reason President Barack Obama agreed to a catastrophic nuclear deal with Iran is his naiveté, his ineptness, and his being out-negotiated. Does Obama's record validate that thesis? Or is there evidence that President Obama's feelings toward Islamism may require a different conclusion?

President Obama attended Pastor Jeremiah Wright's anti-America, anti-Israel church for 20 years while calling Wright a "great man and my mentor." Obama helped organize radical Muslim racist Louis Farrakhan's Million Man March in Washington – but refused to attend the four million man march against radical Islamic terrorism in Paris. Obama's closest friends include Rashid Khalidi, a Columbia professor and extremist anti-Israel activist.

Although Obama has called American police and much of America racist, he has refused to ever utter the term "Islamic terrorist" when jihadists murdered eighteen U.S. soldiers in Ford Hood and Tennessee and said nothing when two Islamic terrorists attempted to murder hundreds of Americans at a Mohammed cartoon drawing event in Texas. He's even ordered all official military and US government documents to delete such terms.

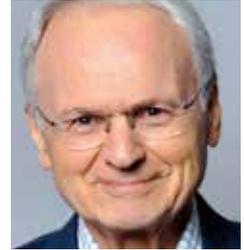
It may surprise you to learn that during his first campaign for president, Obama said Islamic terrorist groups " Hamas and Hezbollah...have legitimate claims" (NY Times, May 16, 2008). And during the latest Hamas war against Israel, Obama sent Hamas \$47 million, urged Israel to accept an early ceasefire, refused sending critical arms to Israel for several days and unnecessarily stopped US commercial flights to Israel for a short period.

Moreover, President Obama not only didn't condemn the Palestinian Authority (PA) for forming an alliance with Hamas but proclaimed he was going to continue funding the

PA despite this, even though Hamas' charter calls for the destruction of Israel and the murder of every Jew!

That didn't surprise me, since during a meeting I attended at the White House with Jewish leaders, President Obama stated that we "Jews should speak to your Israeli friends and relatives and search your souls to see if you're serious about peace...you and the Israelis think since Israel's economy is good, there's little terrorism, so peace is overrated... but Mahmoud Abbas and the PA are sincere about peace." [Mahmoud Abbas is a Holocaust denier who with Yasser Arafat co-founded the terrorist group Fatah]

What other Arab groups did Obama side with? When he gave his first major speech on the Middle East in Cairo, he invited the Muslim Brotherhood, an outlawed terrorist group, to attend, despite pleadings against this from US ally Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak. When Mubarak was forced from office, why did Obama embrace the terrorist Muslim Brotherhood who came to power, but was cold to



**MORTON
A. KLEIN**
*President,
Zionist Organization
of America*



Although Obama has called American police and much of America racist, he has refused to ever utter the term "Islamic terrorist" when jihadists murdered eighteen U.S. soldiers in Ford Hood...

Why did President Obama make a deal with the radical Islamic terrorist state of Iran that doesn't dismantle their nuclear program, allows nuclear weapons in 10 years or less, and requires 24 days or more of lead time for inspecting non-designated nuclear facilities?

new moderate Egyptian president, Abdel Fatah al-Sisi?

Furthermore, why did Obama publicly support rallies to oust US ally Mubarak from office yet refused to support rallies to oust the genocidal, anti-American, anti-Israel president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, America's enemy? He was also silent about continuous Iranian rallies, even after the nuclear agreement was finalized, calling for "Death to America and Israel" while Iran vowed support for Hamas, Hezbollah, and Syria.

Obama also said nothing about Iran's executing 1,000 political dissidents a year, executing gays, imprisoning journalists, and closing dozens of opposition newspapers. Obama even ignored the four innocent Americans languishing and being tortured in Iranian prisons. Maybe this shouldn't have been surprising, since Obama delayed US votes on sanctions on Iran for over a year, fought against additional sanctions, and didn't fully implement the sanctions that the US Congress passed.

When it came to Islamic terrorists in Guantanamo prison, he released many of them despite experts designating them as "high risk" to commit future terrorist attacks. Moreover, he released five Islamic terrorist leaders of the Taliban in return for one US deserter, Bowe Bergdahl. Why? Also, President Obama has sent radical Islamists like Salam Al-Marayati and Feisal Abdul Rauf on speaking tours to represent the United States. This is despite the fact that Marayati called for Israel's destruction, said Israel may be responsible for 9-11 and defended the rights of Holocaust deniers - while Rauf said US policies are an "accessory" to the 9-11 attacks, that "the US had more Muslim blood on its hands than Al Qaeda has on its hands of non-Muslims," refused to condemn Hamas, and speaks of a "Sharia-compliant America."

Why did President Obama make a deal with the radical Islamic terrorist state of Iran that doesn't dismantle their nuclear program, allows nuclear weapons in 10 years or less, requires 24 days or more of lead time for

inspecting non-designated nuclear facilities, demands the US and others help Iran protect its facilities from sabotage, and provides hundreds of billions of dollars in sanctions relief which will surely be used to fund and arm terrorist groups around the world, causing a dramatic increase in Islamic terrorism?

Why did Obama leak Israel's secret agreement with Azerbaijan to allow Israeli warplanes to refuel there during a possible attack on Iran's nuclear facility, sabotaging any Israeli attempt to destroy Iran's nuclear program? The former Saudi Arabia ambassador to the US said Obama knowingly made a bad agreement, while renowned African American intellectual, Thomas Sowell, of Stanford's Hoover Institute, wrote that the Iran deal "requires us to think the unthinkable, that we have elected a man for whom America's best interests are not his top priority."

Is it really a wonder that we're hardly fighting the radical terrorist group ISIS by only flying 13 bombing raids a day against them, when military officials say the way to destroy ISIS is by flying hundreds of raids a day, as we did against Iraq?

In light of all this and more, maybe we should have expected President Obama to proclaim at his UN speech on September 25, 2012, "The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam."

As the great two-time Nobel prize-winning chemist Linus Pauling used to say to me after we had analyzed data from an experiment: "Mort, what does the evidence require us to believe?"

I am now compelled to ask: "What does all the evidence about President Obama's actions require us to believe about the President and radical Islam?" The evidence requires us to painfully conclude that President Barack Hussein Obama is sympathetic to radical Islam. [ZOA](#)



Morton A. Klein
National President

Capitol Hill Pro-Israel Mission



Above: ZOA delegates listen to Gary Bauer, President of "American Values" and a director at Christians United For Israel

Largest Group in ZOA History on Capitol Hill to Fight Iran Deal Which Gives Iran Nukes and \$100 Billion Also Lobbied Against US Aid to PA/Hamas Regime

Many hundreds of strong and proud ZOA activists from 26 states across the country, including California, Arizona, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Texas, Florida, DC, Virginia, and Maryland, participated in the Zionist Organization of America's annual Pro-Israel Advocacy Mission to Washington D.C. on Tuesday, April 28th. These committed Zionist activists met with almost 100 members of Congress or their staffers.

1) They urged their Senators to support S.615, the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act

of 2015, introduced by Senator Bob Corker (R-TN), Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), and Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), and thanked the 53 co-sponsors of this legislation. This bill allows Congress to review and vote on any final Iran nuclear deal before sanctions are lifted against Iran.

2) They urged their House Members to pass H.R. 1191, companion to S.615, to be introduced by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA).

3) They urged all members to cut all \$440 million per year in funding to the PA until

CAPITOL HILL PRO-ISRAEL MISSION



Cong. Ted Poe (R-TX)

“It is so inspiring to the ZOA and our delegates to hear these fabulous, pro-Israel speeches by the most important Members of Congress...”

ZOA National President Morton A. Klein

they fulfill their written commitments, to end incitement in their schools, media and speeches, to outlaw terror groups, to end their alliance with Hamas, to arrest terrorists, to stop paying pensions to Jew killers and their families, specifically to reward them for their monstrous atrocities, to put Israel on their maps, and to accept Israel as a Jewish State.

At ZOA's spectacular luncheon, held prior to congressional meetings in a magnificent Baronial Chamber in the Russell Senate Office Building, ZOA activists were joined and interacted with numerous Democratic and Republican US Senators, House Members, and two top Mideast Policy analysts from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and American Values.

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 ranking members of both the Senate and House Foreign Relations Committees and a presidential candidate. One delegate after another made it clear to me that they were thrilled to spend a day in their lives fighting for Israel, for strong



ZOA delegates, led by Len Getz, Philadelphia ZOA treasurer, meet with Cong. Ryan Costello (R-PA)

U.S./Israel relations, and educating Members of Congress about the truth about the ongoing Arab war against Israel, which seeks Israel's destruction, not any sort of negotiated settlement.

“This year the most critical issue facing Israel, the United States, and the world is the catastrophic horror of the Islamic Republic of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons. But not only that, this deal will provide Iran with \$100 billion per year in additional revenues from sanctions relief which will be used to fund and arm increased Islamic terrorism against Israel, Christians, and the United States and Europe. After all, Iran is the largest sponsor of Islamic terrorism today. Shockingly, this deal actually funds today's Hitler, Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader. Tragically, President Obama has absolutely refused to link this deal with Iran ending terrorism and Iran ending calls for America's and Israel's destruction.”

Below is a sampling of comments by

CAPITOL HILL PRO-ISRAEL MISSION



EOA Director of Development Howard Katzoff, Gary Bauer, President of "American Values," and Patti Klein

some of our speakers:

Senator Rand Paul **R-Kentucky,** **Presidential Candidate**

"I don't think every war is the answer, but I would have been involved before 9/11 and certainly wanted to go after Bin Laden afterward. I introduced a declaration of war against ISIS. These people that surround Israel are not people we should be giving weapons to. The response we get from Iran—if we can't even agree upon what we are trying to agree upon—that gives me pause. Shouldn't there be a discussion about terrorism and ballistic missiles too? The president said when asked if he expects Iran to end their sponsorship of terrorism: 'Well, they probably still are going to participate in terrorism.' Thank you for having the guts to have a strong organization that says you shouldn't be sending money to Palestinian terrorists."



EOA delegates after a long day of lobbying

Senator Ben Cardin **D-Maryland** **Ranking member of the Senate** **Foreign Relations Committee**

"We are seeing a growing amount of acts by citizens of anti-Semitism all across Europe. I am glad to say that the Senate Finance Committee approved the trade bill to make sure that none of the European countries support BDS. We have a chance to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state and we must stay focused on that objective."

Senator Mark Kirk **R-Illinois**

"We need to make sure the state of Israel survives, to assure continued bipartisan consensus against a nuclear Iran."

Senator Ron Johnson **R-Wisconsin**

"Negotiations with Iran were lost before they began. When you start a negotiation to relax sanctions, what is there left to negotiate? If you are going to weaponize your nuclear program, you do it on your military bases, but we are not allowed to inspect those. Snapback is impossible—hundreds of billions of

"Thank you for having the guts to have a strong organization that says you shouldn't be sending money to Palestinian terrorists."

**Senator
Rand Paul**



EOA Board Vice Chair Dr. Alan Mazurek and other delegates meet with Senator Schumer's (D-NY) staffer

“Mort was there to see me walk down the aisle with my beautiful bride, and he also watched me walk down the aisles of Congress escorting PM of Israel Netanyahu to speak last month.”

Cong. Brad Sherman

dollars will have been invested in businesses in Iran. There is no peaceful nuclear program. The Iranians want a weapon to wack the region and wack the world.”

Senator Ben Sasse R-Nebraska

“Obama aspires to see Iran become a successful regional player – but why would we want them to be successful? They are sworn to the destruction of Israel and America. There can be no nuclear Iran. Iran should have zero centrifuges! We always had a treaty process that takes two branches of government. There is no reason to abandon this. A president is not like the king. If you think this, you don’t get the American system of government. An Iran treaty needs 67 votes because this is a bilateral long-term policy and it is based on consensus.”

Cong. Brad Sherman D-California

“So happy to be here with Mort Klein because this last decade Mort was there to see me walk down the aisle with my beautiful bride, and he also watched me walk down the aisles of Congress escorting the Prime Minis-

ter of Israel Netanyahu to speak last month. I declared the Iranian nuclear program the number one threat facing the security of the US. According to this deal, Iran gets its hands on hundreds of billions of dollars. You can only imagine what they will do with it. Sure, a little chunk will go to their people, and then the rest will go to terrorists and militias. Why don’t we have our US embassy in the national capital of Jerusalem? Anti-Semitism is not only in Europe but here on our campuses, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act now applies to discrimination against Jews based on a bill I introduced.”

Congressman Ted Poe R-Texas

“We have a game in Texas we play called Texas Hold ‘em. Iran is the cool player. The P5+1 got nervous and folded. Iran will get the pay-off in ten years with the nuke. The West has been had by this deal. The pot of gold is not gold but nuclear weapons. How in the world can anyone trust the Iranian government? And their mischief is still all over the world – they are in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon – what are they doing there? They are the world’s great sponsor of terrorism. They have their

terrorist mischief minions everywhere. We need more sanctions against them.”

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart **R-Florida**

“I never thought I would see our President meet with Castro for an hour, but have no time to meet with the Prime Minister of Israel. I never thought we would see the President criticize the most loyal, the best, most dignified ally we have. I have a deal for Iran; it’s very simple. Iran cannot have a nuclear program. These are the people we think we can persuade to become a force of stability in the Middle East? Your presence has never been more crucial, and do not be apologetic. There is evil in this world. And all the evil Iran is doing right now they are doing without nuclear weapons. Imagine what they would do with them. We will not let that happen.”

Congressman Lee Zeldin **R-New York**

“My great-grandfather was field director of ZOA under Brandeis. All Republicans are strong in support of Israel. Israel is a beacon of freedom, democracy and liberty in the midst of darkness. Our greatest ally all across the world is Israel. Our President needs an almost daily reminder who his friends are, and who are his enemies. Your presence here in DC to be involved in this, is so important—to bring accountability to a weak and inconsistent foreign policy.”

Congressman Louis Gohmert **R-Texas**

“These are troubling times. On February 12th the U.S. declassified details of Israel’s alleged nuclear program. In the document the Pentagon reveals supposed details about Israel – but information about France, Germany, etc. remained declassified. This coincided with intense pressure for Netanyahu to cancel his speech. We need to be the best friend that Israel has had. We were the first nation to recognize and independent Israel—that’s the



ZOA delegates Stephanie and Wendy Woloshin, Philadelphia ZOA members

America we need to be.”

Congressman Brendan Boyle **D-Pennsylvania**

“I am disturbed that the UN is being used as a tool to delegitimize the State of Israel. I sponsored the Holocaust Education bill. The BDS movement compares Israel to an apartheid Africa—this is an absurd and demeaning comparison. Israel is a wonderful dynamic country, and a special place and I am glad to stand with it.”

Gary Bauer **President of American Values; Director, CUFI**

“God said I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. I read in the Bible that God so loved you that he would bless people like me if I would find a way to stand with you. God doesn’t make false promises. He doesn’t stick his finger out in the air to figure out which way the wind is blowing; he makes the wind blow. We now have leadership in America that attacks Israel. That cursed Israel, so I don’t fear for just Israel; I fear for the US. We are appeasing Iran. Helen Thomas led the White House press core, when asked how to solve the problem in the Middle East, she said send all those Jews back to where they are

“We always had a treaty process that takes two branches of government. There is no reason to abandon this. A president is not like the king. If you think this, you don’t get the American system of government.”

Senator Ben Sasse



Gene Shusman, Philadelphia Board Chairman, leads the meeting with Senator Pat Toomey's (R-PA) staffer

“When everyone said Assad must go, Iranians said no, and they stood firm with their allies. We didn’t, and they won.”

from in Europe. The land of Israel is where the Jewish people come from. ‘Go back where you came from,’ they spray paint on synagogues in Europe. But isn’t that Israel? They hate you no matter where you are. Anti-Semitism is not about where you are. They want Jews “someplace else.” There is endless tolerance for Jews that are dying and no tolerance for Jews that fight back. There are evil men in other places, men who worship death, who are promising to bring to Jews and Christian’s sorrows greater than we have already experienced. Mort gets up every day consumed by the duty to stand up and fight it. I believe if we do that, perhaps even one hundred years from now, that the world will be able to look at America and see prosperous stars and stripes and look at Jerusalem and see the united capital of the nation of Israel.”

**Dr. Patrick Clausen
Economist and Scholar on Iran at
Washington Institute on Near East Policy**

“Iran thinks to itself – “Iran is on the march, the US is in retreat, and Israel will soon disappear.” When Iran views world events they see confirmation that what they believe is going to happen. Their brand of Islam, all across the world, is on the march. Iran became Shia to distinguish themselves from other Arabs (Sunni). Then, they can use a religious argument for

their national ambitions to dominate the region. When everyone said Assad must go, Iranians said no, and they stood firm with their allies. We didn’t, and they won. These are the people we think we can persuade to become a force of stability in the Middle East?”

Mort Klein thanked the entire ZOA staff for their hard work in making the ZOA’s Advocacy Mission to Washington, D.C. such a success. Mort offered special thanks to Josh London and Dan Pollak, Co-Directors of the ZOA’s Government Relations Department, who were masters of ceremonies at the luncheon event and led the discussion of issues, for all their work in helping to bring this impressive array of Members of Congress to the luncheon. Thanks were also expressed to National Executive Director David Drimer, Howard Katzoff, Susan Tuchman, Josh Teplow and the entire ZOA staff for their hard work in making the Mission run so smoothly.

Mort also recognized Debra Benjamin and Liz Berney for their important input into this release. Thanks were also given to Enid Roman, Lillian Gershowitz, Harriet Bachmann, and Felice Capustin for their great help. ZOA also appreciated advice given by Chairman Dr. Michael Goldblatt, Vice-Chairs Dr. Alan Mazurek and Irwin Hochberg, Treasurer Henry Schwartz and Secretary Mark Levenson, Esq. [ZOA](#)

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MORTON A. KLEIN
ZOA National President

RICHARD JOEL, *DVAR TORAH*, President, Yeshiva University

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6:00 P.m.
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Center for Law and Justice



Background: Wheeler Hall, University of California. Inset: UC President Janet Napolitano

ZOA Urges UC Regents to Adopt State Department Definition of Anti-Semitism



SUSAN TUCHMAN
*Director, Center for
Law and Justice*

Anti-Semitism has been a serious problem at the University of California (UC). Over the past few years, Jewish UC students have reported being physically assaulted, threatened and discriminated against; Jewish property has been defaced and destroyed; and student events disrupted and shut down.

Last May, UC President Janet Napolitano (formerly Arizona governor and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security) declared her support for the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism. She also agreed that the UC Regents should adopt this definition.

This was an important development. The State Department recognizes that denying Israel's right to exist, demonizing Israel (by, for example, comparing Israeli policy to that of the Nazis) and applying double standards to Israel (by requiring of it a behavior not demanded of any other country) is anti-Semitic.

The ZOA played a key role in achieving this development. Last March, the ZOA and 22 other organizations sent a letter, spearheaded by the AMCHA Initiative, to President Napolitano, expressing concern about anti-Semitism on the UC campuses and urging the UC to adopt the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism. In addition, David Kadosh, executive director of the ZOA's Western Region, addressed the Regents at several of their meetings, urging them to adopt the State Department definition of anti-Semitism and to strongly address all forms of anti-Semitism at the UC schools.

Not surprisingly, anti-Israel groups have weighed in to oppose the State Department definition and discourage the UC Regents from adopting it. These groups falsely claim that adopting the definition would interfere with constitutionally protected speech.

Adopting the definition would do nothing of the sort. It would simply provide clearer guidelines for students, faculty and administrators to identify anti-Semitism on the UC campuses, which is a critical step to fixing the problem.

To encourage the UC Regents to reject the claims being made by anti-Israel groups, the ZOA prepared a “lawyers’ petition” that has been disseminated and posted online. The petition says in part: “Opponents claim that adopting the State Department definition will silence campus activism and suppress free speech. As legal professionals, we can state with certainty that this claim simply is not true.” Urging the Regents to adopt the definition at their next meeting, the petition states: “Clearly defining and identifying the many facets of anti-Semitism is the first step to eradicating it, in all its ugly forms.” The petition garnered hundreds of signatures from lawyers around the country.

In addition, the ZOA prepared a “lawyers’ letter” that was sent to Napolitano and the Regents. Signed by Susan Tuchman, director of the ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, and legal counsel for three other national organizations, the letter refutes all legal and non-legal claims made by the anti-Israel groups opposed to the adoption of the State Department definition of anti-Semitism. Urging that the Regents adopt the definition at their meeting in September, the letter emphasizes that “anti-Semitic bigotry on the UC campuses...affects the entire UC community. This ugly problem cannot be meaningfully and effectively combatted until we truly understand the problem itself.”

SUPREME COURT INVALIDATES U.S. LAW ALLOWING JERUSALEM-BORN AMERICANS TO LIST BIRTHPLACE AS “ISRAEL”

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court decided *Zivotofsky v. Kerry*, invalidating as unconstitutional a 2002 federal law permitting Jerusalem-born Americans to list “Israel” as their birthplace on their U.S. passports. (Prior



The United States Supreme Court

to the law, only “Jerusalem” could be recorded, with no country of birth.) In a 6-3 vote, the Court concluded that the President has the exclusive power to grant formal recognition to a foreign sovereign, and that the 2002 law infringes on the President’s consistent decision not to recognize Israel’s sovereignty over Jerusalem. The majority opinion was delivered by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy and joined by the Court’s three Jewish justices, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts dissented, emphatically stating his opinion that the Court’s decision was “...a first: Never before has this Court accepted a President’s direct defiance of an Act of Congress in the field of foreign affairs.” Both Roberts and Justice Antonin Scalia, who issued a separate dissenting opinion, questioned the majority’s conclusion that the President has exclusive recognition power and that the Jerusalem passport law involved recognizing a foreign sovereign. Scalia challenged the “Court’s perception that the Nation ‘must speak with one voice’ about the status of Jerusalem,”

The law at issue was not about recognizing Israel’s sovereignty over Jerusalem. It simply gave Americans born in Jerusalem the right to identify with Israel, if they so chose.

In a painful blow to the American terror victims, Judge Daniels ruled that the PLO and the PA would be required to post a bond in the amount that the PLO and PA claimed they could pay.



Attorney General Loretta Lynch

likening this approach to how a monarchy operates and opining that the approach “will erode the structure of separated powers that the People established for the protection of their liberty.”

Although deeply disappointed by the Supreme Court’s decision, the ZOA is proud to have been the only Jewish organization in the U.S. to have fought for the enforcement of the Jerusalem passport law almost since the time it was enacted. The ZOA submitted three *amicus* briefs (one to the U.S. Court of Appeals and one each time the case went to the Supreme Court) in support of Menachem Zivotofsky, the Jerusalem-born American who was denied a U.S. passport listing Israel as his birthplace, and whose family filed suit on his behalf against the State Department.

The law at issue was not about recognizing Israel’s sovereignty over Jerusalem. It simply gave Americans born in Jerusalem the right to identify with Israel, if they so chose. Any concerns that the law might be construed as recognizing Israel’s sovereignty over Jerusalem could easily have been remedied by the Executive issuing a disclaimer, making it clear that the State Department’s compliance with the law did not mean that the U.S. had officially recognized Jerusalem as part of

Israel. That is what the State Department did when Americans born in Taiwan were afforded the right to have their birthplace listed as “Taiwan,” even though the U.S. did not recognize Taiwan as a separate sovereign from China.

The U.S. government’s position is that it does not recognize Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem. Yet the ZOA’s *amicus* briefs provided example after example of how the Executive—including the President and the State Department—has referred to Jerusalem as part of Israel. Importantly, Menachem Zivotofsky, whose family waged an almost 12-year legal battle to have Israel listed as his birthplace on his passport, is an American born in western Jerusalem, an area that virtually no one disputes is part of Israel.

The Jewish connection to Jerusalem is irrefutable, going back thousands of years. Jerusalem is mentioned 700 times in the Jewish holy books, and Jews around the world pray facing Jerusalem, which is mentioned 20 times a day in our prayers. On Yom Kippur and Passover, we recite the words “Next year in Jerusalem.” Jews have been a majority of residents of Jerusalem since the mid-1800s. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court’s decision could be twisted by Israel-bashers to deny the Jewish connection to Jerusalem and Israel’s right to any part of the city.

Attorneys Nathan Lewin, a member of the ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice’s Advisory Board, and Alyza Lewin waged a brilliant legal battle on behalf of the Zivotofsky family to uphold and enforce the 2002 law. Attorneys—and ZOA national board members—David I. Schoen, counsel of record on ZOA’s *amicus* briefs; Edward M. Siegel; Cardozo Law Professor Malvina Halberstam; and Clifford A. Rieders provided critical input on the ZOA’s briefs.

ZOA CONDEMNS OBAMA ADMINISTRATION FOR AIDING PLO/PA IN TERROR CASE

Last February, after a seven-week trial, a federal jury in Manhattan found the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the

Palestinian Authority (PA) liable for planning, funding and carrying out six terrorist shootings and bombings in Israel in the early 2000s which killed and maimed dozens of innocent American citizens and others (*Sokolow v. PLO*). The jury awarded the plaintiffs – American victims and their families – \$218.5 million in damages, automatically tripled under the Antiterrorism Act to more than \$655 million. The plaintiffs asked presiding Judge George B. Daniels to enter a judgment consistent with the jury’s verdict. The PLO and the PA moved to stay execution of the judgment, stating their intention to appeal. They claimed that they could not afford the required bond while their appeal was pending, which the plaintiffs strongly contested.

ZOA WROTE TO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Before Judge Daniels could render a decision on these matters, the media reported that the U.S. government might be submitting a “Statement of Interest” in the case, to request that the judge consider the economic and national security impact that posting the bond and paying the damages could have on the PLO and the PA. The ZOA immediately wrote to Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch, urging the U.S. government not to intervene, and to “side with the victims of terrorism, not with the terrorists.”

On August 10, the Justice Department took the unusual step of filing a “Statement of Interest of the United States of America.” Virtually the entire Statement of Interest focused on “the harms that could arise if the Court were to impose a bond that severely compromised the PA’s ability to operate as a governmental authority” – disregarding the fact that the U.S. provides the PA with \$600 million each year and Europe provides billions more.

In addition to siding with the terrorists rather than the American victims of terrorism, the Obama administration never praised the fact that after the plaintiffs waited 10 years for their claims to be heard by a jury, justice was finally served and the sponsors of terrorism against American citizens were finally held accountable. The administration

never condemned the PLO and PA for funding and sponsoring terrorist attacks that resulted in the murder and maiming of innocent American citizens. The administration never committed to taking steps to ensure that victims and their families would be financially compensated by the PLO and PA. And while noting in the Statement of Interest that the Palestinian Arabs receive billions of dollars in U.S. aid, the administration never condemned the PA for using this money to support and glorify terrorism, nor has the administration threatened to stop funding the PA until it stops promoting terrorism.

The ZOA urged Judge Daniels to ensure that justice is finally served, and that the PLO and PA be required to post the full appeal bond, based on the payment schedule suggested by the American victims. In a public plea to the judge, the ZOA wrote: “Please make it clear that the courts will show no mercy to sponsors of Palestinian Arab terrorism against American citizens, whether the Obama administration agrees or not.”

On August 25, 2015, in a painful blow to the American terror victims, Judge Daniels ruled that the PLO and the PA would be required to post \$10 million and an additional \$1 million monthly in order to appeal the jury verdict. This amount matched the amount that the PLO and PA claimed they could pay.

As plaintiffs’ counsel characterized it, the bond that the judge imposed is a “token amount,” and it is, quite simply, shameful, considering these facts: The PA pays pensions to families of terrorists and suicide bombers who were killed or are in prison; the more Jews they killed, the bigger the pension. The PA spends at least \$6 million per month on these pensions. And the PA continues to promote and glorify terrorism and to be a dishonest and immoral regime. Shortly before Judge Daniels’ ruling in August, Palestinian Media Watch reported that the PA had dedicated yet another city square to the memory of a terrorist murderer responsible for the deaths of innocent civilians in Israel. Around the same time, the media reported that authentic PA documents, leaked online,

In a public plea to the judge, the ZOA wrote: “Please make it clear that the courts will show no mercy to sponsors of Palestinian Arab terrorism against American citizens, whether the Obama administration agrees or not.”



Hebrew University in Jerusalem, site of PLO-PA bombing attack, murdering 9 innocents, including 5 Americans, and wounding over 85 others

Any anti-Israel bias is unacceptable and should be immediately identified and corrected.

show—as described by a columnist for the Palestinian newspaper *Al-Ayyam*—“rampant corruption, mismanagement and nepotism” in the PA government.

The Obama administration’s actions have troubling implications beyond the *Sokolow* case. Shortly before Judge Daniels issued his ruling, the media reported that according to a PLO official, the Palestinians have already signed an “agreement for all-out cooperation” with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Moreover, PA President Mahmoud Abbas is scheduled to visit the Islamic Republic soon, to improve ties and increase cooperation between the PA and Iran, the largest supporter of Islamic terrorism around the world, arming Hamas and Hezbollah with funds to purchase missiles and build terror tunnels. It is horrifying and betrays every American principle and sense of justice for the Obama administration to have encouraged Judge Daniels to show financial leniency to the PLO and the PA when the PA is now working to build an alliance with the worst terrorist regime in the world, committed to America’s – and Israel’s – annihilation. The Obama administration’s “Statement of Interest of the United States of America” actually took a position against U.S. interests.

ZOA URGES CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

The ZOA publicly urged Congress to hold hearings on whether the Obama administration is truly supporting the rights of American victims of terrorism, as it claims, raising several questions: Why did the administration take the unusual step of intervening in this terrorism case? What steps will the administration be taking to ensure that the judgment is collected, and will the U.S. government be intervening in the appeal? Why has the administration done nothing in response to the PA’s continuing incitement of murder in every aspect of their culture, naming schools, streets and sports teams after terrorist killers, and holding parades that glorify deceased terrorists? And why has the Justice Department failed to pursue Palestinian Arab terrorists and bring them to justice? All American citizens, including the victims of terrorism and their families in this legal case, deserve answers to these questions.

ZOA CONDEMNS ANTI-ISRAEL BIAS BY THREE AIRLINES

The ZOA’s position is that any anti-Israel bias is unacceptable and should be immediately identified and corrected. In the past few months, the ZOA has been alerted to anti-Israel bias by Lufthansa German Airlines, Air France and American Airlines. The ZOA immediately contacted each airline, pinpointed the problem and demanded that it be rectified.

LUFTHANSA GERMAN AIRLINES

In May 2015, the ZOA wrote to Lufthansa German Airlines, calling on the airline to explain a discriminatory baggage policy permitting passengers to bring two bags free of charge to and from every country in the Middle East – except the state of Israel. In its letter, the ZOA stated: “We hope that Israel’s omission was merely an oversight and was not done intentionally. If it was intentional, it would clearly constitute anti-Semitism.”

In response, Lufthansa did not dispute

the existence of the policy excluding Israel, nor did the airline provide any justification for it. Lufthansa referred vaguely to baggage allowances that are “based on economic and commercial factors,” but did not explain how these factors identically affect every Arab/Muslim country in the Middle East, except Israel.

Lufthansa denied that its special baggage policy is discriminatory. But on its face, it is. Lufthansa singled out Israel and subjected travelers there to different and conspicuously less generous treatment than that enjoyed by any Arab/Muslim country in the Middle East.

When Lufthansa failed to address these concerns, the ZOA urged travelers not to fly Lufthansa, emphasizing that “a German airline should be especially sensitive to discriminating against Jews and the Jewish State.”

AIR FRANCE

In July, the ZOA wrote to Air France, after being contacted by a passenger on a recent Air France flight from Los Angeles to Israel, which had a brief layover in Paris. During the flight, the passenger noticed that on Air France’s flyover map, the countries of Syria, Lebanon and Jordan were identified, as well as the regions of the so-called “West Bank” and Gaza Strip. But the map failed to identify Israel.

Enclosing a screen shot of the flyover screen that the passenger had provided, the ZOA urged Air France to correct the omission of Israel. In its reply, Air France denied that there was any discriminatory intent, explaining that Israel’s omission on the flyover map “was caused by a problem due to the map scale.” Air France stated that the problem was being corrected and apologized for any unintended offense caused.

AMERICAN AIRLINES

In August, the ZOA wrote to American Airlines after learning that the airline had decided to stop flying to Israel. Effective January 2016, American is terminating its



Air France agreed to correct omission of Israel on its flyover map

Philadelphia-Tel Aviv flight – the airline’s only route to Israel.

American Airlines claims that the flight is being cancelled because it is losing money. But industry officials have challenged the truth of this claim, one source explicitly stating that “profitability wasn’t a problem.” Industry officials have strongly suggested that American’s decision is political, based on its ties to Arab airlines through its membership in the global OneWorld alliance.

In its letter, the ZOA urged American Airlines to reverse its decision and reinstate its one and only route to Israel, writing: “You will continue to earn the goodwill and continued patronage of your customers who fly to Israel and elsewhere, and you will avoid the taint of anti-Israelism and anti-Semitism that is unfortunately simmering now... We would hate to have to encourage our membership...to fly another airline whenever traveling because of the perception that American Airlines is hostile to Israel, and/or that the airline values its relationships with its Arab airline partners at the expense of its relationship with Israel and its customers who fly there, many of whom are Jewish.”

As of this writing, a senior official at American Airlines has reached out to the ZOA to discuss this matter. [ZOA](#)

ZOA urged American Airlines to reverse its decision and reinstate its one and only route to Israel...

Government Relations Department



The Iran Situation



JOSH LONDON
*Co-Director,
Government Relations
Department*



DAN POLLAK
*Co-Director,
Government Relations
Department*

The situation with Iran is an ongoing emergency, and ZOA's Government Relations Department has prioritized its efforts to do everything possible to stop Iran from gaining nuclear weapons capability. During most of 2015, that has meant focusing on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), aka the "Iran deal"—a nuclear agreement reached on July 14 between Iran and the UN Security Council's five permanent members (the U.S. in the lead, with China, France, Russia and the United Kingdom) plus Germany (also known as the P5+1) and the European Union.

Under U.S. law, the JCPOA was propounded and presented in the form of an executive agreement, excluding any statutory role for the U.S. Congress. In response, Congress passed the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015, which was signed into law on May 22. The Act forced the agreement to undergo a 60-day review, during which Congress, both the House and Senate, can pass a resolution of approval, a resolution of disapproval or do nothing. If both the House and Senate approved or did nothing, or if the Congress was split between the House and

Senate, or if the President vetoes a resolution of disapproval and the Congress cannot muster enough votes in both chambers to override that veto, then the JCPOA would go into effect at the end of the statutory review and presidential consideration period.

On July 19, the State Department officially transmitted to Congress the JCPOA, its annexes and related materials – though minus the "secret side deal" between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which the US was not officially party to. The 60-day review period officially began on July 20 and ended on September 17. As this issue goes to press, ZOA is fully engaged and our grassroots membership is fully mobilized in the advocacy effort to persuade the House and Senate to pass a resolution of disapproval and stop the deal. By the time this report is published, the outcome of this statutory congressional review period will likely be known and our next set of ZOA government relations priorities will likely be in place.

How did we get to this point? Anyone reading back issues of the ZOA Report might think that there could never be a deal as horrible as the one that President

Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have negotiated. You may remember during the 2012 election campaign that President Obama promised that he would roll back the Iranian nuclear program and never permit Iran to progress toward a nuclear weapon. Even as he signed the “Joint Plan of Action” (JCPA) interim deal on November 24, 2013, the administration was insisting that Iran’s nuclear capabilities would be rolled back, inspections would be “anytime, anywhere,” and Iran would have to fully account for all past nuclear-bomb-related research it had ever conducted.

None of these things turned out to be true. As the deal was being negotiated in April of this year, the Corker-Menendez bill to force the President to bring the matter before Congress morphed into the Corker-Cardin compromise bill, aka the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015, which passed the Congress and became law. ZOA had supported several amendments to that bill that were unfortunately defeated. The amendments would have made the Iranian agreement easier to defeat and required Iran to stop supporting terrorism and end all threats to destroy Israel.

The congressional hearings on the JCPOA were very instructive. Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) asked Secretary of State Kerry and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, and then, later, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman, about the side deals that were made between Iran and the IAEA. Incredibly, Kerry and Moniz claimed not to be familiar with their contents, and Sherman claimed to have briefly seen the documents but to be unclear about the details. An Associated Press story on August 20 released the full text of the second secret agreement, and it clearly indicates that the Iranians will be taking soil samples of the Parchin military site without on-site supervision from the IAEA. This site is believed to be one place where the Iranians had conducted experiments to assemble a nuclear warhead. The degree of trust placed in the Iranians shocked all observers, and unfortunately,

this side agreement is assumed to be the precedent for any inspections at a military site in Iran. It was also noted during the hearings that the Nuclear Agreement Review Act required all side agreements to be disclosed to Congress. The administration was clearly in violation of that law, yet there were no consequences.

The hearings revealed numerous half-truths and lies told by the Obama administration. At one point Secretary of State Kerry stated that no one had ever promised “anytime, anyplace inspections.” In fact, senators read back to him statements by high officials saying exactly that. A classified brief by the IAEA left senators very frustrated and led Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) to state that he would seek to de-fund the IAEA until they were willing to share with Congress the information on the secret deals.

Most ZOA members are aware of just what a catastrophe the JCPOA is. This deal will give the western world’s approval to the Iranian acquisition of a nuclear weapons infrastructure on an industrial scale. We will be concerned not just about the breakout time for a single weapon, as we are today, but also about the ability of Iran to construct many nuclear weapons in just months. If Iran is not cheating right now, then this moment would be the first time in the history of the Islamic Republic that they are keeping an international agreement.

At press time, the exact vote count in Congress is not yet known, but in general, Republicans opposed the agreement, and a few Democrats broke with the administration to oppose the deal. In the case of Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who announced his opposition on August 6, the expected influence among moderate Democrats who rely on him for expertise on Near East issues did not materialize. Either Schumer was announcing his support without working to convince others, or his influence was overstated in the first place. Probably the most surprising and disturbing Senate vote to support the agreement was announced by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). Her loyalty to her

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Most ZOA members are aware of just what a catastrophe the JCPOA is. This deal will give the western world's approval to the Iranian acquisition of a nuclear weapons infrastructure on an industrial scale.

party and susceptibility to simplistic rationalization apparently exceeded her knowledge of Iran and the region. By contrast, there were definitely some inspiring vote choices as well. In particular, Representative Grace Meng (D-NY) was a courageous early opponent of the agreement and came under tremendous partisan pressure, along with the small group of Democratic colleagues who did not buckle to the administration's lobbying.

One aspect of the deal that, as of this writing, has still not received enough attention is the fate of lawsuits that have been brought against Iran by victims of the Islamic Republic's many terrorist attacks. Different cases are at various stages of litigation, but in some cases there have already been verdicts, and plaintiff's lawyers are concerned that the same assets being released by the JCPOA are the ones that should have been placed under court supervision for payment to the victims of Iranian terror. The actions by the administration in terrorism cases implicating the Palestinian Authority are sobering in this context, since judges give great weight to the claim by the State Department that U.S. national interests will be harmed if money is allowed to go to victims.

Beyond the Government Relations Department's focused and tireless efforts to educate and persuade Congress on this issue, ZOA's grassroots membership were deployed to call, email, fax and meet with their elected representatives in Congress to push for the resolution of disapproval. Further, the Government Relations Department worked actively in coalition with other groups to strengthen our voice and marshal a larger pool of resources and grassroots activists.

A major rally was planned and executed by the ZOA and a coalition of other groups on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol on September 9. Presidential candidates including Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Donald Trump spoke out against the agreement. The next day, September 10, dozens of ZOA board members and regional leaders flew to Washington to talk with senators and Congress members about the Iran deal, just before the vote was held.

Now that the vote in Congress has already been taken, the obvious truth that sanctions alone were not stopping the Iranians from moving forward with their nuclear weapons program becomes impossible to ignore. Even when the sanctions were at their most effective, the Iranians managed to find the resources to provide weapons to Hezbollah and Hamas, to prop up the Assad regime in Syria, and to fund nuclear weapons research and enrich uranium stockpiles to higher and higher purity. It is unclear where the red lines are in the eyes of Israeli decision makers, but whatever Israel decides to do to protect its security has to be actively supported by Congress. It is also very important to let politicians who made politically expedient decisions, at the expense of U.S. and Israeli security needs, rue their own poor judgment. There must be no opportunity to evade responsibility once Iranian duplicity is revealed.

The Government Relations Department also continues to focus on its other regular legislative priorities of ending aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and making any future aid contingent upon the PA fulfilling its many interim peace accord obligations; educating Congress about the ongoing Arab war against Israel; and communicating ZOA's insights and reactions to the news of the day.

Our annual Mission to Washington was held on April 28, drawing hundreds of strong and proud ZOA activists from 26 states, including California, Arizona, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Texas, Florida, District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland, among others. These committed Zionist activists met with almost 100 members of Congress or their staffers.

Beyond the Iran issue, which was the most pressing and loomed largest, our advocates also urged the Congress to cut all \$440 million per year in funding to the PA until the Palestinian Arabs fulfill their written commitments to end incitement in their schools, media and speeches; outlaw terror groups; end their alliance with Hamas; arrest terrorists; stop paying pensions to Jew killers and their families, specifically to reward them for

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT



their monstrous atrocities; put Israel on their maps; and accept Israel as a Jewish state.

One of the clear consequences of the politics wrought by President Obama is the sharp, divided rise of partisanship in Congress. Support for Israel has traditionally been one of the few issues that transcend the partisan divide, but as the fight over the invitation to Prime Minister Netanyahu to speak before Congress made clear and then the “debate” over the President’s Iran deal further illuminated, partisanship is creeping into every issue in Washington. The ZOA supports the idea of bipartisan support for Israel, our closest ally, but we do not make a fetish of this ideal. Substance – for example, the need to stop a bad deal on Iran – must take precedence over the principle of bipartisan consensus. While the outcome of the Iran deal review process is not yet known, it seems likely that this sharp partisan divide over Israel-related issues will only grow more pointed and difficult for the duration of President Obama’s presidency.

In addition to dealing with our elected officials, the Government Relations Department interacts with Jewish and Christian Zionist organizations in DC and other American Jewish groups. For example, in

conjunction with ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, we continue to pursue opportunities to team with other Jewish groups to ensure that Department of Education grants pursuant to Title VI of the Higher Education Act are not being used to support one-sided Middle East studies programs that are hostile to Israel, and to ensure that the Department of Education enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jewish students from discrimination at publicly-funded schools. We work closely with our regional directors and with Jeff Daube, ZOA’s Israel director. We also participate in meetings, public forums and policy discussions with foreign policy and political professionals, and continue to engage in print and broadcast media opportunities to spread the word on ZOA issues.

ZOA grassroots activism, particularly at our annual DC Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Mission and our relentless grassroots campaign against the Iran deal, helps underscore that, at the heart of all of ZOA’s Government Relations efforts, stands the dedication, passionate advocacy and depth of knowledge of ZOA members across the country. Please continue to stay involved in the grassroots advocacy that is so critical to our being effective in Washington. [ZOA](#)

...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

Capitol Hill Mission Pictorial



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1. ZOA President Morton A. Klein listens to Cong. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
2. ZOA Board member Jim Pollack introduces Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL)
3. ZOA delegates listening to congressional addresses at luncheon
4. ZOA delgate, Roberta Dzubow speaks to ZOA Board Chair Dr. Michael Goldblatt
5. Eugene Greenstein, president of ZOA Detroit chapter
6. ZOA President Morton A. Klein talks to Gary Bauer, president of American Values
7. Reserved table for congress
8. Dr. Marvin Belsky , ZOA New York chapter president
9. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) and ZOA President Morton A. Klein
10. Dr. Michael Goldblatt, Chairman of the ZOA Board of Directors

Capitol Hill Mission Pictorial



1. Dan Pollak, Co-Director, Government Relations Department, introduces Liz Berney, Director of Special Programs
2. Dr. Michael Goldblatt Chairman of the ZOA Board, and Jim Pollack, ZOA Board Member
3. ZOA delegates meeting with Cong. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)
4. Cong. Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Dan Pollak, Co-Director, Government Relations Department
5. ZOA president Morton A. Klein and Senator Ben Sasse (R-NE)

Capitol Hill Mission Pictorial



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1. Dr. Alan Mazurek, ZOA Vice-Chair, and other ZOA delegates meet with Senator Schumer's (D-NY) staff

2. ZOA delegate Mindy Stein asks a question at the DC Mission luncheon

3. ZOA President Morton A. Klein during a thoughtful moment

4. Director of Development Howard Katzoff speaks to ZOA Center of Law and Justice Director Susan Tuchman and Co-Director, Government Relations Department, Josh London

5. ZOA delegate at the luncheon

6. ZOA delegate listens to an address

7. Patrick Clawson, Director for Research, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

8. Stuart Pavlack, ZOA Pittsburgh Executive Director and Steve Feldman, ZOA Greater Philly Executive Director

9. Lee Bender, ZOA Greater Philly President



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Capitol Hill Mission Pictorial



1. ZOA President Morton A. Klein and Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)

2. ZOA DC Mission luncheon in the Russell Senate Office Building

3. ZOA President Morton A. Klein, Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), and Dan Pollak, Co-Director, Government Relations Department

4. ZOA delegate

5. ZOA President Morton A. Klein, Dan Pollak, Co-Director, Government Relations Department

6. ZOA delegates listen to a congressional address



ZOACampus



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Coordinator
(based in New
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PANDIT MAMI
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**CESAR DEGRACIA-
MORALES**
*Southeast Coordinator
(based in Miami, FL)*



**JONATHAN
GINSBURG**
*New England
Coordinator (based in
Boston, MA)*

ZOA Campus has greatly expanded the ZOA's influence on college campuses across the country. With the recent hire of two additional campus coordinators, for New England and the West Coast, the department now has seven coordinators, covering every region from coast to coast.

In the spring of 2015, for the first time, ZOA Campus extended its presence to more than 100 campuses. Coordinators worked with pro-Israel and political groups, Hillels and Chabads, fraternities and sororities, to plan and execute effective campus events. These included advocacy training seminars, educational events, in-depth discussions and Krav Maga workshops that engaged students in Israel and Zionist advocacy and achieved the following:

- Campus coordinators maintained relationships and acted as key resources for over 125 groups at more than 100 campuses across the country. Students at these schools looked to ZOA Campus as a resource for planning events and fighting anti-Semitism, and used ZOA materials to educate their peers.
- Coordinators led 42 events at 32 schools, offering seminars and presentations on key issues related to Israel, Zionism and the Middle East. Topics included "Effective Israel Advocacy Messaging," "Palestinian Arab Incitement," "Fighting Hamas in Gaza," "The Legal Foundations of Israel," and more.
- Coordinators helped organize 38 additional events at 29 schools, including student leadership summits, high-profile speaker events on Zionism and Israel advocacy, Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations, and more.
- Coordinators were in contact with students and student groups at nearly 40 new schools across the country. ZOA Campus looks forward to building on these new relationships and creating a stronger Zionist presence at these schools.

With a new academic year, campus coordinators are building on



Midwest Coordinator Pandit Mami (center), after leading a Krav Maga seminar and teaching students about the importance of Zionism and Jewish self-defense.

these successes. ZOA Campus is a leading resource for students on the front lines fighting for Israel.

ZOA CAMPUS SUMMER INTERNSHIP

ZOA Campus hosted its annual summer internship programs in New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area. Interns worked on a variety of projects and helped ZOA Campus develop more resources for students to use on campus.

This year, the internship's main project involved building a database of anti-Israel speakers on campus. The database features easily printable fact sheets on more than 20 anti-Israel speakers. This innovative resource helps students combat the hateful speakers that groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) showcase on campus. When students learn that an anti-Israel speaker is coming to their campus, they can go to ZOA Campus's new website, ZOACampus.org, and print fact sheets about the speaker. These can

be given to school administrators, to demonstrate the anti-Semitic and pro-terror nature of the SJP event, or they can be distributed at the event to help counter the hatred being spread.

The fact sheets aim to strip anti-Israel speakers of their credibility on campus by showing college students that the messages these speakers promote—hatred, anti-Semitism, the destruction of a nation—go against the liberal values that most students embrace.

The summer internship program was a success, engaging some of the most active students and helping the ZOA develop innovative and effective campus resources.

ZOACAMPUS.ORG

After more than a year of preparation, ZOA Campus launched its official website. ZOACampus.org serves as a unique and innovative resource for students across the country who want to fight for Israel and combat anti-Semitism on campus. The site offers the following resources:

- ZOACampus.org neatly displays all re-

This year, the internship's main project involved building a database of anti-Israel speakers on campus.

Our new website serves as a unique and innovative resource for students across the country who want to fight for Israel and combat anti-Semitism on campus.

sources and opportunities offered by ZOA Campus in a simple and easily understood manner.

- It is the first site to host a database of printable fact sheets on anti-Israel speakers.
- The site features in-depth reports on all major anti-Israel groups and movements on college campuses, including BDS, SJP and J Street. Students can view and print media kits about each organization, which they can use when speaking with university officials or advocating for Israel on campus.
- The website features fact sheets, booklets, videos and other resources to help students educate themselves, their groups and the general campus community about Zionism and Israel. Students can use ZOA Campus materials at their tables, events and more.
- The site features ZOA Campus's new student blog, where students write about their experiences advocating for Israel and fighting anti-Semitism

on campus.

- The site allows students experiencing or witnessing anti-Semitism to easily contact the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice for help and support.
- ZOACampus.org is mobile-friendly. Students can pull up fact sheets and other resources on their phones while in class or at an event to correct any lies or misleading facts taught about Israel.

ZOA CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP

After a successful first year, the ZOA Campus Fellowship program has nearly doubled the number of fellows for the 2015-2016 academic year. ZOA Campus is expanding its reach on campuses across the country by offering more students the opportunity to plan effective pro-Israel programs and represent the ZOA on campus. Campus fellows will also participate in the ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel. [ZOA](#)

Mort Klein Keynotes Several Conferences

ZOA Quoted in New York Times, Washington Post Editorials

ZOA President Morton A. Klein was the keynote speaker at the World Zionist Organization International Conference on anti-Semitism in Brussels, Belgium; at the World Likud conference in Jerusalem, where he spoke on Iran; and at a Christian Zionist conference in Oma-

ha, Nebraska.

Mort has also spoken at events in San Francisco, Florida, and Detroit and he has spoken at anti-Iran-deal rallies in Long Island and Washington, DC. He has appeared on PBS, Fox, CNN, and MSNBC and has published in newspapers throughout the

world, most recently in an essay in *Commentary* magazine on the future of the Jewish community.

Editorials in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* quoted Mort on his concerns about positions taken by the Pope on Israel and the Palestinian Authority. [ZOA](#)

ZOA People

Jim Pollack, a member of ZOA's National Board for many years, is resolutely and passionately committed to the safety, security, and longevity of the State of Israel. He believes the current State of Israel is a gift from G-d, that for many of us, our grandparents, and our great-grandparents, would have said was an unrealistic dream. His connection to Israel is despite the fact that he was raised in a family with little if any direct connection to Israel or the Holocaust. Born into an American family with ancestral roots in Poland, Germany, Lithuania and Russia, but which had been in America since the late 1800s, he was raised in a Chicago family which practiced Reform Judaism, though they attended a Conservative synagogue.

Pollack's educational background includes a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma, and an MBA from DePaul University, where he majored in both finance and marketing. Prior to joining his family business, which was founded in 1913, he spent a short time with the American National Bank, and the securities firm Hornblower and Weeks, Hemphill Noyes. In 1980 he founded a very successful firm that did sales and marketing of literally thousands of consumer products, geared primarily to the "big box" retailers. He sold that firm ten years ago, and now does private investments.

Like most immigrants, Pollack's family came to America in borderline poverty looking for a better life. Through hard work and determination, they achieved the American dream of significant business success, which permitted the family to be very generous philanthropically. Although they always supported Jewish causes, Israel was not the primary focus.

Pollack has two early recollections of Israel. First was the fact that his family's business built a small manufacturing plant in Israel in 1954. Second, in the 1960s, around the time of his bar mitzvah, he recalls attending a 4000-person-strong Israel Bond "Man Of The Year" Award Dinner in Chicago, at which his great-uncle was honored. He fondly recalls having the privilege of meeting Ambassador Abba Eban, Vice-President Hubert Humphrey, and many other

ZOA BOARD MEMBER

James L. Pollack



Jim Pollack speaks at the ZOA Brandeis Dinner

dignitaries that evening.

Pollack's first visit to Israel in 1990 left an indelible impression. That two-week trip ignited a passion and conviction in him that has lasted for over 25 years, and continues to this day. He felt he had, in some indescribable way, finally "come home." The safety, security, and eternal longevity of Israel have become for him of such paramount importance that he has thought and worried about them almost every day since. Pollack readily admits his lack of significant familiarity with and deep understanding of the Bible. But he certainly understands and is immensely cognizant of the fact that there has not been a century in 2000 years where somewhere, Jewish people have not been forced to face the horrors of pogroms and holocausts. This deep sense of the vulnerability of the Jewish people is the self-embedded reality that, had there been a Jewish state, there would have been a sanctuary for Jews, and much of what the Jews were forced to endure could have been

Over the years, Pollack has become involved in and supported a vast array of pro-Israel organizations, frequently in leadership positions.

avoided.

Pollack finds it deeply troubling that the vast majority of Jews today, including many of his friends, are immensely apathetic to world events, to the plight of Jews outside America, and to growing anti-Semitism, and they seem to take everything in their daily lives for granted. He points out that there have been many other times in our history where things seemed just fine, and then suddenly, in a very short time, things changed dramatically.

Pollack's family has always been very politically involved, and historically on the Democratic side of the aisle. That involvement dates back to when being Jewish and being politically involved was uncommon. He has one picture in his office of his father and great-uncle with Illinois Democratic Governor Henry Horner at the Governor's mansion in Springfield, dated 1940. He also has pictures of his father and great-uncle with President Richard Nixon at a dinner, dated 1970, and a picture of his parents with Illinois Republican Governor Dwight Green at his office, dated 1949. Another very treasured picture is of Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion sitting with Albert Einstein.

Over the years, Pollack has become involved in and supported a vast array of pro-Israel organizations, frequently in leadership positions. In addition to ZOA, these include AIPAC, Israel Bonds (where he served as a Prime Minister's Chairman), Friends of the IDF, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, Republican Jewish Coalition, Friends of Yemin Orde, Haifa University, Christians United for Israel, and numerous others, as well as think tanks which focus on matters of concern to Israel.

One family member who was a political mentor to Pollack was Democratic "kingmaker," Colonel Jacob M. Arvey. Pollack points out that at one time, Colonel Arvey was arguably the most powerful Jew in American politics. After delivering in excess of 95% of the votes in his Chicago district for President Roosevelt in both the 1940 and 1944 presidential elections, he quickly rose to national prominence, and was without question the unchallenged Democratic leader of the Illinois delegation following

World War II. Not only did he initiate and lead the discussion with General Eisenhower to try to convince him to run for President as a Democrat, he also was intimately responsible for both the 1952 and 1956 nominations of Adlai Stevenson for President. At both those conventions, Colonel Arvey was seated between President Truman and House Speaker Sam Rayburn. In fact, Pollack points out that it was Colonel Arvey who decided to slate Richard Daley for Chicago mayor in 1954. In addition, and at the request of Joseph Kennedy, Colonel Arvey arranged for Senator John F. Kennedy to make the memorable 1956 Democratic Convention's keynote address. And Colonel Arvey was a very loud, respected, and influential voice for President Truman in 1948, convincing Truman to recognize the State of Israel. Pollack, on the other hand, leans Republican, and has been politically involved for decades with House, Senate, and gubernatorial races. He voluntarily served as National Finance Chairman for Congresswoman Michele Bachmann's presidential campaign, as well as general chairman for her congressional campaign. He has been recently approached by several current presidential candidates, but has not yet made a commitment.

Pollack discovered the ZOA, which he says, "took positions which were frequently commensurate with mine." He first met Mort Klein at AIPAC in the 1990's, where they both served on the Executive Council. Some years later, he agreed to become involved with the ZOA. Pollack agreed to get involved predicated upon the fact that he felt both organizations serve an important purpose and, at times, frequently complement one another. "I found Mort and the ZOA courageously unwavering, and direct in their messaging and support of Israel. They would say things that needed to be said, which AIPAC simply could not. I also happen to believe that in today's current situation, ZOA is a vital and necessary voice for counter-balancing the left-wing radical group J Street. While AIPAC, in contrast to ZOA and RJC, has worked diligently to be a down-the-middle bipartisan organization, ZOA does not let bipartisanship interfere with its messaging.

“The voice of ZOA in America and on the world stage is of paramount importance in immeasurable ways, and is rarely muffled for political correctness,” continues Pollack. “Mort Klein never hesitates to be immensely clear and straightforward in calling out issues affecting Israel and the Jewish community at large. There is good reason ZOA has been there with its voice, accurately pointing out the facts for over twenty years.”

There are many great philanthropists who support Israel, while also showering their wealth on other, general worthy causes, but Pollack is not one of them, deliberately so. “All, or just about all of my philanthropic and frankly political activities are centered on Israel. This didn’t just happen, it’s been a deliberate choice on my part. I had a great-uncle who gave the Mayo Clinic well over \$100 million and started funding a Christmas dinner for the homeless over 60 years ago. Both are obviously good humanitarian causes and I respect his motivations, but I do strongly believe that it is imperative that Jews take care of Jews, because no one else will. My personal passion for Israel is deep-rooted; given our history, we must have a safe haven and a homeland, and must never depend on anyone else.”

Today, Pollack is immensely concerned for the security of that safe haven and homeland. “President Barack Obama has signed a nuclear deal with Iran which enables it to retain its nuclear weapons program and emerge as a nuclear power in a matter of a decade if they adhere to the agreement, or less if they don’t.” Speaking on the day President Obama secured 34 senators to prevent an override of his threatened veto, Pollack lamented, “This is the worst day I can remember. I remember the terrible tension and concern about Israel’s fate when the 1967 war broke out. I remember the trauma of the 1973 war, but what’s happening now? It’s mind-boggling and inconceivable to think that this is where we are. I feel like I lost a friend I was certain I could always depend on. This is the single most important foreign policy vote our Senators and Congressmen will ever take. The facts are clear. Who our agreement ‘partner’ Iran is, is clearly defined. Even if

a Senator or Congressman full-heartedly or mistakenly somehow concludes there is a 65% chance this is a good deal, you don’t risk the life and very existence of your best friend and ally, and the safety and security of America, on 2-1 odds. And no, war is not the only other option to the deal. Far more likely, war will be the only option with the deal. No one under any circumstances who votes for this agreement can ever again honestly identify themselves as being pro-Israel. And come election time, all Jews must remember that.

“There is much blame to go around for the situation we are in. Mistakes, poor judgment, miscalculations, undeserved trust, carelessness, and subordinating appropriate and necessary identifications to undeserved political correctness. And, many of our own people who believe supporting Israel must be subordinated to supporting the wishes of our President. But the path we were on over the past two years was undeniably clear. When you are my best friend, and I know you’re most affected by what I’m negotiating, even if you’re not a party to the negotiation, I would come to you on a regular basis to confidentially update you and to discuss what terms were palatable to you, and what terms weren’t. We knew well over a year ago that there was little if any communication between Israel and Obama and his negotiating team on this agreement, other than his jargon that our relationship ‘is sacrosanct and you must trust us.’ And then it was blatantly reconfirmed last spring when the White House pressured Democratic congressional members not to attend or listen to Prime Minister Netanyahu’s address to Congress, at which he was simply outlining Israel’s concerns about these agreement negotiations. This was the leader of arguably America’s greatest ally, and certainly our greatest ally in the Middle East. Our fight should have gone full throttle back then, if not sooner—not six weeks ago. The baseline terms of this agreement were evident then, but we didn’t want to believe it.” And, those members who vote for this agreement needed to be told “our relationship will never be the same, and the pro-Israel fundraising dollars you always depend on are gone.” 

“The voice of ZOA in America and on the world stage is of paramount importance in immeasurable ways, and is rarely muffled for political correctness.”

Israel Office



Midreshet Harova gap-year students keen to sign up for ZOA campus advocacy

Advocacy and Activism in Israel



JEFF DAUBE
*Director,
ZOA Israel*

A NEW PUSH FOR SOVEREIGN RESPONSE TO ARAB TERROR

Violence, incitement, re-inventing history and inviting international pressure are the weapons of choice to fulfill Arab aspirations in Israel's epicenter, the eastern sector of its Jerusalem capital.

Fraught with riots, pummelings and stabbings, rock attacks and fire-bombings, brush and gasoline fires, vehicular terror and the occasional near lynching — this "Jerusalem war," as many are calling it, is testing the limits of singular Israeli patience.

Coverage of the struggle by the Hebrew language media has improved of late, in large part thanks to ZOA Israel. Israel's leaders, too, have begun making a greater effort, honoring their election campaign promises and abiding by the government coalition

agreement that, directly as a result of ZOA Israel's advocacy, newly stipulates treating the Mount of Olives as a national priority.

CHANGES ON THE GROUND

To rivet the responsible authorities, we initiated meetings with key figures: members of the Prime Minister's office; Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat; government ministers and Members of the Knesset (MKs) from several parties; and high-ranking police brass. A vortex of public declarations, robust legislation and changes on the ground followed:

- Cabinet Secretary Avichai Mandelblit reiterated his commitment to our hard-won 290 million shekel carrot-and-stick solution. Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan also responded,

assuring us, and the public, of a major crackdown to restore control. He instructed his second-in-command and the police chief to involve us in their security meetings and heed our suggestions and feedback.

- Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked sponsored a deterrence-strengthening law that levies jail sentences of up to 20 years for rock throwers. After four years of having pushed various bill iterations, ZOA Israel is especially proud of this achievement. Meanwhile, Minister Miri Regev thanked us publicly for the Florida rock-throwing statute we had introduced and translated when she was leading the charge.
- MK David Amsalem, Regev's replacement chair of the powerful Knesset Interior Committee, agreed to hold a hearing at which we underscored, and he echoed, our usual refrain: Addressing the depredations on the Mount of Olives is the prerequisite for preserving Israeli sovereignty in the entirety of eastern Jerusalem, and beyond.
- Following the horrendous desecrations of 90 Jewish graves, Amsalem led an on-site briefing, with ministers and MKs in tow. Particularly disturbing was the need for multiple armored jeeps filled with heavily armed border police, in front of and behind our vehicle, and a helicopter hovering overhead.
- Facing scathing criticism, the police increased and realigned their forces, using mobile units and multi-ton cement blocks to bar access to the trouble spots we pointed to. The number of assaults diminished significantly, compared with last year's turmoil. However, the targeting of less protected areas, for example, the City of David, Mount Scopus and the Temple Mount, has increased.
- ZOA Israel proposed a mega-events strategy, inspired by New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani's Central Park security playbook, to attract crowds to the



Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein agreed to make 'legal grounds' a campaign theme

Mount of Olives. Two summer concerts each drew standing-room-only audiences of thousands. We are working on similar ideas, including hakafot shniyot for the Succot tourist rush.

RESOLUTE RIGHTS POLICY

The global challenge to Israel's rights, whether in Jerusalem or in its Judea-Samaria heartland, is no less a threat to Israeli sovereignty. We were buoyed by the speeches and articles by national election candidates who, as we requested, invoked legal principles and the Levy Report. Notably, Minister Naftali Bennett called for the latter's immediate adoption.

To help the campaigners stay on course post-election, ZOA Israel's Legal Grounds team conducted a series of one-on-one meetings with 10 promising new MKs and revisited earlier discussions with numerous old-timers, about the problem of government reticence despite Israel's superior claims.

Many lawmakers, while comfortable with the security and historical arguments, were not as conversant with the legal issues, preferring avoidance to being trapped by their ignorance. Legal Grounds issued a user-friendly position paper, in Hebrew, to improve their understanding.

We also discussed bipartisan congressional anti-BDS efforts, such as those

The global challenge to Israel's rights, whether in Jerusalem or in its Judea-Samaria heartland, is no less a threat to Israeli sovereignty.



EU-sponsored "ancient Arab village" planted next to Susiya Jewish community and archaeological site

We explained the necessity to delegitimize the Iran deal, at least, to help the next administration reverse the current one's direction.

of U.S. Representatives Ed Royce (R-CA) and Eliot Engel (D-NY), in order to encourage similar activity in the Knesset. Legal Grounds presented alongside a dozen other groups brought together by the Zionist Foundation for Israel.

More pronouncements about the Levy Report emerged. Israel's most senior diplomat, Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely, expressed special interest in collaborating with ZOA Israel on crafting a "legal Iron Dome" against obsessive anti-Israel lawfare. A Knesset session on BDS correlated the decline in Israel's making its legal case with the growth of delegitimization movements. The momentum to pursue a resolute rights policy is definitely advancing, though not quickly enough given today's climate.

BI-CONTINENTAL ADVOCACY AMPLIFIES ISRAEL ALLIES

In the crosshairs of mounting demonization, not to mention threats of outright annihilation, Israel needs all the help we can muster. Toward this end, ZOA Israel continued to foster cooperative relationships involving political leaders, professional and citizen activists, journalists, Christian supporters and student advocates on both sides of the Atlantic.

Training the next generation has gained

prominence on our agenda because of the targeting of youth, particularly, for BDS indoctrination. So we gladly accepted Jerusalem U's invitation to inform nine gap-year programs about ZOA's campus activities. Likewise, Tel Aviv Salon International, a popular Israeli program for Anglo students and young professionals, welcomed our requests to piggyback onto their events: first, to explain the importance of the World Zionist Congress election and recruit voters for the ZOA slate; and more recently, to solicit phone calls to members of Congress against the Iran deal.

Florida State University senior Derek Silver, whom we had met on ZOA's 2014 Student Leadership Mission to Israel, accompanied us on our latest Washington rounds, ably assisting by taking on many of the talking points and meticulously recording our nonstop meetings. Derek's experience as a pro-Israel advocate, at his college and in the Florida statehouse, stood him in good stead.

With updated documentation in hand and an on-the-ground perspective, we covered the Iran nuclear and non-nuclear threat; ongoing Palestinian Authority budget shenanigans and escalating incitement; USAID refusal to fund Jewish, even Arab-Israeli, projects over the Green Line; and how to respond appropriately to violence and desecrations in Jerusalem.

We referred irate members, who wanted to act promptly against U.S. monies paying for terrorist salaries, to PA defunding language in the Foreign Operations bill, which they could use. We also reminded them about a defunding law that can now be implemented, with PA chief Mahmoud Abbas having moved to undermine Israel at the UN and the International Criminal Court.

A letter ZOA Israel had composed for Israeli Druze Deputy Minister Ayoub Kara and addressed to House Speaker John Boehner—perturbed as Kara was about the fate of Druze brothers in Syria—was met wherever we shared it with deep concern. Israel meanwhile threatened to cease treating

wounded Syrians in its hospitals should so much as a finger touch the Druze civilians. This appears to be working.

Ira Forman, the U.S. Department of State's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, attended our State Department meeting, continuing the discussion about labeling Jerusalem attacks as terrorism and anti-Semitism. During the Mount of Olives briefing we had given him and consulate officials a few weeks before, Forman witnessed the extensive damage left by whipped-up Palestinian youth and got an earful from us about the true root cause.

At U.S. Consul Michael Ratney's combination farewell/July 4th reception, he publicly criticized the "heinous" grave desecrations that we had shown him on his own edifying tour. He also confided that PA Religious Affairs Minister Mahmoud Habash had refused to issue the condemnations we were asking for.

Syndicated radio host Denice Gary-Pandol, highly appreciative of the Jerusalem introduction we organized for her first visit, admitted she had not fully integrated the difficulties before seeing the situation firsthand. We also brought Gary-Pandol to the Judean community of Susiya, in Israel-controlled Area C, where European Union (EU) logos, flags and signs flaunt the EU's financing of encroaching, illegal Arab structures. Israel's Supreme Court had ordered the encampment's dismantling, inducing U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) to write a disapproving letter to Prime Minister Netanyahu. ZOA Israel's good friend, MK Bezalel Smotrich, debunked her misinformation in a masterful response.

Deputy Minister Hotovely and the Voice of Israel audience each heard Richard Allen, American anti-BDS activist par excellence, together with ZOA Israel describe the infiltration of radical progressives into Jewish organizations. Allen has led the multi-year campaign to exclude groups such as the New Israel Fund from using the Celebrate Israel Parade in Manhattan as a fig leaf for their anti-Israel agenda. This year, ZOA Israel had



Senator John Boozman (R-AR) with Jeff Daube and ZOA student leadership mission alumnus Derek Silver

pitched in, penning a letter to the parade organizers together with United With Israel on behalf of protesting American Israelis.

ZOA Israel took its BDS-fighting program on the road, focused on saving Jerusalem-Judea-Samaria. We further engaged activists in Israeli communities with large American populations; in Great Neck and in Brooklyn, New York; and in London's Golders Green. Back in Jerusalem, we also discussed pro-Israel synergies with missions from Honest Reporting, AFSI and CIPAC.

Then, segueing as we were from one executive abuse to another, we also mentioned *Sokolow v. PLO*, the terrorism case against the PA and the Palestine Liberation Organization in which last February, a Manhattan federal jury awarded the plaintiff—American victims and their families—a verdict totaling \$655.5 million. The PA/PLO's appeal of the verdict is causing added pain and distress — compounded by the Departments of State and Justice, which are siding with the terrorists. Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee thanked us for our advocacy on the victims' behalf, and thanked National President Morton Klein and Center for Law and Justice Director Susan Tuchman for holding Attorney General Loretta Lynch to her pledge to "always...protect not just American citizens but also American values." 

If Israel ever were to be shrunken into just a nine-mile width, Iran could deliver warheads to its essential road system, effectively cutting the country in half.

Around the Country



ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler with the mayor of Ariel and his wife, Eli and Oraya Shaviro

The day the Iran deal was signed, ZOA Florida got to work, blasting talking points and urging members to contact their representatives to vote against the deal.

Florida

Events and Actions

ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler campaigned for ZOA's slate in the World Zionist Congress elections, while tabling and promoting the ZOA at several events this year. Her efforts garnered Whisler the votes to serve as a ZOA delegate at the upcoming World Zionist Congress in Israel this October.

ZOA Florida participated in the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at the Michael Ann Russell JCC in North Miami Beach. We also co-sponsored the Israeli American Council's "Celebrate Israel Festival," which drew about 5,000 people. Tabling at the event, Whisler conducted a Zionist trivia activity

while signing up new members. Also in May, Whisler and other community leaders, including Florida State Attorney Pam Bondi, attended the Israeli Consulate's Israel Celebration.

In June, a shopper at Publix supermarket discovered a box of Kedem-brand crackers plastered with a BDS sticker promoting anti-Semitic lies about Israel. A photo of the box, shared on social media, was viewed thousands of times. In a letter to Publix's president, Whisler apprised him of the incident and urged that the matter be investigated, while also thanking him for selling goods from Israel. Publix responded that they had investigated the issue and found it to be an isolated incident. Kedem owner David Herzog was copied on the letter and expressed his gratitude to ZOA.

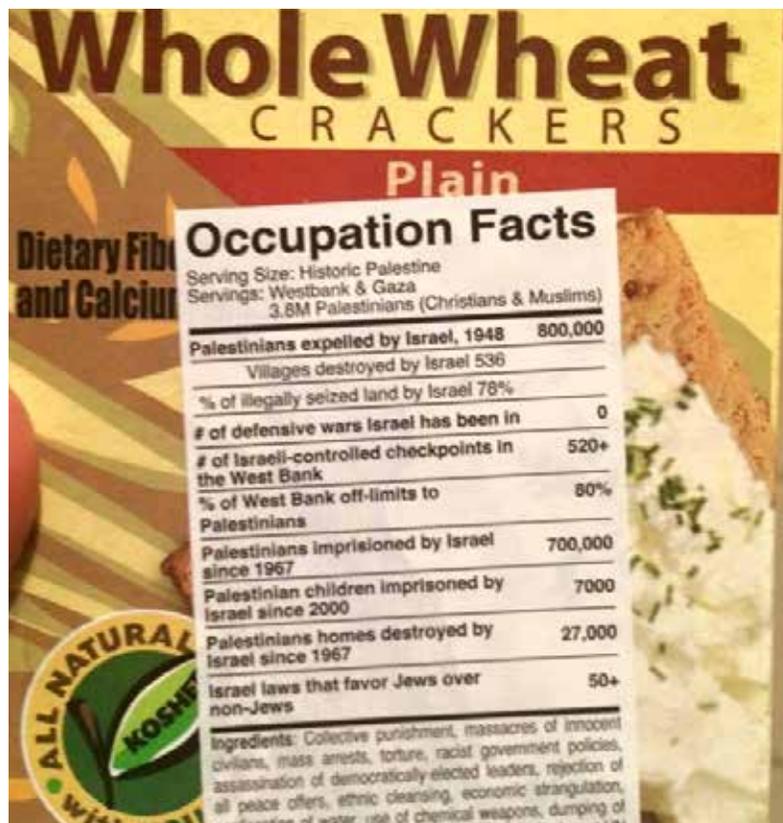
ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

Shortly after the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran was announced, ZOA Florida co-sponsored an event in memory of the July 18, 1994, Iranian-funded terrorist attack on the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Eighty-five people were killed and hundreds wounded in the attack. Whisler lit a candle in memory of the victims. The commemoration was especially poignant in light of the murder of Alberto Nisman earlier this year. Nisman, the fearless prosecutor who had spent years investigating the bombing, had accused Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, only days before his murder, of covering up Iran's involvement in the attack. The event's tragic mood was compounded by news that Iran would receive \$150 billion as part of the JCPOA, funds that will go toward further terrorism against Jews.

The day the deal with Iran was signed, ZOA Florida got to work, blasting talking points and urging ZOA members to contact their representatives to vote against the deal. Whisler continued sending updates and guiding the Florida community on how best to make the case against the deal when speaking with lawmakers, and she visited the local offices of members of the U.S. Congress. In addition to ZOA's talking points, Whisler included highlights from Prime Minister Netanyahu's live webcast. ZOA Florida was a main organizer of the Stop Iran 535 rally at Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz's local office.

New ZOA Florida Board Members

Corey Breier is an officer of the Miami Dade Republican Party and also serves as the elected committee person of the Republican Executive Committee, serving District 1 (Northeast Miami Dade). He is very active at the Miami Jewish Health Systems (formerly the Miami Jewish Home at Douglas Gardens) Founders Club; vice-president at MJHS Men's Club; and an involved volunteer at the Gift of the Heart Society. Breier also



Boycott sticker on Jewish-owned Kedem product found at a Florida Publix supermarket

serves as president of the Yiddish Artists & Friends Actors Club (for over 27 years) and the Yiddish Theatrical Alliance; and is vice-president of Young Israel of Aventura. He has served on the boards of directors at the National Yiddish Theater-Folksbiene; Habonim Cultural Club; Survivors of the Holocaust - Second Generation; Yom Hashoah & Kristallnacht Committee; and Miami Holocaust Memorial. He is a founder of the Founding Foster Care Fund of the Humane Society of Greater Miami; Friendship Circle of Greater Miami; Footlighter's Club of Florida; Republican Jewish Coalition Leadership Council; and Chabad of Queens College Advisory Board.



ZOA Florida Executive Director with Florida's State's Attorney, Pam Bondi

Eyal Sharon was born in Israel and moved to the U.S. when he was 15 years old. He studied political science at Temple University, where he participated in a certificate program specializing in political economy. At Temple, Sharon was involved in campus advocacy for Israel, and was among the founders of Temple Students for Israel. After graduation, he returned to Israel to complete his military service and served in an artillery combat unit. He returned to the U.S. to attend law school at Florida State University and clerked with the antitrust division of the Office of the Attorney General of Florida. He is currently an associate in the commercial litigation department of Greenspoon Marder, a Fort Lauderdale-based firm. In addition to his litigation practice, Sharon is working on building an Israel practice group that focuses on the needs of Israeli clients both in Israel and the U.S.

Allen Hamaoui is a senior partner at Computer Solutions East, a leading information technology company that offers innovative computer services and products

to enable small and midsize enterprises to succeed in today's digital age. A committed Zionist his entire life, Hamaoui was an active member of the South American Zionist organization, Chazit Hanoar, while growing up in Brazil. He looks forward to rededicating his free time to Zionist activities.

Shoshanna Stein is founder and CEO of Zeak Ventures, a merchandise distribution company. She is also a founder of Miami United for Israel, a group that came together a year ago to show support for Israel during Operation Protective Edge and resulted in a rally attended by 5,000 people. She currently manages a popular Facebook group that shares information about local pro-Israel events and initiatives. Stein is also active in the young leadership division of American Friends of the IDF and the Israeli American Council.

ZOA Florida welcomes its newest board members and looks forward to an exciting season of Zionist activities, events and growth.

To get involved, please contact Sharona Whisler at swhisler@zoa.org.

Michigan

Israel Education Workshop

In February, high school students from both public and Jewish day schools around Metro Detroit participated in ZOA-MI's half-day Israel Education Workshop. Students learned about Israel's history, Jewish heritage and advocating for Israel from knowledgeable guest speakers. Participants in the workshop were eligible to apply for scholarships, to be used toward the cost of year-long or summer educational programs in Israel. The ZOA-MI is happy to educate these future Jewish leaders and help support their travels to Israel.

Anti-Semitism on College Campuses

In April, Susan Tuchman, director of the



ZOA Michigan members enjoy the pro-Israel barbecue event

ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, spoke in front of a Michigan crowd about the challenges facing Jewish students at the University of Michigan and other college campuses, and discussed the different ways to help and empower pro-Israel students.

Iran and ISIS

In May, ZOA-MI hosted Ryan Mauro, a national security analyst for the Clarion Project, a nonprofit organization that educates the public about the threat of Islamic extremism and provides a platform for voices of moderation and tolerance within the Muslim community. Mauro spoke about Iran and ISIS and their growing influence in the Middle East. He also discussed the nuclear negotiations with Iran and their dangerous potential impact on the region and threat to world security.

Iran Rally

ZOA-MI worked tenaciously to prevent

passage of the Iran nuclear agreement. As part of our efforts to encourage Michigan representatives to vote no, ZOA led the way for a rally against the deal. Americans on both sides of the aisle participated in the rally and voiced their strong opposition to the deal.

Young Adult Events

In July, ZOA-MI held a very successful young adult barbecue. The event, which was attended by over 100 participants from a variety of backgrounds, honored community members leaving for a summer trip to Israel. We saw many new faces and ate some delicious barbecue, and everyone had a chance to learn about ZOA and Israel advocacy in a casual atmosphere.

This event is part of our ongoing efforts to promote education, awareness and support for Israel and Jewish causes among our younger generation.

ZOA New Jersey screened the film, " Crossing the Line 2. " The film exposes the threatening and hateful anti-Israel movement on college campuses today and demonstrates the disturbing impact of campus anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on Jewish students.

[We] plan to introduce intensive, multi-part courses that will make ZOA's excellent campus programs available to the high school audience.

New Jersey

ZOA-NJ was well represented at ZOA's Annual Mission in Washington, DC, where delegates met with the staffs of both New Jersey senators and several representatives. The New Jersey delegation included both new and familiar faces, as well as several middle- and high-school students who took the time to attend. The students were able to participate fully thanks to the excellent training video and talking points provided by Dan Pollack and Josh London, co-directors of the ZOA's Government Relations Department.

Recent local events include the screening in May of *Crossing the Line 2* in Teaneck, followed by a panel that included Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, and Zach Stern, national director of campus programs, as well as student leader Justin Hayet, who appears in the film. The film exposes the threatening and hateful anti-Israel movement on college campuses today and demonstrates the disturbing impact of campus anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on Jewish students. The panelists discussed their own experiences, advising attendees on how to react to campus hate and offering assistance and programming for those seeking to combat such hatred. Thanks to Dr. Ali Blech and ZOA-NJ board member Patty Borodach for their help.

ZOA-NJ Executive Director Laura Fein spoke at several recent events. She was invited to Fairlawn to speak on the Israeli election results on the day the new government was announced. A large, lively crowd enjoyed up-to-the-minute news of the government's composition and positions and received a thorough analysis of the likely impact on Israel's relations with its neighbors and the U.S. Gerry Kessel, Gary Baskind and Elayne Kalina organized the event.

Fein also spoke at a parlor meeting in Ridgewood, hosted by Jamie Kreitman and Jason Rosenfeld. Attendees enjoyed homemade treats and mingled, then listened to a presentation by Fein on current issues facing Israel and the Jewish people and a review of current activities in the ZOA's "Four C" advocacy programs: Congress, courts, campus and community.

Iran Deal Contra Efforts

Working to defeat the disastrous Iran deal has been a focus for ZOA-NJ this summer. ZOA-NJ members met with their congressional representatives and staffers and attended numerous meetings, town halls and press conferences across the state, including in Margate, Newark, Milburn, South Orange and New Brunswick. Fein also authored pieces that ran in *The Jewish Standard* and *The Jewish Link*, urging the

ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

community to call, write, rally and make every possible effort to defeat the deal. National Director of Special Projects Liz Berney addressed an appreciative audience in Parsippany, and Fein addressed a packed room in Ventnor with detailed and inspiring presentations on the details of the JCPOA and what can and must be done to defeat it. Thanks to Temple Beth Am and Chabad of Ventnor for their hospitality and enthusiasm.

Significantly, ZOA-NJ leaders were instrumental in the planning and execution of the Stop Iran Rally in Times Square, which drew over 10,000 people. Speakers included Professor Alan Dershowitz, Lieutenant Colonel Allen West, journalist Caroline Glick and many others. Check it out on YouTube.

The rally's impact was swiftly felt, and shortly after, Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced his trail-blazing opposition to the deal. ZOA-NJ board member Paul Ferbank served as chief marshal and key planner of this event, which was made possible by the many volunteers who called synagogues, helped to publicize, solicited sponsors and donations, and attended the rally. We particularly want to thank summer interns Hana Fusman of West Orange and Miriam Reichman of Teaneck.

ZOA-NJ board member Naomi Vilko has organized a series of excellent programs at Congregation B'nai Tikvah in North Brunswick. Ken Abramowitz, who spoke at the most recent ZOA convention; and Phyllis Chesler, renowned for her incisive writings on anti-Semitism and Israel. Thanks to Rabbi Wolkoff and the CBT leadership, who are committed to presenting Zionist programming that educates and inspires.

ZOA-NJ has also been busy behind the scenes. With the strong support of several board members, including ZOA National Board member Dr. Ben Chouake, ZOA-NJ has formed a committee to effect change at the high-school level. We have begun meeting with administrators at Jewish high schools to collaborate on ways to better prepare students for what they will face on college campuses by educating them on both



NJ-ZOA Executive Director Laura Fein with ZOA DC Mission delegates

the facts and the tactics needed to defeat Israel's detractors. We will continue holding individual programs on the topic, as these have been extremely popular, but plan to introduce intensive, multi-part courses that will make ZOA's excellent campus programs available to the high school audience.

Our local website (nj.zoa.org) launched this August, providing our community with an easy way to learn more and get involved at the local level. Finally, we continue to build relationships with media, elected officials and Jewish groups across the state and look forward to bringing programs to an ever-expanding network.

If you would like to volunteer, host a parlor meeting or bring a speaker, please contact zoanj@zoa.org. We look forward to

Working to defeat the disastrous Iran deal has been a focus for ZOA-NJ this summer



ZOA New Jersey student delegates pose in the Capitol at the ZOA DC Mission

70 young Zionists attended the New York Metro chapter's first young professionals spring mixer which was held at a beautiful penthouse with rooftop views of Manhattan.

partnering for the benefit of Israel and the Jewish people!

New York

The New York Metro chapter is thrilled to announce the formal appointments of our leadership. Rubin Margules, ZOA national board member and leader of the ZOA Brooklyn region, has been appointed chairman. Melissa Jane (MJ) Kronfeld has been appointed co-president along with Marvin Belsky, who has been a ZOA activist for 26 years. MJ is also serving as our young professionals chair.

These appointments come on the heels of the creation of our first-ever New York Metro board and the launch of our website (nyc.zoa.org), where you can find local events, announcements, news, galleries and more.

In May, approximately 70 young Zionists

attended the New York Metro chapter's first young professionals spring mixer, which was held at a beautiful penthouse home with rooftop views of downtown Manhattan. The evening, aptly themed "Zionism in Full Bloom, A Spring Mixer," featured a tasting of Israeli wines, provided by the Israel Wine Producers Assn., and high-end hors d'oeuvres, as well as a talk by Amir Sagie, Israel's deputy consul general in New York. The evening was extremely well received and led to the formation of a young professionals committee for the chapter, with events and social media initiatives already in formation for the year to come.

In addition to the young professionals mixer, the New York Metro chapter sponsored a number of events around the city. On May 3, we held a screening of "Body & Soul, The State of the Jewish Nation" at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, followed by comments from the film's director, Gloria Greenfield. On May 17, Executive Director Eytan Sosnovich was invited to Young Israel of Scarsdale to deliver a breakfast briefing on Israel's recent elections. The same day, the chapter facilitated a panel discussion on Zionism in America at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale that included ZOA Director of Special Projects Liz Berney.

In June, Eytan gave talks on Zionism and the significance of Judea and Samaria at the Zionism Museum and Education Center in Brooklyn and at Congregation Ohab Zedek in Manhattan.

With the Iran deal looming, the New York Metro chapter took to the streets in the summer months. We were core members of the Jewish Rapid Response Coalition, a cadre of dedicated activists and organizations motivated to take action against the deal. Together, the coalition organized the Stop Iran rally in Times Square, which drew an estimated 15,000 people. The group also held Stop Iran rallies in front of the offices of Senator Kirstin Gillibrand and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. Notably, Congresswoman Maloney announced her opposition to the deal the following day.

ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY



Philadelphia ZOA leaders present a certificate to the McMenamin Family, owners of a ShopRite supermarket offering Philadelphia's widest selection of Israeli goods. Philadelphia ZOA has an ongoing regional "Buy Israel" initiative. Taking part (from left) are Howard Katzoff; Steve Feldman; Sean McMenamin, president of McMenamin Family ShopRite; Bria McMenamin, vice-president of administration for the firm; Gene Shusman; and ShopRite mashgiach Moshe Suissa. Not pictured: patriarch Richard McMenamin, who founded "Kosher on the Boulevard" in the supermarket, where Israeli goods are sold.

The New York Metro chapter has a number of initiatives in the works for winter and spring. Visit our website (nyc.zoa.org), or contact us by email (nyc@zoa.org) or phone (917-408-3433) to find out about upcoming events and to learn how you can become more involved.

Philadelphia

The Greater Philadelphia District honored six leading Zionists and advocates for Israel at our Annual Gala on October 21. This year's honorees included author and columnist Jack Engelhard, who received the Ben Hecht Award for Outstanding Journalism; Rabbi Ira Budow, director of Abrams Hebrew Academy in Yardley, and his wife, Susan Fuchs, who received the Guardians of Israel Award; Shani Weiss, founder of Dragons for Israel, a

pro-Israel student group at Drexel University, who received our new The Future Is Now Award as a young leader; and National ZOA Development Director and former Philadelphia ZOA Co-President Howard Katzoff and his wife, Patti Klein Katzoff, who received our Pillars of the Community Award. We congratulate the honorees and thank them for their efforts on behalf of Israel, the United States and the U.S.-Israel relationship.

In May, we presented a security forum at Congregations of Shaare Shamayim, entitled "Protect Your Family, Yourself, Your Home." The panel included Jonathan Goldstein, certified National Rifle Association instructor and legal authority on guns; Alan Feldman, an expert on Krav Maga, the IDF self-defense technique; and Mark Genatempo, training and outreach director for the Secure Community Network.

In August, we sponsored a "Q & A With ZOA" at Beth Sholom Congregation in Elkins

[Philadelphia ZOA] honored the McMenam family, owners of the ShopRite Supermarket on Haldeman Avenue as part of its ongoing “Buy Israel” initiative. The McMenam store carries Philadelphia’s widest selection of goods from Israel.

Park. Discussing aspects of ZOA’s mission were Philadelphia ZOA leaders Gene Shusman, chairman of the board; Lee Bender and Kevin Ross, co-presidents; and Steve Feldman, executive director. A freewheeling question-and-answer session followed. The evening concluded with a discussion about advocacy to dissuade Congress from approving the Iran deal.

Some 70 members from our region participated in the National ZOA Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Mission in April. For the first time, we needed a second bus to get everyone to Washington, DC.

Philadelphia ZOA members met with Congressman Brendan Boyle (D-PA) to request that he vote against the Iran nuclear deal. Taking part were Lee Bender and Kevin Ross, Vice-President Roberta Dzubow and Steve Feldman. Boyle told us that he would not only vote to oppose the Iran deal, but also vote to override a veto. Two days later, the congressman published a strong op-ed in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* elaborating on his reasons for opposing the deal.

Lee Bender and Vice-President Jerry Verlin made a number of presentations in the region exposing anti-Israel media bias. Steve Feldman spoke frequently as well, including a talk at the closing dinner of the Men’s Club of Har Zion Temple. He also taught a continuing education class for the Golden Slipper Club & Charities. Bender and Feldman penned articles published in a variety of publications, and Feldman guested on The Dom Giordano Show and The Gary R’nel Show, both on WPHT-AM 1210.

In addition, Philadelphia ZOA is producing a documentary, tentatively entitled “Past & Present,” that will shine a light on veteran members and activists. The idea is to capture their recollections of earlier days of pro-Israel advocacy, so that their deeds and spirit may inspire younger members.

The regional chapter also honored the McMenam family, owners of the ShopRite Supermarket on Haldeman Avenue in Philadelphia, as part of its ongoing “Buy Israel” initiative. The McMenam store

carries Philadelphia’s widest selection of goods from Israel.

Pittsburgh

ZOA-Pittsburgh Takes On the Post-Gazette

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PG) is known for its anti-Israel positions and attacks on the Jewish state. Over the years, prominent businesspeople and Jewish leaders have met with the PG’s editors, asking them to show more understanding and soften the paper’s position, to no avail. Within the community, the PG’s animosity toward Israel has become a given.

ZOA members often called Pittsburgh Executive Director Stuart Pavilack to alert him to hateful editorials. Pavilack followed the PG editorials, and finally said, “Enough.” In February 2014, Pavilack contacted CAMERA, the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America. Working together for a year, and with Pavilack feeding CAMERA outrageous PG editorials, a representative body of work was compiled. Senior CAMERA analyst Steve Stotsky and Pavilack selected numerous examples of the PG’s errors, bias and slander against Israel. In a five-page letter to the paper’s editors and owners, they identified the many problems, supplied the facts, and asked for a meeting where these issues could be discussed. Executive Editor Dan Simpson refused.

Then, in an April 8 opinion piece on the Iran deal, Simpson pointed the finger at those whom he labeled “Jewish-American extremists” for allegedly making campaign contributions to U.S. Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR). “I would say Simpson has gone beyond what we deal with in *The New York Times*,” said Stotsky in the *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*. “There are certainly undertones suggesting an animus against Jews and their support for Israel. And there is no substantiation. What way are these people ‘extremists’? He doesn’t say.”

ZOA-Pittsburgh board member Dr. Cyril Wecht has written many letters to the PG charging that its coverage of Israel and the Middle East is biased and inaccurate. "This is not new with the *Post-Gazette* or with editor Dan Simpson," Wecht said. "He does not miss an opportunity to criticize Israel, even when the subject is not really Israel. Some of his comments are outright unvarnished and completely horrific attacks on Israel. Others are just slipped in."

The struggle continues, and while nothing has changed at the PG, the number of anti-Israel editorials has greatly diminished. ZOA board members and Pavilack have written many letters to the editor and submitted op-ed pieces. While the PG's editors have printed only a few, they know the ZOA is watching.

Tolerance Education Program Continues

ZOA-Pittsburgh continues to educate high school students about the need for respect, understanding and tolerance of others, regardless of race, religion or background. Using the horrors and inhumanity of the Holocaust as an example, the program teaches students about the plight of six million Jews during WWII, and helps students become better citizens, employees and leaders of the future.

Some 500 students and 70 teacher/chaperones from the Pittsburgh Public School District boarded 10 buses last February and March to visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. These students had studied the Holocaust in their 10th grade social studies class and qualified for the trip under guidelines established by the school district.

David May-Stein, assistant superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools and an advocate for the program, believes the visit to the museum takes the students' understanding far above the level which can be attained in a classroom. "The gift the ZOA is giving to Pittsburgh public



High school students take part in the ZOA-sponsored tolerance education program

school students is priceless," said May-Stein. Through the trips, "the Holocaust becomes tangible. It's an experience you can't duplicate in a textbook, a video, or a project."

Josh Rice, who has taught social studies at Carrick High School since 1997, has chaperoned the Tolerance Education trip to Washington several times. He has witnessed the profound impact that a visit to the Holocaust Museum has had on the students. "I believe when they walk into the museum, they have a pre-conceived conception of what the Holocaust is," Rice said. "But they can't truly visualize it until they walk through that rail car. The images drive home what we try to educate them about," he continued. "The kids start to see the people for who they are." The trips to the museum continue to enhance Rice's own knowledge of the Holocaust, he said, and make him a better teacher.

"The program is phenomenal," said Michael Dreger, the director of social studies for Pittsburgh Public Schools. "We have a unit on World War II and on the Jewish Holocaust, and this trip enhances and supports what the students learn in the curriculum. It could be life-changing for some of our students. It's a very powerful experience."

The Tolerance Education Program

The gift the ZOA is giving to Pittsburgh public school students is priceless," said David May-Stein, assistant superintendent. Through the trips, "the Holocaust becomes tangible. It's an experience you can't duplicate in a textbook, a video, or a project."



Jeff L. Pollock, new president of ZOA Pittsburgh

is conducted in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Holocaust Center of Greater Pittsburgh, with support from the City of Pittsburgh, individuals, foundations and businesses. There is no cost to students or the school district. "This opportunity gives our kids a chance to be better people in the world at the end of the day," May-Stein said.

ZOA Scholarships to Israel Announced

Since the founding of its Israel Scholarship Program in 1962, ZOA-Pittsburgh has helped hundreds of Pittsburgh Jewish high school students travel to Israel on structured summer study programs. ZOA believes that visiting Israel allows students to experience Jewish history, understand the role of Israel in Jewish life and helps cement their Jewish identity.

The program continues today through the vision of ZOA members who have funded endowments dedicated to this effort. ZOA is deeply thankful to Avraham and Patti Anouchi, Bernard and Esther Klionsky, Harold and Marla Scheinman, the late Thelma

Esman, and the family of the late Natalie and Ivan Novick, who have funded the ZOA Israel Scholarship Program.

Under the guidance of Chairwoman Phyllis Novick Silverman, scholarship committee members evaluated each student's application, looking at their participation in Jewish studies and activities, their volunteerism, and their essays on "What the State of Israel and Zionism mean to me."

ZOA-Pittsburgh is pleased to announce scholarships for 2015. Sam Impellicceiri, Leo Julian and Jonathan Levy were each awarded \$1,000. Omar Tolentino, Yael Itskowitz, Devora Itkin and Sarah Einav were awarded \$250 each.

ZOA-Pittsburgh Elects New President

Jeff L. Pollock of Squirrel Hill was recently elected to a two-year term as president of ZOA-Pittsburgh. Pollock has been on the board and served the last six years as a vice-president, and has been actively involved in many aspects of ZOA in Pittsburgh,

Since 1989, Pollock has been a solo practitioner and mediator at the Law & Mediation Office of Jeffrey L. Pollock, Esq. He focuses on family law, with a smaller concentration in criminal defense and entertainment law. When he is not practicing law he can often be found on stage and screen. He has a long list of credits from theater productions, movies and commercials.

Pollock said, "It is an honor to be entrusted with the position of ZOA-Pittsburgh president to help lead the efforts to enlighten our community. I plan to focus on clearing up/correcting unsubstantiated and unconscionable anti-Jewish positions and attacks, such as misplaced support for boycotts, divestment and sanctions, mistaken assumptions by Hamas apologists, misguided acts of anti-Semitism, and misunderstood dangers to Western democracy caused by the evils of anti-U.S./anti-Israel terrorism."

Pollock succeeds Ira Michael Frank who completed his third two-year term as

president of ZOA-Pittsburgh. Frank is well known in the community and has been involved with countless Jewish organizations. He was even president of two synagogues - simultaneously! During Frank's presidency at ZOA-Pittsburgh, the chapter grew in membership, activity and visibility. At our semi-annual meeting, incoming President Jeffrey L. Pollock presented Frank with a pewter havdalah set as a token of thanks.

Pittsburgh Lecture Series

ZOA-Pittsburgh held a series of lectures this summer. The first was given by Laurie Zittrain Eisenberg, professor of modern Middle East history at Carnegie Mellon University. Professor Eisenberg has researched and published on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process. Her presentation, "The Changing Shape of the Middle East," was about the history and the process of creating countries since the beginning of the 20th century.

Next was a lecture by Alexander Orbach, former longtime director of the Jewish Studies Program in the History Department at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Orbach is now a core faculty member at the European Studies Center and the Center for Russian and East European Studies of the University Center for International Studies. In his talk, "Partitioning Palestine: The Historical Background of the Two State Idea," Dr. Orbach detailed the background and history of the UN Partition Plan of 1947.

The final lecture, "The Legacy of Sepharad: New and Old Encounters between Spain and the Jews," was given by Michal Rose Friedman, who teaches at Carnegie Mellon University in the History Department. A Fulbright scholar who received her Ph.D. from Columbia University and researched her dissertation in Spain, Professor Friedman is a sabra who came to the U.S. as a teenager. In her talk, she gave a history of the Jews in Spain and discussed their expulsion. She also reviewed recent Spanish laws inviting Jews back to Spain and the problems the laws have created.



ZOA Pittsburgh board member Dr. Cyril Wecht



Under Ira Frank's presidency, ZOA Pittsburgh grew in membership and visibility

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With the global rise of anti-Semitism, ZOA West identified the need to teach the importance of Jewish self-defense, a core Zionist principle, to the local community. ZOA partnered with the Krav Maga Institute and Battle Tested Solutions to educate members on current threats to the Jewish community, and to enable them to better defend themselves.

Western Region

Effective March 2015, David Kadosh became the ZOA's new executive director for the Western Region. Formerly the director of ZOA's successful and expanding campus department, David brings over six years of ZOA experience to his new role. The Western Region executive director's mission has always been to engage the community, local college campuses and high schools in Israel activism, and to grow ZOA's presence and membership. Since assuming his new position, David has worked to meet these goals and to be a voice for strong and principled Zionism in the region. ZOA's western regional office is specifically based in the San Francisco Bay Area because the region desperately needs the leadership of an organization that does not back down and is unafraid to speak the truth about Israel and its enemies.

The ZOA has been fighting anti-Semitism on college campuses across the nation for many years through the ZOA Campus Department and Center for Law and Justice. In the Western Region, ZOA has embarked on a targeted effort with the AMCHA Initiative to regularly lobby the University

of California (UC) Board of Regents (the governing body of the UC system) to do more to identify, prevent and address instances of anti-Semitism, which are unfortunately so prevalent on UC campuses. Much of the Jew-hatred on campus, and elsewhere in our society, is manifested through anti-Israel rhetoric and actions. The ZOA has lobbied the UC Regents on numerous occasions, urging the Regents to educate the UC community about the many forms that anti-Semitism takes today, including anti-Israelism and anti-Zionism that go beyond legitimate political discourse and cross the line into anti-Semitism.

The ZOA has been stressing to the Regents that a crucial step toward eradicating anti-Semitism is understanding what anti-Semitism is. Fortunately, the U.S. State Department has adopted an excellent working definition of anti-Semitism that identifies when anti-Israel rhetoric crosses the line into anti-Semitism. ZOA West and the AMCHA Initiative are working closely to have the UC Regents adopt the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism. Should the Regents formally recognize that certain anti-Israel rhetoric is anti-Semitic, this would set an important precedent

ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

for academic institutions throughout the country. Our efforts are being bitterly contested by anti-Israel groups such as the Center for Constitutional Rights, the National Lawyers Guild, and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP). JVP has sponsored a petition with over 4,000 signatures against adopting the State Department's definition. JVP has also lobbied the State Department to change the definition to remove any references to Israel.

In order to better educate the community on the centrality of the Jewish people's connection to the land of Israel, ZOA West organized three screenings of the documentary *Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation* with the film's producer, Gloria Greenfield, and Doc Emet Productions. The film was screened in San Francisco and Walnut Creek and then premiered in Los Angeles. Each screening was well attended and well received.

ZOA West also hosted an internship program over summer break for the second consecutive year. Student interns contributed articles to ZOA's campus publication, *The College Zionist*, helped plan upcoming events in the region, and expanded ZOA's social media presence. They attended a variety of meetings and heard from speakers such as Tammi Rossman-Benjamin of the AMCHA Initiative, former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, and representatives of the MZ Foundation.

With the global rise of anti-Semitism, ZOA West identified the need to teach the importance of Jewish self-defense, a core Zionist principle, to the local community. ZOA partnered with the Krav Maga Institute and Battle Tested Solutions to educate members on current threats to the Jewish community, and to enable them to better defend themselves.

The ZOA is the voice of the Jewish community when other organizations will not speak up. This summer, ZOA West was that voice in the Bay Area, spearheading preparations for a public rally opposing the Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action (JCPOA),



ZOA West members learn how to better defend themselves and their community.

the disastrous Iranian nuclear deal signed by Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – the U.S., United Kingdom, China, France and Russia – plus Germany) and the European Union.

Despite the fact that an overwhelming majority of the Jewish community opposed the deal and the Israeli political system was united across party lines against it, many Bay Area Jewish establishments tasked with representing the Jewish community refused to participate in the Stop Iran Now rally. This did not deter ZOA West; with help from grassroots volunteers, we recruited nearly 30 organizations to join the rally as co-sponsors, fundraised to cover all expenses, directed the advertising campaign and secured a diverse group of speakers – from radio personalities to academics, Jews and Christians, and individuals across the political spectrum. The Zionist Organization of America is a necessary voice in the Western Region and will continue to engage the whole of the community in strong Zionist activism. 

There is a difference between legitimate criticism of Israel and hate speech beyond normal political discourse.

Policy Briefs



“The proposed legislation is an excellent, important step to counteract the tide of vicious, discriminatory boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) directed at Jews and Israel and Israel’s American and other trading partners.”

ZOA Praises Israeli Supreme Court Ruling BDS Against Israel, Judea/Samaria Is Illegal BDS Group Hatikvah Must Be Disqualified From WZC Elections

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) strongly praises the Israeli Supreme Court for upholding Israel’s anti-boycott law in the case entitled: HCJ 2072/12, *The Coalition of Women for Peace, et al. v. The Minister of Finance, et al.* (decision delivered April 15, 2015). The Israeli Supreme Court held that it is proper to deny benefits to and penalize those seeking to undermine the State of Israel using boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against all or part of Israel and the 700,000 Jews having businesses in or living beyond the 1949 Armistice lines in eastern Jerusalem and the Jewish communities of Judea and Samaria.

ZOA Praises Congress’s Anti-BDS Bill Which Includes Judea/Samaria Anti-Israel J Street Opposes Anti-BDS Bill

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) strongly praises Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Rob Portman (R-OH) for sponsoring the bipartisan United States-

Israel Trade Enhancement Act of 2015 (S.619) and Congressman Peter Roskam (R-IL) and Juan Vargas (D-CA) for sponsoring the United States-Israel Trade and Commercial Enhancement Act of 2015 (HR.825). In addition, ZOA strongly praises HR.825’s thirty-seven co-sponsors. ZOA also praises Senators Cardin and Portman for annexing this anti-boycott legislation as an amendment to a bill currently in the Senate Finance Committee.

The proposed legislation is an excellent, important step to counteract the tide of vicious, discriminatory BDS directed at Jews and Israel and Israel’s American and other trading partners. The bills are also very praiseworthy for condemning boycotts targeted at Israeli-controlled territories.

Why is President Obama Silent on Muslim Terror Attack in Texas?

In a UN speech, Obama said: “The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam.”

The deafening silence of President Barack Obama after the terrorist attack by two Islamic jihadists from Arizona on 200 innocent Americans at a “Draw the Prophet” event in Garland, Texas is deeply disturbing and perplexing. Such Islamic extremists claim that under Muslim Sharia law, the death penalty must be invoked against anyone who draws images of the prophet Muhammed. A massacre was prevented only because a heroic security guard killed the two terrorists before they were able to enter the building where the event was taking place. This was a terrorist attack by Americans against Americans, on American soil, and yet our President said nothing. He did not even praise the policeman who saved dozens of lives.

The President’s silence stands in stark contrast to his public reaction to the incident involving an African-American Harvard professor arrested at his home by a policeman investigating a robbery report; to

Trayvon Martin being killed in self-defense by George Zimmerman; and to Michael Brown's killing in self-defense by Officer Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri. Both Zimmerman and Wilson were acquitted. The President also commented on the recent Baltimore riots.

ZOA Praises Illinois for Passing Anti-BDS Bill, Including Judea/Samaria Legislation Opposes Boycotts Against Any Part of Israel, Including Eastern Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) strongly praises both houses of the Illinois legislature for unanimously passing anti-boycott bills HB4011 and SB1761, and strongly praises Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner for pledging to sign this important anti-boycott legislation. Governor Rauner tweeted: "Looking forward to signing #SB1761 making IL first in the nation to fight BDS against Israel. Great work @ StateRepSara & Sen. Silverstein. Bruce Rauner@GovRauner."

The ZOA is especially pleased that the Illinois legislation prohibits Illinois pension funds from investing in companies that engage in boycotts targeted at Jewish and Israeli businesses in any part of Israel, including the historic Jewish areas of eastern Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. The Illinois legislation provides that "boycott Israel" means "engaging in actions that are politically motivated and are intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or otherwise limit commercial relations with the State of Israel or companies based in the State of Israel or in territories controlled by the State of Israel."

ZOA Praises U. Calif. President - Endorsed State Dept. Definition of Anti-Semitism that Includes Anti-Israelism

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) strongly praises University of California (UC)



President Janet Napolitano, former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security and former Governor of Arizona, for personally agreeing with the U.S. Department of State's definition of anti-Semitism, and for agreeing that the UC Regents should adopt the definition. The State Department recognizes that denying Israel's right to exist, demonizing Israel (by, for example, comparing Israeli policy to that of the Nazis), and applying double standards to Israel (by requiring of the Jewish State a behavior not demanded of any other country), is anti-Semitic.

ZOA Appalled By Pres. Obama Ruling Out Military Action Against Islamic Republic of Iran

Obama Falsely Claimed "All Options Are On The Table"

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) is shocked and deeply critical of President Barack Obama's statement, in an interview on Israeli TV, that military action against Iran would be ineffective in preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear power. This statement contradicts his repeated commitments since before becoming president that "all options

A massacre was prevented only because a heroic security guard killed the two terrorists before they were able to enter the building where the "Draw the Prophet" event was taking place.



ZOA has condemned Zahi Khouri, CEO of Coca-Cola Palestine [sic], for urging an economic boycott of the Jewish State of Israel, which is nothing less than outright anti-Semitism

are on the table” in seeking to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power. Clearly, when the President publicly states that a course of action would be ineffective, he is, in essence, removing it from the list of options of what he is prepared to do.

In his interview on Israel TV with Ilana Dayan, President Obama stated, “I can, I think, demonstrate—not based on any hope, but on facts and evidence and analysis—that the best way to prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapon is a verifiable, tough agreement. A military solution will not fix it, even if the United States participates. It would temporarily slow down an Iranian nuclear program, but it will not eliminate it.” (Ilana Dayan, ‘Obama talks on Israeli TV about Netanyahu, Israel and David Blatt [TRANSCRIPT],’ Jewish Journal (New York), June 2, 2015).

ZOA Condemns Coca-Cola CEO Khouri’s Anti-Semitic Call For Sanctions Against The Jewish State Urges Coca-Cola To Repudiate Khouri’s Comments

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has condemned Zahi Khouri, CEO of Coca-Cola Palestine [sic], for urging an economic boycott of the Jewish State of Israel, which is

nothing less than outright anti-Semitism, and has called upon Coca-Cola to immediately and publicly condemn and repudiate his remarks.

ZOA Opposes Vatican Decision To Recognize Non-Existent State of “Palestine”

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has opposed the decision of the Vatican to recognize “Palestine”—a non-existent state, declared by Mahmoud Abbas’ Palestinian Authority (PA) and admitted as a non-member state to the UN in violation of the Oslo Accords, which proscribes unilateral moves and requires Israeli/Palestinian negotiated agreements to serve as the basis of a final peace settlement.

The ZOA believes that this decision is nothing less than recognition of a racist, unreconstructed terror Hamas/Fatah terrorist state. As we stated in May when this decision was pending, recognition of ‘Palestine’ by the Vatican will fortify the Palestinian Arab leaders’ intransigent refusal to negotiate with Israel to end hostilities, to end incitement to hatred and murder in the PA-controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps, to recognize Israel as the Jewish State, and to remove Hamas and other internationally designated terrorist organizations from their unity government.

ZOA: Why Is President Obama Stopping Arabs States From Arming Kurds To Fight ISIS? Why Does Obama Show Sympathy to Radical Islamists

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), following reports that President Obama is blocking the efforts of various Arab states to arm the Kurds to fight the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), is asking the question—Why is President Obama stopping Arab states from arming Kurds to fight ISIS?

The Kurdish Peshmerga forces, despite

having only makeshift heavy weapons, have successfully fought ISIS at various points, including having prevented ISIS from capturing Erbil, the largest city and capital of Iraqi Kurdistan. Kurdish fighters have also also helped to prevent ISIS from taking over parts of Iraq's north-west region.

Yet, according to reports, the Obama Administration is blocking airlifts of heavy weapons to the Kurds by Arab states. Also, millions of dollars' worth of weapons which have been bought by a number of European countries to arm the Kurds are being blocked by American commanders, who are overseeing all military operations against ISIS. High level officials from Persian Gulf states and other states in the Middle East have said that all attempts to persuade President Obama of the need to arm the Kurds directly have fallen on deaf ears.

ZOA Praises Episcopal Church For Voting Down BDS Resolutions

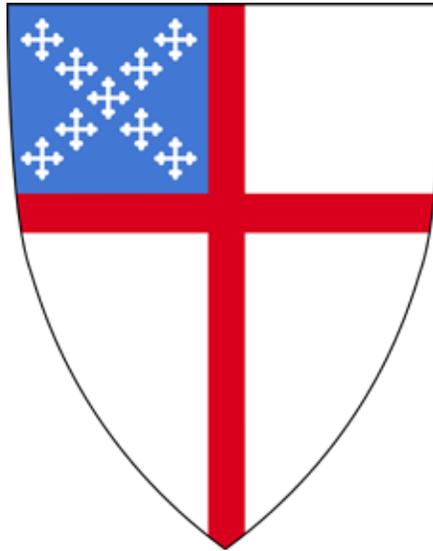
Welcomes Mennonite Church Deferring BDS Vote For Two Years

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has praised and welcomed the decision of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the United States (1.8 million members) to reject a motion endorsing the discriminatory anti-Israel BDS movement. The ZOA has also welcomed the decision by the Mennonite Church U.S.A. (95,000 members) to defer a vote on BDS until 2017.

ZOA Criticizes Israeli Religious Affairs Min. Azoulay For Saying That Reform Jews Are Not Jews

Stanford's Sowell: Nuke Deal Tells Us —“America's Best Interests Not Obama's Top Priority”

Saudi Prince Bandar: Obama Knowingly Made A Bad Deal



Episcopal Church logo

ZOA has praised and welcomed the decision of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the United States to reject a motion endorsing the discriminatory anti-Israel BDS movement

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has expressed agreement with veteran African-American public intellectual, Stanford University's Hoover Institution Senior Fellow Thomas Sowell, that President Barack Obama's nuclear agreement with Iran caps a long list of foreign policy decisions that show that he is not a defender of vital American interests. In a statement today, ZOA National President Morton A. Klein said that he agreed with Mr. Sowell that President Obama's nuclear agreement with Iran could only lead to that reluctant conclusion.

ZOA Condemns Obama Admin. For Aiding PLO/PA In Terror Case

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) criticized the Obama administration for aiding the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority (PA) in a terrorism lawsuit pending in a federal court in New York, in which the jury found the PLO and PA liable for millions of dollars in



Iranian armaments

Danny Danon is a principled and courageous promoter of the truth of the ongoing Arab war against Israel. All must understand: truth is not a political position.

damages for their role in several terrorist attacks in Israel that resulted in the murder and maiming of innocent American citizens. The U.S. Department of Justice submitted to the Court a “Statement of Interest of the United States of America,” urging the Court to consider the harmful effect that a bond requirement would have on the PLO and the PA, after the PLO and PA claimed that they could not afford to post a bond while their appeal is pending.

Obama Apparently Lied to U.S. Public: Accepted Iran’s “Right” To Enrich While Demanding It Cease Enrichment

A report from the Middle East Media and Research Institute (MEMRI) has apparently brought to light the existence of a secret letter revealing that the Obama Administration secretly approached the Iranian leadership in 2011, offering to recognize Iran’s alleged right to uranium enrichment—a right that does not exist under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which Iran signed—in return for Iran

negotiating a resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue.

If true, this means that President Barack Obama brazenly lied to the American public when his administration continued stating, after that date, that the U.S. demand an end to Iranian uranium enrichment activities.

Jury Verdict: PLO/PA Commits Murder Of Americans – Don’t Allow A PLO/PA Terrorist State

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) called on the Obama administration, Congress, the international community, and Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders to categorically reject any United Nations proposal of Palestinian statehood, particularly after a Manhattan federal jury found, after a seven-week trial last February, that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority (PA) were liable for orchestrating six terrorist shootings and bombings in Israel between 2002 and 2004, which resulted in the death and maiming of dozens of American citizens and others (*Sokolow v. PLO*). Despite this latest confirmation of the PLO/PA’s support for and promotion of terrorism against innocent American citizens and others, the media has reported that France is coordinating a UN initiative for Palestinian statehood with the United States. Even if the U.S. does not endorse the initiative, the Obama administration reportedly might not veto a UN resolution.

ZOA Applauds Appointment of Danny Danon as Israel’s UN Ambassador

ZOA applauds the appointment of Minister Danny Danon as Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations.

Morton Klein, President of ZOA, issued the following statement:

“The ZOA has congratulated Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his inspired

selection of Minister Danny Danon as Israel's new Ambassador to the United Nations. ZOA also congratulates Danny Danon for being appointed to this critically important post. It is especially critical during this time of increased and inappropriate hostility to Israel around the world, and due to the catastrophe of the nuclear deal with the anti-Semitic, anti-American Islamic Republic of Iran.

I have personally known Danny Danon for over 25 years. I first met him when I was a speaker for the international pro-Israel group "Betar" at a retreat in the Pocono Mountains in 1990. Danny was international head of Betar. We maintained contact regularly, both here and in Israel. I was a speaker at the numerous Christian Zionist events he organized around the United States. The Christian attendees there frequently told me how impressed they were with Danny and their hope that he will become Israel's Prime Minister someday.

Minister Danon and I have many mutual friends and he has spoken at ZOA's dinners on many occasions.

Danny is a principled and courageous promoter of the truth of the ongoing Arab war against Israel. All must understand: truth is not a political position.

Majority of 340 Pro-Iran-Deal Rabbis are from J Street & Other Israel-Hostile Groups 94% of U.S. Rabbis Did NOT Sign Pro-Iran-Deal Statement

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA)'s analysis shows that the overwhelming majority of the "340 Rabbis for Iran Deal" come from groups that routinely take positions and engage in activities that are hostile towards Israel and inimical to American interests. The "340 Rabbis for Iran Deal" are a small fringe group. There are over 5,000 rabbis in the United States. In other words, 94% of American rabbis did not sign the statement supporting the Iran deal.

The majority of the Iran Deal rabbis come from the Soros-funded J Street. (George Soros is a self-described anti-Zionist billionaire.) Liberal Professor Alan Dershowitz explained that J Street "always seems to be taking positions that are anti-Israel."

Israelis Oppose Iran Deal by 7 - 1, Americans by 2 - 1

**Americans Oppose deal by 57% - 28%;
NY Hispanics Oppose Deal 45% - 27%;
NY Catholics Oppose Deal 58% - 26%;
Amer. Jews Oppose Deal by 58% - 26%**

Latest Iran Deal Farce - Iranians to Inspect Themselves - Threatened to Harm Inspectors

Iran Threatened Harm to IAEA Chief Inspector if he Leaked Secret Deals - Sounds Like a Deal with Mafia, Not a Sovereign Country

An exclusive Associated Press report has revealed a secret side deal to the Iran nuclear agreement, signed last July 14, under which the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has permitted Iran to use its own inspectors to deliver findings on alleged prior military developments for explosive nuclear triggers at the contested military site of Parchin.

Shockingly, Iran's Atomic Energy Organization spokesman, Behrouz Kamalvandi, told Iranian lawmakers: "In a letter to Yukimo Amano we underlined that if the secrets of the agreement [roadmap between Iran and the IAEA] are revealed we will lose our trust in the agency; and despite the US Congress's pressures, he [Amano] didn't give any information to them [Congress]. Had he done so, he himself would have been harmed." This was reported by Fars, Iran's semi-official news agency and published in articles in the *Times of Israel* (Aug. 18, Tamar Pileggi) and Freebeacon.com, (Adam Kredo, Aug. 18.) [ZOA](#)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,600 Builder | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustainer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ |

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