



ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

FALL
2016



Former Cong. Allen West
(R-FL) with ZOA staffers



Sen. Chuck Schumer
(D-NY) meets with
ZOA activists



Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)
at ZOA luncheon

ZOA GALA DINNER: 2016 HONOREES

BERNARD MARCUS The Louis D. Brandeis Award

CONG. ED ROYCE Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson Defender of Israel Award

HON. DANNY DANON Dr. Bob Shillman Award for Outstanding Diplomacy

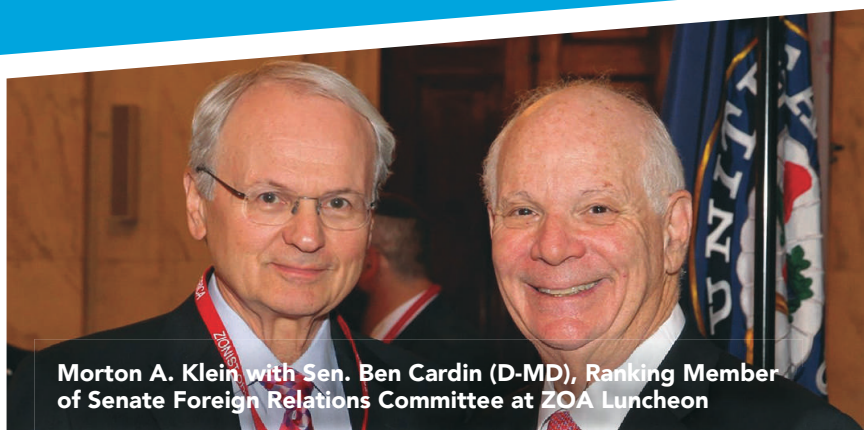
PROF. ALAN DERSHOWITZ Mortimer Zuckerman Award for Outstanding Journalism

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Gala Dinner*
NOVEMBER 20, 2016
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Morton A. Klein with Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Ranking Member
of Senate Foreign Relations Committee at ZOA Luncheon

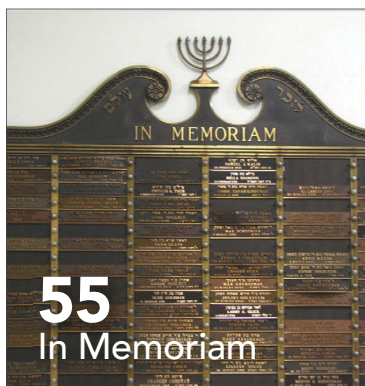
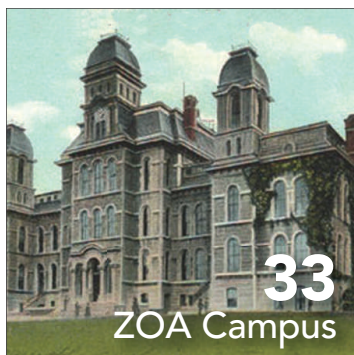


Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)
at ZOA luncheon



Cong. Eliot Engel (D-NY)
with Cong. Ed Royce (R-CA), Ranking
Member and Chair of House Foreign
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President's Message

In the “West Bank,” and especially in Gaza—where not a single Israeli official, administrator, soldier, or policeman is to be found—Israel’s writ no longer runs, nor does it maintain law and order. By no stretch of the imagination can Israel be said to be occupying the Palestinian Arabs.

In May, a Peace Index survey found that nearly three-quarters of Israelis—71.5 percent—do not view Israel’s control of most of Judea/Samaria as constituting an occupation. This poll confirms a simple reality: There is no Israeli occupation of Judea/Samaria.

It is vital that we make an issue of countering the flat-earth assertion that there is an ongoing Israeli occupation, because the notion that the Palestinian Arabs live under an Israeli occupation—and therefore require the world’s solidarity and massive pressure on Israel to acquiesce to the creation of a Palestinian Arab state—lies at the core of the campaigns being mounted to demonize and delegitimize Israel, especially the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Not only is Judea/Samaria a portion of the territory earmarked for the Jewish national home and Jewish settlement in the San Remo Settlement of 1920—which has never been superseded by an internationally binding agreement—but also almost all Palestinian Arabs in these territories are living under Palestinian Authority (PA) rule. They are not ruled by Israel.

Jordan had no legal sovereignty over these territories, but illegally seized and annexed them in 1949, and held them until 1967. Jordan’s annexation was recognized only by Britain, Iraq, and Pakistan. Jordan’s King Hussein relinquished all claims to Judea/Samaria in 1988.

Israel captured this land from Jordan in 1967, in a defensive war. Had Jordan not initiated hostilities against Israel at that time—ignoring pleas by Israel to stay out of the war that had already erupted between Israel and Egypt—Israel would not control any part of Judea/Samaria today.

“Occupation” generally refers to one state taking and holding territory recognized as

belonging to another sovereign state. Since Judea/Samaria did not belong to the unlawful occupier, Jordan, from whom Israel captured the territory in 1967, the term “occupation,” so far as international law is concerned, does not apply. As Stephen Schwebel, a former State Department legal advisor and former head of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, has written: “Where the prior holder of territory had seized that territory unlawfully, the state which subsequently takes that territory in the lawful exercise of self-defense has, against that prior holder, better title.” Accordingly, Judea/Samaria is unallocated territory under international law, and Israel has a stronger claim to it.

In fact, Israel has a greater political, religious, legal, and historical right to that land than any other party. These territories were Jewish land thousands of years ago, under King David, King Solomon and other Jewish rulers. All of the most important Jewish religious sites are located in these territories. The very name “Judea”—commonly used by the international community throughout the centuries to refer to these areas—derives from the same root as the word “Jew,” attesting to the deep Jewish connection to the land.

Following the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 and the Oslo II Agreement in 1995, the Israelis withdrew from nearly half of the territories, including the cities where 98 percent of Palestinian Arabs reside, handing these territories over to the control of Yasser Arafat’s PA. The areas from which Israel has not withdrawn are virtually uninhabited, except for the 2 percent where Israelis reside. In January 1996, elections to the Palestinian legislature were held, and the Israeli Civil Administration and military government were dissolved.



MORTON A. KLEIN
National
President,
Zionist
Organization
of America

The Oslo agreements do not prohibit Israeli residence and construction in these territories or require Israel to dismantle them. To the contrary, Oslo provides for Israeli and Palestinian building in zones under their respective control. Oslo also lists this as a final status issue, to be negotiated by the parties themselves.

As the distinguished historian Efraim Karsh has explained, “Since that time, nearly 60 percent of [Palestinian Arabs] have lived entirely under Palestinian jurisdiction (Area A). Another 40 percent live in towns, villages, refugee camps, and hamlets where the PA exercises civil authority but, in line with the Oslo accords, Israel has maintained ‘overriding responsibility for security’ (Area B). Some 2 percent of the West Bank’s population—tens of thousands of Palestinians—continue to live in areas where Israel has complete control, but even there the PA maintains ‘functional jurisdiction’ (Area C).”

Article 6 of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War states that a foreign power is only considered an occupier “to the extent that such Power exercises the functions of government in such territory.” Based on this Article, Israel cannot be considered an occupier.

In addition to having withdrawn from more than 40 percent of Judea and Samaria, Israel has withdrawn from all of Gaza. Today, 98 percent of Palestinian Arabs live under their own regimes, Mahmoud Abbas’s PA in Judea and Samaria and Hamas in Gaza. They each have their own legislature, courts, police, schools, and media which are, respectively, illiberal, corrupt, brutal, and hate-mongering. But they are theirs, not Israel’s. By no stretch of the imagination can Israel be said to be occupying the Palestinian Arabs.

Because Israel’s presence in Judea/Samaria is legal, UN Security Council Resolution 242 does not require complete Israeli withdrawal from all the territories (as, for example, the Security Council demanded of Iraq in 1990, regarding its unlawful invasion and annexation of Kuwait). Resolution 242 requires Israel to withdraw “from territories”; the authors of this resolution deliberately left out the word “the” before “territories” because it was their conviction—as articulated by then-British Foreign Secretary George Brown—“that Israel will not withdraw from all the territories.” The Soviet Union tried to insert the word “the” before the word “territories” in the resolution before it was voted upon, but that

effort was specifically rejected because it would have implied, wrongly, that Israel is obliged to withdraw from all the territories.

It should also be noted that the Oslo Accords recognize Israel’s right to remain in the territories, at least until there is an Israel-PA agreement on the final status of those areas. Chapter 2, Article X, Clause 4 specifically recognizes that, in these disputed territories, “Israel shall continue to carry the responsibility for external security, as well as the responsibility for overall security of Israelis for the purpose of safeguarding their internal security and public order” until a final accord is reached.

Furthermore, the Oslo agreements do not prohibit Israeli residence and construction in these territories or require Israel to dismantle them. To the contrary, Oslo provides for Israeli and Palestinian building in zones under their respective control. Oslo also lists this as a final status issue, to be negotiated by the parties themselves. Israel is entitled to assert its right for its citizens to live and build in these territories, and Jewish residential rights in Judea/Samaria remain unimpaired by the Oslo Accords.

Thus, the entire focus of the international community on the “occupation” is wrong and the notion that there is an illegal Israeli “occupation” is a myth. Instead of seeking to end Israeli control, the focus should be on ending *the conditions that gave rise to Israeli conquest of the territories in the first place and which remain operative*—Arab demonization of Jews, Judaism, and Israel, Arab support for terrorism against Israeli civilians, and Arab refusal to accept Israel’s existence as a Jewish state of any dimensions in the historic Jewish homeland.



Morton A. Klein
National President

Capitol Hill Pro-Israel Mission

ZOA Mission Brings Hundreds Of Pro-Israel Activists To Capitol Hill

Hundreds of activists from 21 states—from California to Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, and many more—participated in the Zionist Organization of America's annual Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Mission to Washington, D.C., on May 11, 2016. Meeting with nearly 100 members of Congress or their legislative staffers, ZOA activists urged them to:

1) Support S. 2725 (Iran Ballistic Missile Sanctions Act of 2016) and H.R. 4815 (Iran Ballistic Missile Sanctions Act of 2016), which would impose additional sanctions on Iran due to its ballistic missile tests in clear violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, passed in 2015; S. 2726 (Iran Terrorism and Human Rights Sanctions Act of 2016), which would impose additional sanctions on Iran for its continued support of Islamic terrorism and human rights violations; and H.R. 4992 (No Dollars for Iran Act), which would prevent the Treasury Department from allowing U.S. dollar transactions involving Iran outside the U.S. financial system;

2) Stop U.S. financial aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) if, within six months, the PA does not fulfill its Oslo commitments, especially with regard to ceasing the promotion of hatred and violence against Jews; demand that the State Department enforce existing U.S. law and reduce funding to the PA in proportion to the extent of its outlays on terrorism and support for terrorists and their families; cut all funding to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for admitting "Palestine" as a member; and

3) Urge President Barack Obama to veto hostile anti-Israel UN Security Council resolutions and enact legislation to suspend funding for the

UN in the event that it enacts Security Council resolutions in violation of international law.

At the ZOA's packed congressional luncheon, held prior to the congressional meetings in the sumptuous Kennedy Room of the Russell Senate Office Building, ZOA activists were joined and addressed by numerous Democratic and Republican senators and representatives, preceded by a surprise appearance from former Congressman Allen West (R-FL).

Lieutenant Colonel West, who served in Iraq in 2003 and Afghanistan in 2005, reminisced about his 2011 visit to Israel, including a visit to the Knesset in Jerusalem and meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu warned against withdrawing all American military forces from Iraq because of the vacuum that would be filled by jihadists who posed a global threat. Lieutenant Colonel West said that the U.S. military is capable of handling any mission asked of it, provided that it is given the requisite resources and direction. President Obama, governed by ideology rather than facts on the ground, had decided to build up Iran as a regional power and hegemon via the Iran nuclear deal. (Ben Rhodes, one of Obama's foreign policy advisers, has now admitted that the deal was based on lies.) Iran would purchase new tanks, fighter aircraft, and S-300 anti-aircraft missiles with \$150 billion that this catastrophic nuclear deal provided Iran, giving Iran's Quds Force and Hezbollah the cover to operate against Israel. "We need ZOA to put pressure on members of Congress to fight this Iran deal... Our children and grandchildren will judge us on what we are doing now," Lieutenant Colonel West stated.

Introducing the legislators, ZOA National

At the ZOA's packed congressional luncheon, held prior to the congressional meetings in the sumptuous Kennedy Room of the Russell Senate Office Building, ZOA activists were joined and addressed by numerous Democratic and Republican senators and representatives.

***Said Klein:
“If the
refugees were
Buddhists or
Hindus, we
wouldn’t
have any
concerns. But
with radical
Islam rife in
the Arab
world, we do
have
concerns for
our safety
and security
here in the
U.S., given
that ISIS [is]
making
phony
passports to
infiltrate
refugee
populations
and given the
attacks upon
Jews by large
Muslim
communities
in Europe.”***

President Morton A. Klein observed that “the Middle East Quartet would soon be issuing a report that is anticipated to be harshly critical of Jewish residence in Judea/Samaria...” He said that the ZOA is fighting to make it clear that Jewish residence in the territories is entirely legal; that, in any case, no new Jewish communities have been established since 1993; that construction has occurred entirely within their existing boundaries, which encompasses a mere two percent of Judea/Samaria; and that Israel neither occupies Palestinian Arabs (98 percent of whom now live under Palestinian Arab rule) nor the land, which is unallocated under international law, does not belong to another legal sovereign, and to which Jews have a well-established right under international law.

Klein also warned against admitting Syrian refugees to the U.S., noting that senior Obama administration officials have admitted that the government lacks the means to vet refugees for purposes of security. Said Klein: “If the refugees were Buddhists or Hindus, we wouldn’t have any concerns. But with radical Islam rife in the Arab world, we do have concerns for our safety and security here in the U.S., given that ISIS [is] making phony passports to infiltrate refugee populations and given the attacks upon Jews by large Muslim communities in Europe. Our Torah does not require us to bring people who are hostile to Jews and America; quite the opposite.” He also noted that, against expectations, Israel ranks highest among the nations in the World Happiness Report. He noted G-d’s promise that Israel will be an eternal people and that “G-d, unlike politicians—with all due respect to those in this room—keeps His promises.”

Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, spoke of his twentieth visit to Israel a few weeks earlier and his talks with Prime Minister Netanyahu, and with leaders in Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Senator Cardin remarked on changes in the region that have resulted in some unlikely cooperation between Israel and several Sunni Arab states. He spoke of the special relationship between Israel and the U.S., which has endured since President Harry Truman despite the disapproval of the State Department, with the



Cong. Lee Zeldin (R-NY)

U.S. extending recognition to the State of Israel within a quarter hour of its establishment. He spoke of the impact that Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaigns have on the rise of anti-Semitism in America and, to a much more pronounced degree, in Europe. “We must speak out and oppose BDS, as there is simply no justification for it... We must make it clear that we will not have trade with those countries that support BDS against Israel. We must say to our friends and allies, ‘Don’t try to delegitimize Israel.’” Speaking of the U.S. political scene, Cardin said that support for Israel must remain bipartisan and that “we must never let Israel become a political wedge issue. I thank Mort and ZOA for being here and making a difference.”

Senator Tom Cotton (R-AK) described the Iran deal as a “notorious compromise” that it is incumbent on all of us to fight. He thanked Mort Klein and ZOA, saying he was “grateful” for their sustained work opposing this dangerous deal. He reflected on Israel’s history, how the major challenges it faces have changed from conventional military wars to non-conventional terror wars, and that Israel is now facing a new,



Cong. Ed Royce (R-CA)

third era of warfare in the form of BDS, which he had introduced legislation to fight. Reflecting on the common Judeo-Christian basis of both the U.S. and Israel, Senator Cotton said that “as long as the New Israel and Old Israel stand together, no one will defeat our two nations.”

Cong. Ed Royce (R-CA), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, noted that 20,000 Israelis have lost their lives in war since 1948, and that had there been a state of Israel before 1948, hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of Jews would have been saved. He also spoke of the recent Iran nuclear agreement, observing that the ayatollahs deny the Holocaust while seeking to create a new one. Representative Royce also recounted the story of his visit to Ramallah and his questioning of PA leader Mahmoud Abbas on his previous acts of Holocaust denial, asking if Abbas still maintains the position that the Holocaust never occurred. Abbas, he said, replied evasively, saying: “Regardless of what happened then, doesn’t excuse what’s happening now.”

Royce observed that the campaign of hatred against Israel within the PA is part of a program preparing Palestinians from school-age onward to

hate. Noticing the official PA map of the region hanging in the background, Royce said that he further asked Abbas, “Where’s Israel on your map?” In his view, the U.S., by indulging the PA, has sacrificed leverage to pressure the PA to mend its ways, when we should be insisting that the PA change its school textbooks and educate its youth for pluralism and tolerance instead of war and hate.

Addressing the Iranian threat to Israel, Royce said that Iran is producing GPS-capable rockets for Hezbollah. He recounted an earlier visit to Israel in which he had seen 600 trauma victims in Israeli hospital wards as a result of missile assaults on the country with Iranian-made missiles. He noted that the U.S. is also threatened by Iranian missile development. He was critical of the way the Obama administration has squandered American prestige and reliability in the Middle East, noting that “when you enforce your red lines, you don’t have to keep talking about them.”

Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY), Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, spoke next and expressed his appreciation for all that Mort and the ZOA do in support of Israel and the U.S./Israel relationship. Noting that he was one of only 25 Democrats in the House to vote against the Iran nuclear deal, Engel said that he was now working to ensure that Israel receives all the necessary arms it requires for future defense under the new Memorandum of Understanding now being negotiated, while noting that the U.S. obtained enormous advantages from its defense and security relationship with Israel.

Senator John Boozman (R-AR) said his support for Israel was unwavering. “Look at my voting record—I’m 100 percent on Israel. You can count on me in the future.” He also praised ZOA’s campaign to educate Congress and the U.S. public, saying that the ZOA should never underestimate the importance of its achievements.

Representative Brad Sherman (D-CA)—whom Mort Klein introduced by saying how much he had enjoyed attending Sherman’s wedding in Malibu—has served for more than 20 years on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Sherman said of the Iran nuclear deal that “we must vote it down” and that it is not, properly speaking,

Reflecting on the common Judeo-Christian basis of both the U.S. and Israel, Senator Cotton said that “as long as the New Israel and Old Israel stand together, no one will defeat our two nations.”

Rep. Sherman said of the Iran nuclear deal that “we must vote it down” and that it is not, properly speaking, even an agreement, as it was never signed but merely a “handshake.”

even an agreement, as it was never signed but merely a “handshake.” He said he looks forward to the day that a more assertive America would tell Iran, “No, you cannot have unlimited centrifuges. No, you can’t have nuclear processing.” As for lifting nuclear restrictions on Iran after a decade, Sherman asked: “What about restrictions on Iran’s nuclear program? Shouldn’t they be permanent?” He also noted North Korea’s continued, gradual build-up of nuclear missiles that can be sold to anyone it chooses, asking rhetorically, with an indirect allusion to Iran’s anticipated financial windfall from the lifting of international sanctions, “Do you know someone who has a spare hundreds of millions of dollars?” As for BDS, Sherman said: “We can’t maintain normal, true relations with countries that boycott and discriminate against Israel.” Noting the discriminatory aspect of BDS, Sherman noted that he supported “the State Department definition of anti-Semitism because my wife wrote it.” He also called for the U.S. embassy in Israel to be moved to Jerusalem.

Representative Brendan Boyle (D-PA) spoke out strongly against BDS, which seeks to delegitimize Israel for the purpose of working for its international ostracism and eventual destruction. He observed that the constant comparisons by BDS advocates of Israel with apartheid-era South Africa is “wrong, repugnant, and anti-Semitic. Let’s call things as they are.” He also said that “the country in the Middle East that provides the most academic freedom is the precise one that BDS targets.” He commented that the BDS campaign is stronger today than it was last year, and significantly stronger still in Europe. Boyle said that he has co-sponsored a resolution opposing BDS and ensuring that the nation’s multi-billion-dollar state retirement programs be barred from investing in any company that engages in BDS. While proud of America’s historic role in the creation of the United Nations, Boyle said he is increasingly disturbed by the way the UN has been used and abused as a forum for bashing Israel.

Representative Juan Vargas (D-CA) commented that he was the first Democratic member of Congress to oppose the Iran nuclear deal. He noted that Iran had a clear path to nuclear

weapons and that he could not agree with those who argued that this agreement would serve to stop Iran from reaching the nuclear threshold. He also spoke with concern about the future of Democratic support for Israel, urging ZOA and other Jewish groups to take note of America’s changing demographics and to make outreach to Latinos and African-Americans a major part of their efforts going forward, in order to ensure that American support for Israel remains bipartisan and broad-based.

Representative Steve King (R-IA) said that he “had never been for the two-state solution” because the “Palestinians don’t want peace with Israel; they want to annihilate Israel.” On the Iran nuclear deal, he described Prime Minister Netanyahu’s address to Congress last year on the subject to be “the most compelling speech he has heard in that chamber.” King detailed the defects of the then-imminent agreement, saying that the deal is “unconstitutional” and that “we won’t change it until we get a new president willing to tear it up.” King recommended using cyberwarfare against ISIS and educational warfare to block the transmission of hateful jihadist ideologies to the next generation, expanding human intelligence in the Middle East, and extending greater assistance to the Kurds fighting ISIS.

Representative Lee Zeldin (R-NY) joked that he is the “lowest ranking Jewish Republican in Congress—and also the highest ranking Jewish Republican in Congress.” He spoke of President Obama acting as though he does not understand that our enemy does not respect weakness. He noted that Secretary Kerry admitted that he had not even read the side agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran. He noted that growing up he had once assumed that perhaps he was of the first generation to live in a world without anti-Semitism, but that recent events have shown the period of his youth to have been a short-lived golden age.

Representative John Fleming (R-LA) described himself as a “strong, ardent friend of Israel” who has visited it extensively, including Judea/Samaria. He said he opposes “the Iran deal for one reason: I don’t trust this administration.” With the revelations of public lying about the deal during negotiations, he said that his skepticism

has been shown to be “well-founded.” Fleming supports using a U.S. veto at the UN Security Council with regard to any anti-Israel resolutions that might be proposed.

Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) also spoke about the dangers of the Iran deal and the Obama administration’s foreign policy, which he said pressures U.S. allies while making concessions to U.S. enemies. Of Iran’s leadership, he said: “They are evil—I don’t care if you want to call them ‘moderates’—they want to destroy Israel and murder our people. A lot of us here on Capitol Hill are not confused about this, and we will not stop fighting the Iran deal.”


Representative Ron DeSantis (R-FL), who is also a candidate for the Senate, sympathized with Israel’s security situation. He remarked that if someone in the Bahamas started firing missiles into Fort Lauderdale, “we’d tolerate that for about 10 seconds... We’d send in the Marines. Yet whenever this actually happens to Israel, the UN blames Israel.” He described the Iran nuclear deal as a “catastrophe” and the BDS movement as “a total fraud” for targeting with boycott and ostracism “the Middle East’s only democracy.” He added: “This is a movement rooted in blatant anti-Semitism. We need to serve notice to anyone who wins the BDS movement that if you start boycotting Israel, we’ll start boycotting you.” He called for the Muslim Brotherhood to be listed as a foreign terrorist organization and for the next administration to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, both of which would signal that the U.S. is back and ready to stand by Israel and all its other allies that share its values through thick and thin.

Representative Robert Aderholt (R-AL) issued a call for President Obama to commit to vetoing any UN Security Council resolution that is hostile to Israel. He criticized the Iran nuclear deal, with particular emphasis on the question of whether the Obama administration was being forthright regarding its statements that it was not permitting Iran access to U.S. currency. Speaking of the shared values and convictions that lead him to support Israel, Aderholt noted: “We aren’t covered with Jews in Alabama, but we love the Jewish people. G-d bless you, Israel, and the United States of America.”

Rep. Brandon Boyle observed that the constant comparisons by BDS advocates of Israel with apartheid-era South Africa is “wrong, repugnant, and anti-Semitic. Let’s call things as they are.”

Representative Louie Gohmert (R-TX) spoke of the need to have Republican presidential presumptive candidate Donald Trump outline in detail his policy toward Israel and the Palestinians, saying, “His book, *The Art of the Deal*, makes clear that before you can have my support, you have to tell me what I need to know...” Gohmert also noted that he was the only member of Congress of either party to have met recently with the Egyptian intelligence head and said that these discussions and others had clarified for him the many ways in which the Iran deal was bad for all of America’s Middle East allies.

Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) also attended the luncheon, but had to leave before he had an opportunity to address the ZOA activists.

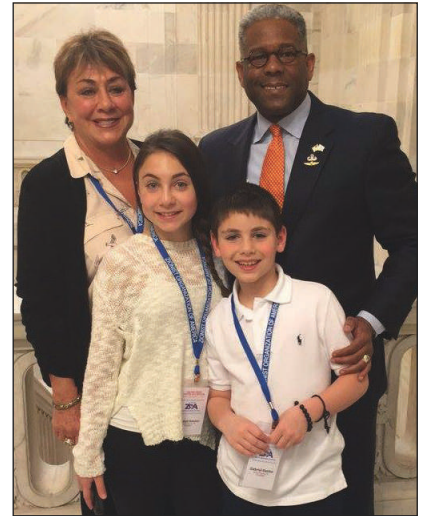
Morton Klein thanked the entire ZOA staff for their hard work in making the ZOA’s Advocacy Mission to Washington, D.C. such a success. Mort offered special thanks to Josh London and Dan Pollak, co-directors of ZOA’s Government Relations Department, for emceeding the luncheon and leading the discussion of issues, and for all their work in helping to bring such an impressive array of Congress members to the luncheon. Thanks were also expressed to Executive Director David Drimer and Development Director Howard Katzoff for their hard work and for making the mission so successful. Kudos were also bestowed on Greater Philadelphia Executive Director Steve Feldman and Florida Executive Director Sharon Whisler for bringing the largest contingents to the mission. Many would-be attendees were turned away due to lack of space. 

Rep. Ron DeSantis remarked that if someone in the Bahamas started firing missiles into Fort Lauderdale, “we’d tolerate that for about 10 seconds... We’d send in the Marines. Yet whenever this actually happens to Israel, the UN blames Israel.”

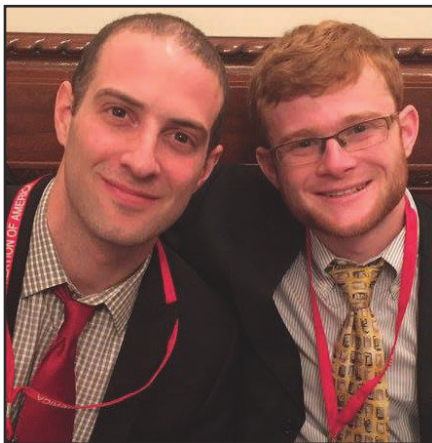
Capitol Hill Mission Pictorial



Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) with ZOA National President Morton A. Klein and wife Rita Klein



Former Rep. LTC Allen West (R-FL) with ZOA mission participants



Eytan Sosnovich, Director of Regional Affairs and Executive Director of ZOA's New York chapter, and Zach Stern, ZOA Campus Director and New York Campus Coordinator



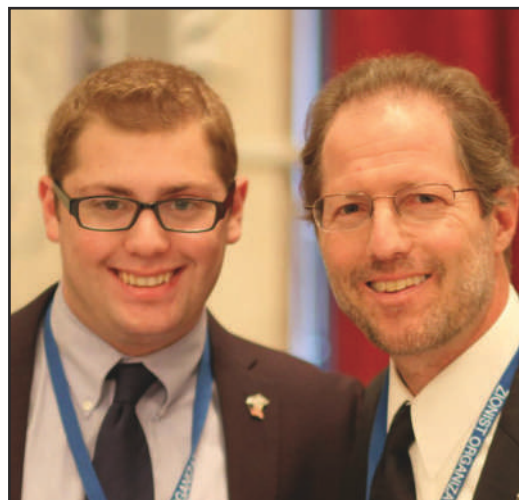
Another Jewish student activist for Israel



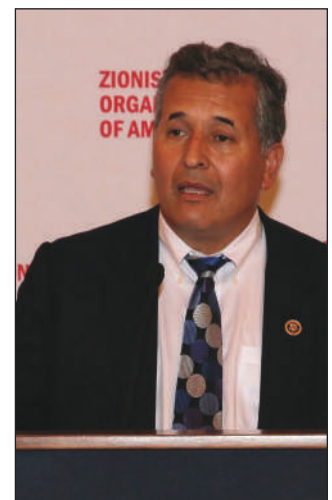
ZOA National President Morton A. Klein with Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)



A young activist joins the ZOA mission to speak out for Israel



Lee Bender, President of Greater Philadelphia chapter with son, Noah Bender



Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA)

Capitol Hill Mission Pictorial



Rep. Steve King (R-IA)



A ZOA supporter joins the mission to stand with Israel



Rep. John Fleming (R-LA)



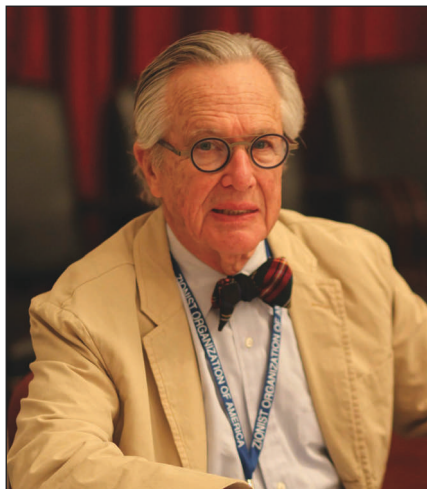
Mission participants gather to hear from representatives at an opening luncheon



ZOA's Director of Development Howard Katzoff with wife Patti Klein



ZOA activist listening intently to speeches



A ZOA supporter joins the mission to stand with Israel

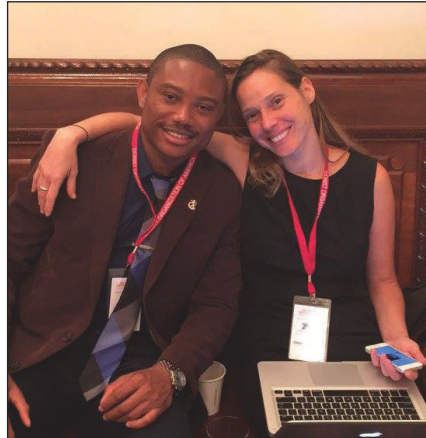


Former Rep. Colonel Allen West (R-FL) addresses mission participants

Capitol Hill Mission Pictorial



Rep. John Fleming (R-LA) speaks to ZOA's audience



Mid-West Campus Coordinator Pandit Mami with ZOA's Chief Compliance Officer Debra Benjamin



Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), Chairman of House Foreign Affairs



ZOA National President Morton A. Klein with Rep. Brandon Boyle (D-PA)



Andrea Gottlieb, ZOA Greater Philadelphia chapter supporter



Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY) with ZOA National President Morton A. Klein; Daniel Pollak, ZOA Co-Director of Government Relations at right

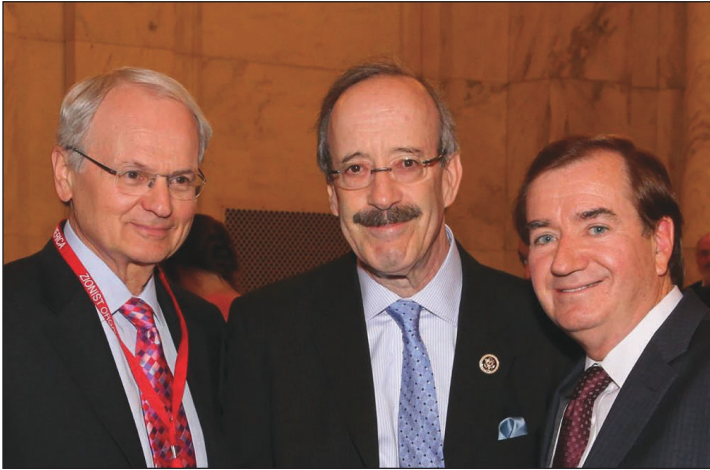


A ZOA supporter joins the mission to stand with Israel



Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)

Capitol Hill Mission Pictorial



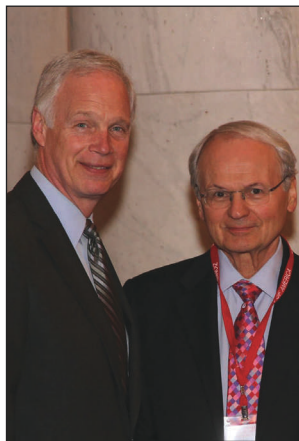
ZOA National President Morton A. Klein; Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Ranking Member of House Foreign Affairs; Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) Chairman of House Foreign Affairs



ZOA National Board member Mark Levenson, Esq.



The cover of our ZOA Mission to Washington 2016 folders



Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) with ZOA National President Morton A. Klein



Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) Chairman of House Foreign Affairs, shaking hands with Rep. Diaz Balart (R-FL); ZOA National President Morton A. Klein at center. At back, ZOA Co-Director of Government Relations Daniel Pollak shaking hands with Rep. DeSantis (R-FL)



Josh London, Co-Director of Government Relations



Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) addressing the crowd



Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL)

Capitol Hill Mission Pictorial



Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)



Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)



ZOA Florida Director Sharona Whisler with a government intern, welcoming guests to the mission



Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL) addresses the ZOA mission participants



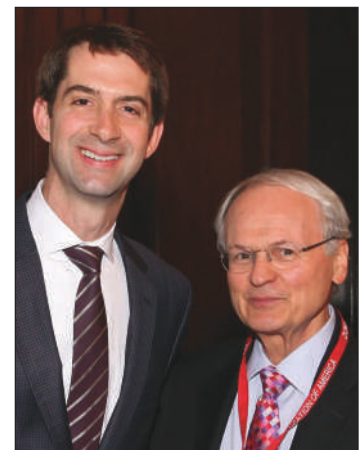
National Executive Director David Drimer and ZOA's New York delegation with Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) (center)



Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX)



Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) with ZOA's Chief Compliance Officer Debra Benjamin, Esq.



Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AK) with ZOA National President Morton A. Klein

ZOA People

Profile: Cliff Rieders, Esq.

Cliff Rieders sometimes seems surprised by the variety of experiences his rich and active life has brought him. He will recount anecdotes about the extraordinary people he has encountered or worked with over the decades and then declare, “It has indeed been a marvelous, eclectic, iconoclastic life and career that I have led.”

Rieders practices law and resides in Williamsport, PA, where he is a partner in the law firm of Rieders,

Travis, Humphrey, Waters & Dohrmann. He is past president of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, a founding member of the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority, the author of five textbooks on various legal topics, and a frequent writer of opinion pieces on issues surrounding Israel and the Middle East, which he contributes mainly to central Pennsylvania newspapers. He has served on numerous committees, including teaching for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and Pennsylvania



Supreme Court Standard Jury Instruction Committee. He also has worked long stints in engineering and finance, the latter when his mother, who was the first professional controller of Revlon, took over her late brother's engineering company, Metrolab. Rieders took a six-year part-

time sabbatical from the law to be Metrolab's financial controller. He also holds a mariner's license and has worked at the U.S. Commerce Department's ships subsidy program, where he was involved in the debate over the virtues of single- or double-hulled vessels. “I recommended they be

Rieders's parents were strong Zionists. "[My father's life] was, in short, a life of tremendous Zionism, Yiddishkeit, and Jewish education; a very active, energetic Jewish world"... Zion has loomed just as large in Rieders's life, and, having worked with a number of major American Jewish organizations, Rieders holds a special affection for and commitment to the ZOA.

double-hulled, but they weren't, and then we got the Exxon Valdez," Rieders recalls ruefully.

Rieders is involved with numerous Jewish organizations, but particularly and primarily with the ZOA, where he serves as a member of the ZOA's National Board and also on the Advisory Board of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice. Rieders sees in the ZOA an organization that has been and remains "quintessentially correct" in its approach to the issues and challenges Israel must face. He sees himself as a reservoir of legal support for the ZOA: "It's a national organization, in the crosshairs of a lot of bad people because it's high-profile, so there are always issues that come up, and the question often is how to address these problems."

Rieders was born in New York City to a Jewish family that is five generations American on his father's side. His Brooklyn-born mother, whose family came from Poland, was raised on a dairy farm. When Rieders was a child, his family moved to Great Neck, NY, where his parents were among the founders of the Great Neck Synagogue and where he attended Jewish schools. He grew up hearing stories of his mother's family in Europe, who were trapped in the Shoah; of his grandmother from Krakow combing the

lists of survivors, tears running down her cheeks, in hopes of finding surviving family members, almost all of whom had been murdered by the Nazis. One of his grandmother's brothers survived and made a new life for himself in Israel, after living in a tent city in Hadera. Rieders's family raised money for their relatives in Israel to join them in America, but they declined. Having survived the Nazi genocide and harrowing military service in the Soviet Red Army, they wanted to remain in the Jewish homeland.

Rieders's parents were strong Zionists and, unusually, Republicans. In fact, his father organized the Reagan campaign headquarters in Great Neck and "was nearly run out of town, but he didn't care," Rieders laughingly recalls. "It was, in short, a life of tremendous Zionism, Yiddishkeit, and Jewish education; a very active, energetic Jewish world."

Rieders attended New York University, graduating cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, before obtaining his Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center, which he remembers as a "remarkable, wonderful experience." Following law school, he worked first for the extraordinary lawyer Henry Rothblatt, who initially defended the plumbers who broke into the Watergate Hotel

in 1972. When Rothblatt dropped the case, Rieders found himself at once confronted by the *Washington Post's* Carl Bernstein, one of the two famed journalists who broke the Watergate story. Bernstein wanted to know the reason for the defense being dropped—something about which Rieders was unable to enlighten him.

With Rieders wishing to work for a federal judge, Rothblatt recommended him to Malcolm Muir, who became the fourth most senior federal judge at the time of his death in 2011, at the age of 94. Muir, recalls Rieders, was "the anvil of excellence"—an unrelentingly demanding, perfectionist boss. So difficult was working for Muir that Rieders at one point handed him a letter of resignation, which Muir promptly tossed into the fireplace with the words, "Young man, you have to be tougher in this profession." But the experience was invaluable. "It was phenomenal training," Rieders says.

He then worked for Henry G. Hager, a moderate Republican who served as president pro tempore of the Pennsylvania State Senate in the 1970s and '80s. "He was extraordinary to work with," Rieders reminisces. "He had an amazing way of drafting legislation. No one really does it like that anymore. When writing anti-BDS legislation,

as I have done, I thank Hager for the education I received in drafting laws.” Rieders has written dozens of pieces of legislation for various legislators.

But Zion has loomed just as large in Rieders’s life, and, having worked with a number of major American Jewish organizations, Rieders holds a special affection for and commitment to the ZOA. “I have known Mort Klein since the early 1980s, and even before he became president I had done some legal work for ZOA. In any event, one thing led to another and I became progressively more involved,” said Rieders.

“What I value in ZOA is that ZOA was not and is not apologetic for Israel or Judaism. ZOA is quintessentially correct on the issues that are vital to the survival of Israel, without apology. Mort was looking for expertise so he could make the ZOA a better, [more] successful organization. That’s why I’m comfortable with ZOA, and it has indeed been very successful in standing up for Israel’s interests in a way other organizations won’t do. Mort is an exceptional person. I see my own role within ZOA to be a sort of legal elder statesman, ready to help anyone in ZOA who has a legal or quasi-legal question. Which brings me back to Mort. Many people I have known over the years in different

work that I have been engaged in—law, engineering, finance—have asked my opinion, but, in reality, not everyone genuinely wants to hear something that differs from their own views. Mort is different. You can give Mort an opinion and he will listen honestly. He has a scientific approach to the truth—he wants more evidence and will look at contrary evidence, to ensure he understands something properly.”

Rieders continues to support the ZOA, deeply concerned now at the influx of anti-Israel voices into the Democratic Party. “It is important that Israel not face unnecessary, illicit pressure from U.S. politicians, yet you can see what has happened in Israel’s recent wars. I remember in the 1990s personally speaking to President Bill Clinton, who assured me to my face that ‘We’re going to stop those missiles raining down on Israel from Hezbollah.’ Well, it hasn’t happened, and now you hear Hillary Clinton using the same terminology recently.”

Rieders and his wife, Kim, have three children—their eldest daughter who is a molecular biologist and lawyer in the law firm, a second daughter living in Israel who has served in the Israel Defense Forces and is currently enrolled in a dual-language law school, and a son who is a Jewish studies major at SUNY Bingham-

ton and who, like Rieders, holds a mariner’s license. Of his wife, Rieders says, with evident pride: “Having a spouse whose Jewish ancestry goes back to the time of the American Revolution has stimulated my interest in the largely unknown role of American Jewry at the time of America’s inception. It is also nice to have Kim as my biggest fan and best friend.”

Rieders’s life is not slowing down. His family foundation has produced a documentary, “Golden Treasures,” about the Judaica collection held by the Vatican in Rome. “We were the first ones ever to actually receive a written response on the subject from the Vatican, on the whereabouts of these treasures,” he says. In his scant spare time, Rieders reads voraciously (currently, Ron Chernow’s *Washington: A Life*), not least about quantum physics, which he has followed almost since the inception of the discipline, having taken the first course in the subject when it was offered at New York University. “I was just thinking the other day about the enjoyably varied life I have had,” says Rieders, with the satisfaction that comes from a life well-lived. [ZOA](#)

“What I value in ZOA is that ZOA was not and is not apologetic for Israel or Judaism. ZOA is quintessentially correct on the issues that are vital to the survival of Israel, without apology”.

Center for Law and Justice

Demonstrators shouted at the small number of Jewish students who bravely attended the rally, calling them “racists,” “white supremacists,” “fascists,” “Nazis,” and “supporters of genocide.” They yelled, “Zionists out of CUNY!” “Jews out of CUNY!” and “Jews are racist sons of bitches!”

ZOA Exposes Anti-Semitism at CUNY, Triggering Independent Investigation



SUSAN TUCKMAN
Director, Center for
Law and Justice

In February 2016, the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) sent a 14-page letter to Chancellor James Milliken and the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York (CUNY) describing in detail the anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation that Jewish and pro-Israel students were facing on at least four CUNY campuses—Hunter College, Brooklyn College, the College of Staten Island, and John Jay College—largely caused by the anti-Israel group that calls itself Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). The ZOA urged the Chancellor and the board to take immediate steps to remedy the hostile, anti-Semitic campus environment and prevent it from recurring, in accordance with their legal obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. (Title VI requires that federally-funded schools ensure that their programs and activities are free from racial and ethnic discrimination.)

Within days, the ZOA's letter attracted enormous media attention and sparked the Chancellor to order an independent investigation of the

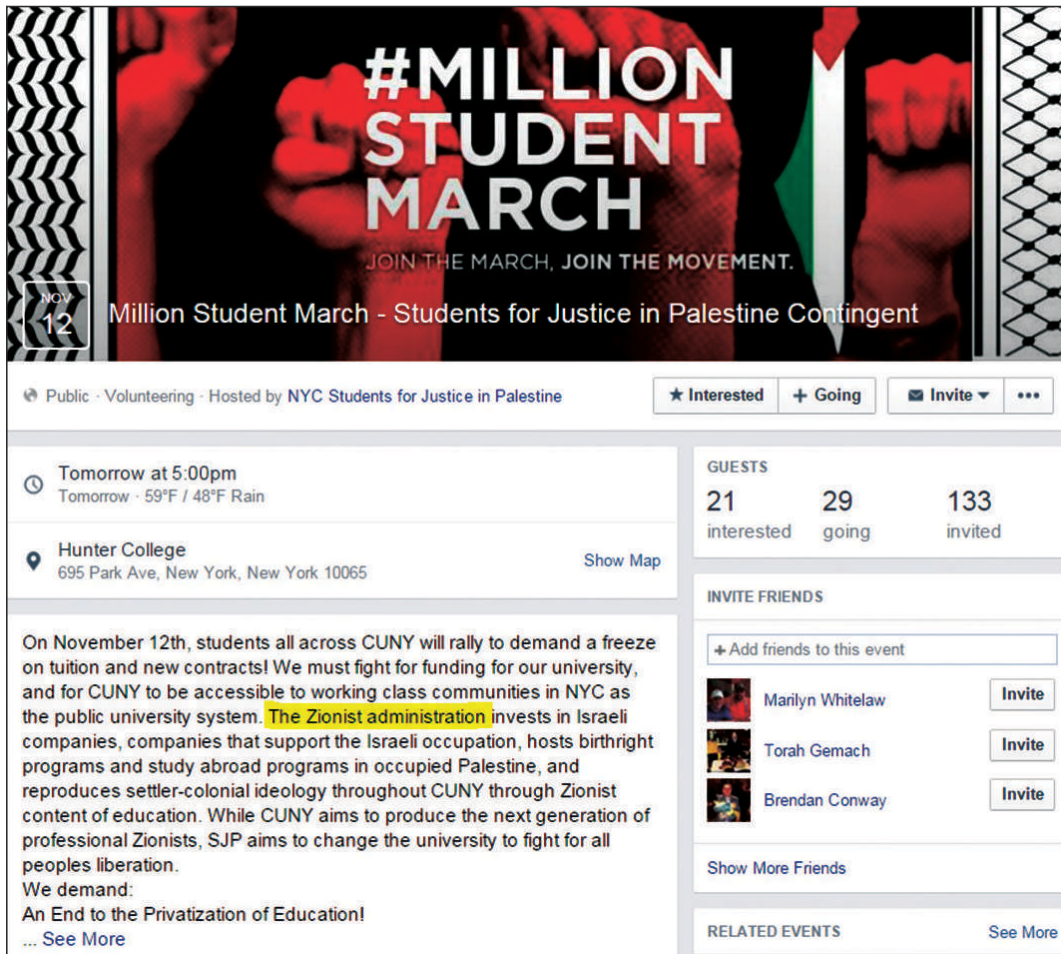
allegations of campus anti-Semitism at CUNY. As of this writing, the investigation is ongoing.

HUNTER COLLEGE

The letter described a horrifying pattern of conduct by SJP on several CUNY campuses, as reported to the ZOA by students and other witnesses on campus. At Hunter College, for example, SJP and its allies held a rally last November calling for free college tuition and the cancellation of student debt. SJP turned the rally into a hateful and divisive demonstration, advertising it on Facebook by criticizing “the Zionist [CUNY] administration” for, among other things, hosting Birthright programs and study-abroad programs in “occupied Palestine” [i.e., Israel], and for “reproduc[ing] settler-colonial ideology through Zionist content of education.”

SJP's hateful and divisive conduct continued at the rally, with demonstrators screaming and chanting, “Long live the Intifada!” and “There is only one solution: Intifada revolution!” Calling for an Intifada is widely understood as calling for the murder of Jews, causing Jewish students at Hunter College to feel threatened and afraid for their safety.

The demonstrators shouted at the small number of Jewish students who bravely attended the rally, calling them “racists,” “white supremacists,” “fascists,” “Nazis,” and “supporters of genocide.” They yelled, “Zionist out of CUNY!” “Jews out



SJP's anti-Semitic Facebook post about the CUNY rally

of CUNY!” and “Jews are racist sons of bitches!” One Jewish student, an American citizen and lifelong New Yorker, was called a “settler” and screamed at to “get the f--k out of my country, our f--king nation.” As another Jewish student was leaving the rally, he heard someone yell, “We should drag the Zionists down the street!” As reported to the ZOA and described in the letter, this student “was shaken by the realization that he was hated and could be physically attacked because of who he is and what he believes.”

BROOKLYN COLLEGE

The ZOA's letter to CUNY leadership also described anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation at Brooklyn College. Last February, for

example, a group of students disrupted a faculty council meeting, chanting “Zionists out of CUNY,” or a similar statement, and engaged in name-calling against the faculty council chairman, who was wearing a yarmulke (with at least some reference to him being a “Zionist”).

In the fall of 2015, SJP at Brooklyn College sponsored a number of anti-Israel events, continuing the group's pattern of staging events on a Jewish holiday in order to minimize the number of Jewish students who could be present to counter the SJP's hateful lies. In addition, a Jewish student and her parents were harassed, threatened, and intimidated by SJP members as they tried to clean away the hateful messages SJP had chalked on the public sidewalks adjacent to the college, in violation of New York City ordinances.

In urging CUNY leadership to take strong and immediate action to remedy the anti-Semitic hostility on several campuses, the ZOA stated: “Such bigotry would never be tolerated by CUNY if it were being directed against another ethnic, racial, or other targeted group. CUNY should not be tolerating it when the bigotry is directed against Jews.”

'Jew haters' spread fear at CUNY colleges

EXCLUSIVE

By CARL CAMPANILE

Jewish students at four City University of New York campuses are being harassed and intimidated by a pro-Palestinian student group, and the university isn't doing enough to protect them, according to a leading advocacy group.

The Zionist Organization of America sent a 14-page letter to CUNY's chancellor and board of trustees claiming members of Students for Justice in Palestine have engaged in "hateful, anti-Semitic and violence-inciting conduct."

ZOA urged the university to investigate the group with an eye to banning it from all 23 university campuses.

"Please do not wait until the situation escalates further and someone gets hurt," wrote ZOA President Morton Klein. "This group does not deserve a place on any CUNY campus until it can demonstrate that it will respect and abide by the rules and standards that apply to everyone else."

Among the incidents cited by the groups:

- At John Jay College, which specializes in criminal justice, Jewish students have been the target of so many slurs that at least three have transferred.
- One John Jay administrator responded to a Jewish student's concerns by saying, "What are these white kids complaining about?"
- On Nov. 12 at Hunter College, during a demonstration for free tuition, Jewish students were denounced as "racist sons of bitches," "fascists" and "Nazis" and were greeted with comments such as "Jews out of CUNY."
- One student tweeted at the time, "Full-blown anti-Semitism allowed at my college... I witnessed this and froze in fear."
- At Brooklyn College, the pro-Palestinian group disrupted a faculty meeting last week and called a professor wearing a yarmulka a "Zionist pig."

Brooklyn College slammed the "hateful" comments and the disruption.

■ At The College of Staten Island, a pro-Palestinian demonstrator told a Jewish student last November, "I don't hug murderers." Swastikas also defaced the college's desks and walls.

"Such bigotry would never be tolerated by CUNY if it were being directed against another ethnic, racial or other targeted group," Klein wrote. "CUNY should not be tolerating it when the bigotry is directed against Jews."

A CUNY official said it just received ZOA's letter on Tuesday and that a detailed response would be issued after consulting with campus officials.

CUNY also noted that the university's college presidents had issued statements condemning some of the incidents of bigotry mentioned in the ZOA letter.

Such bigotry would never be tolerated by CUNY if it were being directed against another ethnic, racial or other targeted group.

—Morton Klein (left), president, Zionist Organization of America



New York Post's page 2 article about ZOA's letter to CUNY

A Muslim student reportedly told a Jewish student leader that "I can't be seen with you... It's not good for me to be seen with Jews."

In its letter, the ZOA pointed out to CUNY leaders that SJP has had a long history of harassment and discrimination against Jewish students at Brooklyn College. In 2013, an SJP leader evicted four Jewish students (two were obviously Jewish, wearing yarmulkes, and one was a well-known pro-Israel activist on campus) from an anti-Israel event and lied about the eviction, falsely claiming that the four Jewish students were interrupting the event, when they were doing nothing of the sort. A CUNY investigation confirmed that the eviction was without any justification, and the president of Brooklyn College publicly acknowledged that the students were likely removed simply because they disagreed with SJP's views. ZOA filed a Title VI action with the U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), based on this and other incidents, which the ZOA successfully resolved via an OCR-supervised mediation with the college. Since then, SJP has repeatedly violated college policies relating to organizing student club events—policies put in place specifically to avoid a repetition of the problems that occurred in connection with SJP's anti-Israel event in 2013.

COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND

In its letter to CUNY officials, the ZOA also described the anti-Semitic hostility at the College of Staten Island (CSI). For example, at an anti-Israel demonstration last November, an SJP supporter approached a Jewish CSI student who was holding a sign that said, "Keep calm and hug a Jew," and said to the student, "I don't hug murderers." A Muslim student reportedly told a Jewish student leader that "I can't be seen with you... It's not good for me to be seen with Jews." Another Muslim student leader, who worked constructively with Jewish students, reportedly confessed to a Jewish leader that SJP told him that he was not a "good Muslim" if he associated with Jews and Hillel. Swastikas defacing the college's desks and walls never triggered a single statement from the administration condemning the vandalism or explaining why it was wrong.

JOHN JAY COLLEGE

The ZOA letter also described serious problems at John Jay College, where SJP deliberately tried to marginalize Jewish students and student groups, discouraging others from working with them by using threats and intimidation. For example, the Muslim Students Association (MSA) co-sponsored an event with Hillel, at which a Muslim police officer and a Jewish police officer were scheduled to speak. For a school of criminal



John Jay College of Criminal Justice

justice, this program was particularly relevant. But at the last minute, the MSA withdrew its sponsorship because it was so intimidated by SJP, which warned and reportedly threatened the MSA not to work with Hillel. Threats were even coming from overseas, including on Facebook and Twitter. The event went forward successfully without the MSA, but the incident demonstrates how SJP's conduct deliberately divides the community, marginalizes some of its members, and violates CUNY's values of civility and respect for differences.

The hostile, anti-Semitic environment has had a detrimental impact on Jewish students at John Jay. Some are reportedly afraid to openly identify as Jewish; instead of wearing a yarmulke to cover their heads, some Jewish male students wear a baseball cap. Some Jewish students are afraid to walk down Club Row, where the Office of Student Life is located.

Other Jewish students report being afraid to come to campus at all. The ZOA letter described how some students deliberately take classes in the morning and evening only and will not take afternoon classes that they would otherwise be interested in, to avoid the SJP's hateful events, which are typically held in the middle of the day at Community Hour. (John Jay's website describes Community Hour as a time when "campus spaces—especially the Atrium and the Jay Walk—are buzzing with energy and vibrancy.") For Jewish students, this time and these spaces are often filled with tension, anxiety, and dread.

When the SJP holds events at John Jay, it takes over the Atrium, which is right off the main entrance to the school and connects the old and new buildings of the campus. Students thus cannot avoid hearing and seeing SJP's hateful rallies and demonstrations; they are forced to be an involuntary audience to the group's anti-Semitism and its ugly lies about Israel.

According to reports the ZOA received, John Jay administrators largely responded with indifference to the challenges facing Jewish students. One administrator reportedly commented, "What are these white kids complaining about?" As the result of the hostile environment, at least three Jewish students reportedly left John Jay College and transferred to other schools.

ZOA CALLS ON CUNY LEADERS TO RESPOND

As the result of the SJP's hateful, anti-Semitic, and divisive conduct on several CUNY campuses, the ZOA called on the Chancellor and Board of Trustees to publicly condemn the SJP, fully investigate this group for violation of CUNY rules and policies, and, if violations were found, revoke the group's registered status. The ZOA stated in the letter to CUNY officials: "This group does not deserve a place on any CUNY campus until it can demonstrate that it will respect and abide by the rules and standards that apply to everyone else."

The ZOA also urged the Chancellor and Board of Trustees to require SJP to complete an educational program on anti-Semitism—using the State Department definition of anti-Semitism, which recognizes anti-Israelism and anti-Zionism as forms of anti-Semitism. In addition, the ZOA urged an investigation of all sources of SJP's funding, to ensure that this group is not receiving funds or other material support from groups or individuals with ties to terrorism. Finally, ZOA called on CUNY leadership to publicly state that there would be zero tolerance for anti-Semitism at CUNY, and to educate the community about the many forms that anti-Semitism takes today, referring specifically to the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism.

In urging CUNY leadership to take strong and immediate action to remedy the anti-Semitic hostility on several campuses, the ZOA stated: "Such bigotry would never be tolerated by CUNY if it were being directed against another ethnic, racial or other targeted group. CUNY should not be tolerating it when the bigotry is directed against Jews."

The ZOA's letter almost immediately caught the attention of the media, including *The New York Daily News*, *The New York Post*, and *The Jerusalem Post*. Three days after the letter was sent, *The Daily News* published an editorial supporting ZOA's demands, noting that "[CUNY Chancellor] Milliken is obligated to take action—including expulsion—when anyone obstructs CUNY proceedings, squelches the speech of others, verbally harasses individual students or issues targeted threats. Vandalism, such as painting swastikas, is

Dozens of demonstrators screamed and chanted "Long live the Intifada!" and yelled such invectives as "Zionists go home!" and "Jews out of CUNY!" The double standard must stop. University leaders must respond to bigotry against Jewish students with the same vigor they show when other groups are targeted.

According to reports the ZOA received, John Jay administrators largely responded with indifference to the challenges faced by Jewish students. One official reportedly commented, “What are these white kids complaining about?”



CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken

grounds for arrest... [T]here’s strong evidence that a blossoming nightmare is making CUNY enemy territory for some Jewish students. Over and over, administrators must aggressively condemn SJP’s rhetoric as the hate speech that it is.”

A week after the ZOA sent its letter, the Chancellor and the chairperson of CUNY’s Board of Trustees responded, informing the ZOA that they had retained independent outside counsel to investigate the allegations of anti-Semitism on CUNY campuses. The investigators are Barbara Jones, a retired federal district court judge in Manhattan, and Paul Shechtman, who served as director of criminal justice under New York State Governor George Pataki and had been an assistant federal prosecutor. At the time of their engagement, both were partners at the firm of Zuckerman Spaeder; last spring, they both moved to Bracewell, in the firm’s Manhattan office.

The problems at CUNY also have prompted actions by the state legislature. In March, 35 members of the New York State Assembly—Republicans and Democrats—called on the Chancellor to immediately suspend the SJP

from CUNY campuses, “sending a clear and unequivocal message that hatred and bias have no home at CUNY.” Last June, State Senator Jack Martins, from Long Island, introduced a bill to defund state and city campus organizations that engage in hate speech, including anti-Israel boycotts. Senator Martins told *The Daily News* that he introduced the bill out of frustration with the lagging independent investigation, stating, “We have waited months for the administration to complete its investigation and heard nothing. In the absence of responsible action, we have no choice but to step in and prevent taxpayer dollars being used to promote hate and, specifically, anti-Semitism.”

ZOA Demands University Leaders Remedy Anti-Semitism On Other Campuses

The ZOA is continuing to fight for a safe and welcoming learning environment for Jewish and pro-Israel students at other schools across the country.

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

Last May, the ZOA urged San Francisco State University President Leslie Wong to take action after protesters—including members of the anti-Israel campus group General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS)—disrupted the speech of an invited guest to the campus, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat. According to those present, Mayor Barkat spoke for no more than five minutes before a group of approximately 25 screaming anti-Israel protesters stormed the room, shouting and drowning out the mayor’s voice for the next 45 minutes with chants of “Free, free Palestine!” and “If we don’t get no justice, you don’t get no peace.” Although university police were present, they did not intervene and, instead, permitted the protesters to disrespect Mayor



Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat

Barkat and those who came to hear his speech. The ZOA even received a report that the police were instructed not to remove the disrupters and allowed them to continue their wrongful and possibly criminal behavior.

President Wong issued a statement the day after the incident, committing to an investigation by the dean of students and university police. But a month after his statement, the investigation had still not concluded, at which point the ZOA sent its letter to President Wong.

The ZOA urged President Wong to hold the student disrupters accountable under the university's Standards for Student Conduct and under California's criminal laws, which make it unlawful to willfully disturb an "assembly or meeting that is not unlawful in its character" and to conspire to commit this crime. (ZOA's efforts helped lead to the criminal prosecution and conviction of the so-called "Irvine 11"—members of the Muslim Student Union—under these laws, after they disrupted Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren's speech at the University of California, Irvine in 2010.) In addition, the

ZOA urged President Wong to take concrete steps to prevent anti-Israel students from shutting down protected speech.

As of this writing, San Francisco State has failed to reveal the status or results of its investigation.

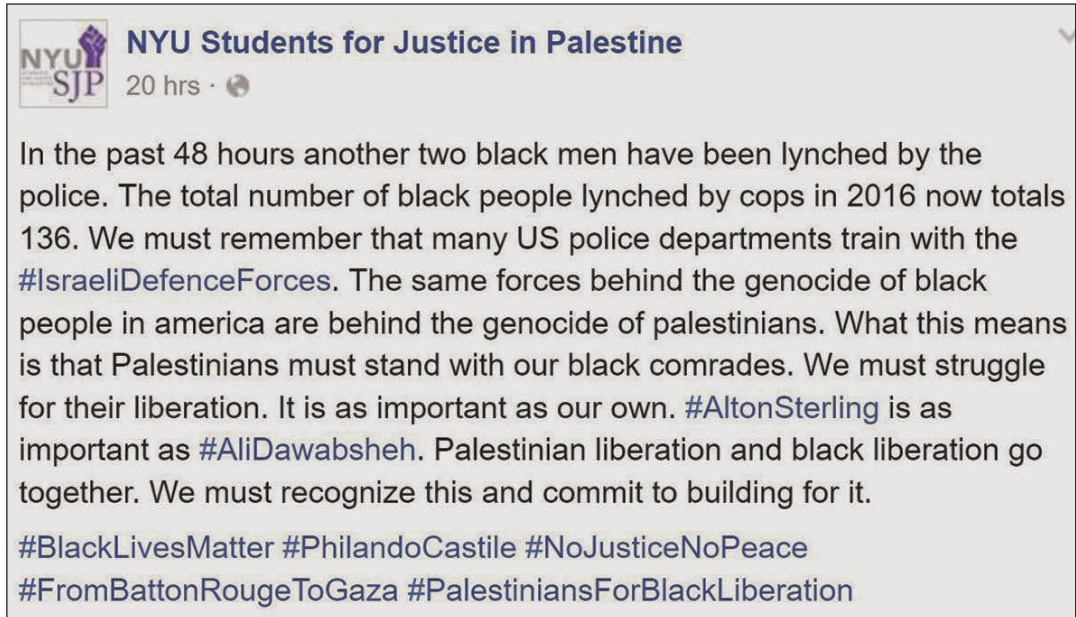
UC IRVINE

In June 2016, the ZOA, joined by the Lawfare Project, wrote to Chancellor Howard Gillman at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), after Jewish and pro-Israel students were threatened, harassed, and intimidated by members of the SJP, Muslim Student Union, and allied groups. On May 18, 2016, members of these groups aggressively disrupted the screening of *Beneath the Helmet*, a documentary about young soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces. The protesters shouted and chanted, "Intifada, Intifada, long live the Intifada!" "F--k Israel!" "F--k the police!" "When people are occupied, resistance is justified!" and "All white people need to die!"

The protesters blocked exits, prevented people from leaving the room, and forced at least one student to hide, fearing for her personal safety. This student was prevented by the angry mob of protesters from attending the event. As she walked away, she reportedly was followed, forcing her to escape to the safety of a nearby room. Students and others were effectively held hostage in the screening room for 45 minutes, in fear, waiting to be rescued by law enforcement officers.

Rather than show remorse for intimidating and harassing other students, the SJP was exultant, bragging on its Facebook page: "Today we successfully demonstrated against the presence of IDF soldiers on campus. We condemn the Israeli 'Defense' Forces, better defined as Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), because they enforce Zionist settler colonialism and military occupation of Palestinian land by the Israeli nation-state."

The ZOA and the Lawfare Project urged Chancellor Gillman to complete a prompt and thorough investigation into the May 18 incident and hold the students and student groups involved accountable if the evidence showed violations of the Code of Student Conduct. (The ZOA and the Lawfare Project identified eight provisions of the Code that appear to have been violated.)



NYU-SJP's Facebook post blaming Israel for racism in America

Rather than show remorse for intimidating and harassing other students, the SJP was exultant, bragging on its Facebook page...

In addition, the ZOA and the Lawfare Project called on UCI to refer the matter to the district attorney's office for investigation and possible criminal prosecution. California law prohibits willfully disturbing or breaking up a lawful assembly or meeting, and prohibits conspiracy to commit such a crime. Moreover, they urged the Chancellor to publicly condemn the wrongdoing as hateful, divisive, and anti-Semitic, and also to condemn the perpetrators by name. Furthermore, after the Chancellor told the media that "the characterization of pervasive anti-Semitism on campus is wrong," the ZOA and the Lawfare Project documented the years of anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation at UCI and informed the Chancellor that "It is not helpful to solving the problem to deny or minimize it."

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

In July, the ZOA urged New York University (NYU) President Andrew Hamilton to speak out and condemn an anti-Semitic post on the Facebook page of the SJP chapter at NYU. The SJP blamed Israel for racism in the U.S., posting that "many U.S. police departments train with the [#IsraeliDefenceForces](#) [sic]. The same forces behind the genocide of black people in america [sic] are behind the genocide of Palestinians..."

The ZOA wrote: "All of us should be sickened by the SJP's despicable tactics, not only lying about Israel's actions toward the Palestinian Arabs, but also nefariously using Israel as the scapegoat for problems of racism in this country—problems which Israel could not possibly have anything to do with."

CLJ Director Susan Tuchman Speaks in Florida

Susan Tuchman, director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, traveled to Florida in April, where she addressed three audiences about the serious problem of campus anti-Semitism and offered ways to effectively address it. All arrangements for the tour were made by ZOA Florida Executive Director, Sharona Whisler.

On April 7, Ms. Tuchman was a featured speaker at a college-readiness program that the Scheck Hillel Community School in North Miami Beach sponsored for its graduating high-school seniors. She led two 25-minute interactive workshops for two groups of high-school seniors, with approximately 35 students in each group, to educate them about their legal rights if they encounter anti-Semitism on their college campuses and to discuss constructive strategies for responding to the problem. Using as examples anti-Semitic incidents that have actually occurred on American college campuses, both inside and outside the classroom, Tuchman discussed with students how to identify potentially unlawful conduct and how they might consider responding to each incident in a constructive way.


That evening, she spoke at a parlor meeting in Hollywood (FL) graciously hosted by Steven and Sarah Jacoby. ZOA supporters, ZOA Florida chapter board members, and concerned community members came to hear about the ZOA's work to combat campus anti-Semitism and to share their own experiences and perspectives.

The following morning, Ms. Tuchman spoke at a breakfast meeting generously hosted by the Lichter Law Firm in Aventura. Seated around a table of mostly lawyers, she discussed the legal issues and challenges the ZOA is confronting in ensuring that Jewish college students are afforded a safe and welcoming learning environment. The meeting engendered a lively and stimulating discussion about these issues and challenges, with participants sharing their perspectives not just as lawyers and activists but also as concerned parents and community members who firmly

believe that Jewish and pro-Israel students are entitled, like all students, to feel physically and emotionally safe on their college campuses.

ZOA, With Other Groups, Provides Free Legal Resources to Fight Campus Anti-Semitism and Anti-Israelism

In addition to reporting incidents of campus anti-Semitism directly to the ZOA—at zoa.org, zoacampus.org, or 212-481-1500—students and others can now report incidents to the ZOA and its partner organizations at EndBDS.com.

EndBDS provides free legal help to fight anti-Israel and anti-Semitic activity. It is a resource for students, professors, and community members seeking legal resources. EndBDS brings together legal organizations and pro bono lawyers to provide a one-stop destination for anyone fighting the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement, and the anti-Semitism that often accompanies BDS, particularly on college campuses. Intake is available through the EndBDS website, Facebook, Twitter, or by calling/texting the hotline at (213) 425-8008. 

*Seated
around
a table
of mostly
lawyers,
she discussed
the legal
issues and
challenges
the ZOA is
confronting
in ensuring
that Jewish
college
students
are afforded
a safe and
welcoming
learning
environment.*

Government Relations

Iran has test-fired many ballistic missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads, in clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, but incredibly, the Obama administration has acted as an attorney for Iran, insisting that this was not a JCPOA violation.



Ministers of foreign affairs from France, Germany, EU, Iran, the UK and the US



DAN POLLAK
Co-Director,
Government
Relations Department



JOSH LONDON
Co-Director,
Government
Relations Department

The ZOA Government Relations Department has most recently been focusing on two top priorities with Congress. We have been working to limit or eliminate funding to the Palestinian Authority (PA) until the Palestinian Arabs have made good on their various commitments. We also are doing everything possible to mitigate and reverse the disastrous 2015 Iran deal, aka the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The context in Washington for both of these priorities is unfortunately an increasingly partisan environment, especially regarding issues relating to Israel. The U.S. presidential campaign has only inflamed the existing partisan divide, which is a direct result of President Obama's purposeful realignment of the traditional meaning of "pro-Israel." ZOA is one of the

only Jewish organizations not in denial about the actual state of partisan reality on issues relating to Israel. The fact is that, at present, the vast majority of the Republican Party is sympathetic to Israel, and their political leadership is uniformly behind Israel. In the Democratic Party leadership and grassroots, a fight is being waged between those who wish to support Israel, while expressing sympathy for the Palestinian Arabs, and those who are openly hostile to Israel, generally sympathetic to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, and wistfully looking to Europe for inspiration on dividing the U.S. from the Likud-led government and from Israel in general.

PARTY PLATFORMS DIVERGE ON ISRAEL

The partisan divide has manifested itself particularly in the platforms the two parties debated and adopted at their conventions. On the GOP side, the platform defers to Israel to determine whether it is interested in negotiating a deal with the Palestinian Arabs and omits any reference to a “solution” that would establish an additional Arab state. This is a departure even from the usual pro-Israel platform, which at least paid lip service to the idea of “two states” since the initiation of the Oslo agreements. The platform also states: “We reject the false notion that Israel is an occupier.” It “recognizes Jerusalem as the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish state” and calls for the American embassy to be moved there. The Democratic process and platform are more problematic. Vermont Senator and former presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders was allowed to name five delegates to the 15-person Democratic Party Platform drafting committee. Of these, three are well-known hostile critics and even relentless haters of Israel: the academic Cornel West; James Zogby, founder and president of the Arab American Institute; and Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison, the first Muslim member of Congress. Sanders’s platform delegates sought explicit reference to the so-called “Israeli occupation of Palestinian Arab lands” and recognition of the Palestinian Arab “right” to statehood.

The Democratic platform on Israel, as it turned out, calls for “a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiated directly by the parties that guarantees Israel’s future as a secure and democratic Jewish state with recognized borders and provides the Palestinians with independence, sovereignty, and dignity.” It also says the future of Jerusalem should be left to final-status negotiations, supports Israel’s right to defend itself, and condemns the BDS campaign against Israel. There was a great deal of dissension from anti-Israel supporters of Senator Sanders, however, and some of that found its way to the floor of the convention.

The GOP platform also opposed the Iran nuclear deal and called the JCPOA “nonbinding on the next president,” as it does not hold “treaty status.” The Democrats, by contrast, said: “We support the nuclear agreement with Iran because, as it is vigorously enforced and implemented, it verifiably cuts off all of Iran’s pathways to a bomb without resorting to war.”

JCPOA: IRAN CONTINUES TO FLAUNT THE RULES

Nothing has occupied the ZOA Government Relations Department more than this agreement, since the nuclear deal was finalized in July 2015. ZOA hosted a leadership lobbying event in September 2015, and National President Morton Klein was a featured speaker at a large rally sponsored by ZOA and others at the Capitol, but Congress failed to stop this disastrous deal. The JCPOA has been implemented by the Obama administration in spite of the fact that no one in the U.S. government has ever signed the agreement, Congress has not ratified it, and, according to a White House spokesperson, it is considered by the Obama administration to be a “nonbinding political commitment.” Since its implementation, Iran has embarked on a series of actions that show utter contempt for the international community and for the U.S. in particular.

Iran has test-fired many ballistic missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads, in clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, but incredibly, the administration has acted as an attorney for Iran, insisting that this was not a JCPOA violation. At the time the deal was an-

Since [the Iran Deal’s] implementation, Iran has embarked on a series of actions that show utter contempt for the international community and for the U.S. in particular.

The Government Relations Department continues to prioritize ending aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and making any future aid contingent upon their fulfilling their many interim peace accord obligations, such as ending the promotion of hatred and violence against Jews and Israel in their schools, media, speeches, and children's camps.

nounced, however, Secretary of State John Kerry had stated that restrictions on ballistic missiles were part of the agreement. Additionally, Iran has not released all U.S. hostages and, since the agreement was reached, has taken more Americans hostage. Iran also has failed to reveal the details of past work on nuclear weapons, yet President Obama directed that the U.S. vote with the rest of the participants in the JCPOA to accept the Iranian stonewalling. This despite the findings of an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report that Iranian work on nuclear weapons may have continued up to and past 2009, and that the Iranians refused to cooperate with the IAEA investigation.

The Iranians were, of course, allowed to conduct their own unverified and unsupervised inspections as part of this report. In late December, the Iranians launched a missile that landed within 1,500 yards of a U.S. aircraft carrier that was transiting the Strait of Hormuz. It has recently been revealed that in direct contradiction to the promises of the Obama administration, there is

a secret side deal that allows Iran to deploy improved centrifuges as early as 2026, and Iran is allowed to “experiment” with improving them even today. When U.S. sailors inadvertently took a wrong turn and ended up in Iranian waters, the Revolutionary Guard Navy held them at gunpoint and broke international law by humiliating the prisoners instead of aiding mariners in distress. The U.S. took no action against Iran for these aggressive, provocative actions.

Individual congressmen and senators have reacted to these Iranian actions with fury, but so far Congress has not effectively countered the administration’s passive approach to Iran. Already, some \$100 billion to \$150 billion in Iranian assets formerly frozen around the world have been released to the Iranians. Most Democratic senators and congressmen pretend to believe that the Iranians will observe the JCPOA in good faith, or that the parameters of the JCPOA can still be vigorously enforced and implemented despite its non-binding nature and despite the ongoing record of non-vigorous enforcement at the highest levels of U.S. political leadership. They remain unwilling to take any action at this time that would put pressure on the Iranians. A small number of Democrats seem to realize that more robust action is needed, but so far they have limited their activities to writing letters to the President, in lieu of actual legislation.

GOP members of Congress also are divided between a small number who are taking the lead in proposing new sanctions, and the leadership—particularly in the Senate—which seems to value castigating Democrats for their votes in support of the President’s policies over actually moving forward with legislation to force new sanctions on the Iranians. ZOA is working hard to advocate for new sanctions now. It is entirely possible that the Iranians would react quite strongly to new sanctions, and possibly even withdraw from the deal. The bottom line is that the actions Iran has taken since the JCPOA went into effect should be more than enough to make every member of Congress who supported the deal repudiate it now. Even if by their individual rationale the original “deal” could somehow be said not to be a total disaster at the time, events have since clearly proven the JCPOA to be no good.



Secretary of State John Kerry shakes hands with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas during a meeting on the sidelines of the Gaza Donors Conference (Author-U.S. Department of State)

PROMOTING PEACE AND FIGHTING BDS

The Government Relations Department also continues to prioritize ending aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and making any future aid contingent upon their fulfilling their many interim peace accord obligations, such as ending the promotion of hatred and violence against Jews and Israel in Palestinian Arab schools, media, speeches, and children's camps. We have specifically advocated a six-month period for the PA to stop providing payments to terrorists in prison and to the families of dead terrorists for murdering and injuring Jews (including Americans). Perversely, the terrorists actually get paid more if their crimes are more heinous.

A related matter is the misuse of U.S. aid to UNRWA, the UN organization established to provide "humanitarian aid" only to Palestinian

Arab "refugees." Right now, when true refugees from the conflicts in Syria and Iraq are taxing the resources of countries in the region, there may be an opportunity to redirect some of the wasted funds to true humanitarian needs under the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which takes care of all refugees in the world except Palestinian Arabs.

Another related matter that has ended up being a partisan issue is the funding of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN organization that oversees the climate funds from developed countries to pay poorer countries for the impacts of what the UN calls climate change. ZOA takes no position on the underlying issue, which is outside of our charter. But existing U.S. law requires the administration to de-fund any UN agency that accepts "Palestine" as a member without an

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agreement with Israel. Unfortunately, this is precisely what UNFCCC has done, but the Obama administration has reacted by denying that UNFCCC is actually a UN agency. ZOA is working to get Congress to go beyond letters and take meaningful action to deny funding and thereby force compliance with U.S. law.

The Government Relations Department also continues to focus on our other regular legislative priorities, including fighting Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), with some activity at the federal level, but notable successes having been achieved in state legislatures. We continue to be vigilant in educating Congress about the ongoing Arab war against Israel and communicating ZOA's insights and reactions to the news of the day. The almost daily Arab stabbing attacks, car rammings against pedestrians, and shootings in Israel are directly attributable to PA incitement. The U.S. has done nothing to hold Mahmoud Abbas, who is enjoying the 11th year of his four-year term as PA President, accountable for his barbaric statements encouraging the violence and murders.

ZOA TEAMS WITH OTHER GROUPS TO FIGHT DISCRIMINATION

In addition to dealing with our elected officials, Government Relations interacts with other Jewish and Christian pro-Israel organizations

in Washington, D.C., and with other American Jewish groups. For example, in conjunction with the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, we continue to pursue opportunities to team with other Jewish groups to combat BDS, to enforce appropriate content for Title VI Department of Education grants to Middle Eastern Studies departments, and to make attempts to get the Department of Education to enforce the policy against discrimination of Jewish students at publicly-funded schools pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. We work closely with our regional directors and with ZOA Israel Director Jeff Daube. 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's issues. ZOA's Government Relations Department co-directors also visit local ZOA chapters to give talks and educate our members on the situation in Washington.

ZOA grassroots activism, particularly at our annual D.C. Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Mission and our relentless grassroots campaign against the JCPOA, helps to underscore that at the heart of all of ZOA's Government Relations efforts stand 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, D.C. 

Purim Mission



ZOA National board member Rubin Margules with IDF soldiers and ZOA Purim Mission participants

ZOA Mission Brings Purim Cheer To Israeli Forces

For the past 14 years around Purim time, ZOA participants have embarked on a most remarkable and memorable IDF Israel mission, led by National Board member Rubin Margules.

This year we visited thousands of Israel Defense Forces (IDF) personnel and personally distributed more than 8,000 mishloach manot packages, loaded with every kind of snack. We handed each soldier a letter from a student at one of more than 30 participating U.S. day schools, high schools, and synagogue schools. The soldiers love the letters even more than they do the treats, and share them among their buddies.

Among other meaningful destinations, our mission included visits to the new-recruit training base and main naval base in Haifa Bay, which are located in separate areas along Israel's largest port.

FACE TO FACE WITH NAVAL NEWBIES AND SEASONED OFFICERS

We first visited the base for new recruits. The soldiers were there to welcome us, standing on the main rallying square in a rectangular formation three to four soldiers deep. We met so many wonderful young men and women, and they thanked us so sincerely. We responded with, "Thank you! Thank you for protecting this land." Our visit was clearly a moral boost for them, visitors being infrequent at this new-recruit base.

We are always amazed as we watch first-time ZOA mission participants experience for the first time the level of appreciation conveyed by

***We danced
and sang
with these
“kids.”
Magnificent
examples
of what
Am Yisrael
is all about,
they hail
from every
imaginable
background
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country.***

IDF personnel. It brings tears of joy to us all. New mission participants Joe, Joan, Arnie, and Helen were overwhelmed by their first encounter with the IDF soldiers.

We danced and sang with these “kids.” Magnificent examples of what Am Yisrael is all about, they hail from every imaginable background and every area of the country. They are mostly fresh out of high school and delay their university education until after their years of service. This really sets them apart—they will not be kids for long—from our kids in the U.S.

From the training base, we traveled to the large naval base. Here we visited and boarded two of the largest class ships in the Israeli navy, both of which were involved in the actions of Operation Protective Edge in the summer of 2014. The officers we met described precisely what they had accomplished during that war in Gaza, where they were quite effective in destroying many substantial storehouses of weaponry and supplies. Almost the entire crew of each ship met with us, both on the dock and onboard. The commander of one of the vessels, Roi, welcomed us and expressed his appreciation. We also learned interesting details from Chief Engineer Dor (a responsibility assumed by a ranking captain) and Warfare Chief Asif, as well as Roz, another officer on board.

HELPING “LONE” SOLDIERS FEEL AT HOME

We also met Anastasia, a “lone” soldier from the Ukraine. During each visit to every base, we are greeted by young men and women who have joined the IDF as lone soldiers—soldiers who are in Israel without support from family or friends, as they have chosen to make aliyah alone. Many will approach us to say, “I have no family here. You have no idea what this means to me. Today, you are my family here.” They are cared for at Lone Soldier centers that provide off-base housing and other needs for these young heroes. (The centers exist thanks to the hard work of volunteers such as Mark and Harriet Levin of Philadelphia, parents of fallen lone soldier Michael Levin.) At the centers, lone soldiers quickly make friends with their fellow soldiers and matriculate more comfortably into the system.

Our visits to the IDF naval bases are always unique, as we have the opportunity to board ships and speak with so many varied personnel onboard. These brave young men and women represent the resilience of Israel. We are proud to take part in this important mission and to share our admiration and appreciation for their tireless work. ZOA



IDF soldiers received the Purim gift package that the ZOA Mission participants personally deliver.

ZOA Campus

ZOA Campus: Reaching More Students Than Ever Before

ZOA CAMPUS OVERVIEW

ZOA Campus continued to thrive throughout the spring 2016 semester.

The department expanded its reach yet again to beat its numbers from the fall. ZOA Campus worked with 138 pro-Israel student groups at 119 universities across the country, in addition to coordinating or co-sponsoring 135 events at 80 other schools.

Campus coordinators traveled throughout the country to lead events about Israel and work with students to promote the Jewish state and fight anti-Semitism. Events and topics ranged from advocacy training and Krav Maga seminars to talks on Palestinian-Arab incitement, Jewish history in Israel, the wars in Gaza, Palestinian-Arab terrorism, and more. The staff also worked with student leaders to bring prominent speakers to campus, including Muslim Zionists, Christian Zionists, advocacy-training professionals, and more.

ZOA Campus also participated in dozens of Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) festivals at campuses across the country. While these were mostly celebrations, ZOA Campus worked to add a strong educational component. For example, campus coordinators urged students to celebrate not only modern-day Israel but also its more than three thousand years of Jewish history. They also worked with students to ensure that Yom Ha'atzmaut events promoted the truth about Zionism. Overall, the department succeeded in adding important Zionist messages to some of the most popular events on campus.

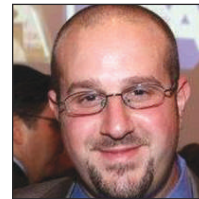
ZOA Campus also developed new initiatives to creatively insert Zionist education into campus pop culture. In one endeavor, pro-Israel students—led by ZOA Campus along with several other pro-Israel organizations, handed out free coffee in customized clay mugs imprinted with powerful pro-Israel messages or quotes by leading figures. One set of mugs, for example, had a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: “Israel is one of the great outposts of democracy in the world.” Since students love giveaways as well as coffee, they did not turn down free java in nice mugs they could keep. The mugs also prominently feature the ZOA logo, thus extending the brand.

The coffee-mug initiative is particularly effective because college students relate positively to the prominent figures quoted and respect their worldviews. In other words, next time these students hear something about Israel, they will remember that one of their role models was a strong supporter of Israel. Moreover, students will keep their pro-Israel mugs for years.

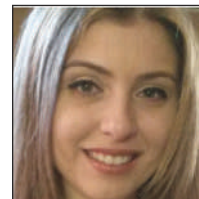
The department successfully ran this initiative on 15 campuses across the country and will run it again in the upcoming semester. ZOA Campus is working on other, similar pop culture-oriented initiatives, such as SodaStream giveaways, to raise awareness of the negative effects of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.



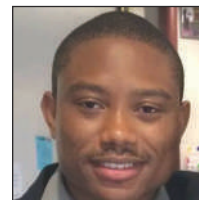
ZACH STERN
Managing
Director and
Tri-State
Coordinator
(based in
New York City)



DAVID KADOSH
West Coast
Executive
Director and Bay
Area Coordinator
(based in
Oakland, CA)



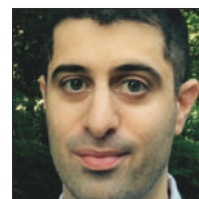
**LEORE
BEN-DAVID**
Associate Direc-
tor and West
Coast Coordina-
tor (based in Los
Angeles, CA)



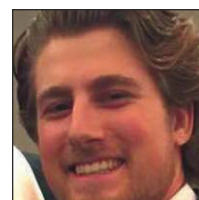
PANDIT MAMI
Midwest
Coordinator
(based in
Detroit, MI)



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



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



OR TAYLOR
Mid-Atlantic
Coordinator
(based in
Washington, D.C.)

**ZOA
Campus
succeeded
in adding
important**

**Zionist
messages
to some of
the most
popular
events on
campus.**

Best-In-Class New ZOA Website

ZOA Campus is pleased to announce that its new website, ZOACampus.org, won Best in Class at the 2016 International Media Awards. The website is a one-stop shop for Israel advocacy on campus.

In addition to providing students with everything they need to know about ZOA Campus's resources and opportunities, the website provides dozens of fact sheets, booklets, videos, and databases that give students the tools they need to fight for Israel. Students can print and hand out ZOA Campus's fact sheets at events and tables or use them as tools to expose the anti-Semitism of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and anti-Israel speakers on campus.

Fact sheet and booklet topics include BDS, Palestinian-Arab terrorism and incitement, human rights in the Middle East, and more. The

site also features a compilation of videos, myths and facts, and in-depth reports on many anti-Israel organizations and speakers on campus.

ZOA STUDENT LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL

The ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel is a fun and intense two weeks of education and advocacy training in Israel. Students travel throughout the Jewish state, including Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and many strategic border regions (Western Negev, Galilee, Jordan Valley, and Golan Heights). They meet with Knesset members, journalists, policy experts, military experts, and more. This trip is intended for Israel activists or those committed to becoming Israel activists in the near future. The trip arms student leaders with the facts and unique experiences they need to be strong Zionist campus activists.

The summer 2016 trip proved to be a major success. ZOA Campus took 31 Jewish and Christian Zionist student leaders from across the U.S. to experience Israel from a perspective only seen on the ZOA mission.



Student Leadership Mission to Israel students share their pride in northern Israel



At the Knesset, students met Likud leaders who briefed them on the security situation

The mission is unique and powerful in many ways. Arguably, the most prominent is that students travel extensively in Judea and Samaria, something they rarely can do with other organizations. Traveling throughout the region, they learn about Jewish roots in the area and gain first-hand experience to help them combat the myths spread on campuses about Judea and Samaria. The following are some highlights of what students experienced in Judea, Samaria, and the rest of Israel:

In Ariel, a community in Judea/Samaria, students spoke with Jewish and Palestinian-Arab employees who work together peacefully. They learned from the Arab employees why BDS is harmful for Palestinian-Arabs and why they would rather work in Israel than in the Palestinian Authority. Students also saw for themselves the reality on the ground in the communities of Judea and Samaria and why “settlements” are not the obstacles to peace; rather, they are bridges to peace.

On many of our trips, students have had the

unique opportunity of staying overnight in Samaria’s only hotel, located in Ariel. They heard from the owner of the hotel, which has endured two terrorist attacks since the beginning of the Second Intifada. They also heard the hotel owner’s heroic story of saving IDF soldiers from a terrorist armed with a suicide belt.

Trip participants had the opportunity to spend Shabbat and stay overnight with host families in Kfar Adumim, a small community east of Jerusalem in the Judean Hills. Here, students interacted with community members and experienced the polar opposite of how “settlers” are portrayed in the media. Students learned that people living in these communities are normal and good. They also learned the strategic importance of keeping these communities and the surrounding areas under Israeli control.

In the Jordan Valley, students heard local community members speak about co-existence with their Arab neighbors and how Israel must maintain control of this important strip of land. The speakers also discussed the hypocrisy of the

The ZOA trip consisted of Jewish and Christian Zionists who saw Israel from a perspective only seen on the ZOA mission.

European Union's boycott of their products and how it hurts Palestinian-Arab employees more than anyone else.

ZOA Israel Director, Jeff Daube, led an in-depth tour of Jerusalem's so-called Green Line to show students that dividing Jerusalem is both unethical and impossible. They learned why everyone is better off when all of Jerusalem is under Israeli control.

Students also met Yoav Yaron, a young Israeli from Gush Katif. Yoav, who was 14 years old during the Gaza disengagement, told students his emotional story, and how the disengagement affected many Israelis. He also addressed the subsequent catastrophic consequences of the decision and how students can apply this lesson when discussing Judea and Samaria.

In Sderot, students visited a kindergarten and met children who have grown up living and going to school in bomb shelters. Students learned about the harsh realities in the area and heard the kindergarteners say that they do not hate all Arabs, despite growing up amid Arab rocket attacks. This was an exceptionally powerful moment for the ZOA students, as they saw first-hand the sharp contrast between the Israeli education system and the Palestinian-Arab education system. After visiting with the kindergarteners, the ZOA students donated toys to the children.

In the north, the students learned about the strategic and historical importance of maintaining the Golan Heights. They discussed the security situation in Syria and Lebanon and its effect on Israel's decision-making in the area. Students also met with Arab leaders in northern Israel to learn about the freedoms and opportunities available for Israel's minorities, gaining facts and personal stories that can help them combat the myths spread by J Street and SJP about the treatment of Israeli Arabs.

The students experienced the social media "War Room" at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, where they had the chance to build their own social media campaigns from scratch. This exercise taught them the most effective ways to engage social media users in Israel activism.

Overall, the ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel greatly impacted the students and gave them the skills, experiences, and personal stories


they need to stand up for Israel and fight anti-Israel hatred on campus. ZOA Campus aims to replicate this experience on the organization's next mission, which will take place during the 2016-2017 winter break.

ZOA CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The department is excited to continue and expand its successful fellowship program in the 2016-2017 academic year. After signing on 20 fellows in the 2015-2016 year, campus coordinators look forward to overseeing 30 fellows this coming term. Campus fellows act as paid ZOA interns on campus. They are responsible for guaranteeing strong Zionist programming and ensuring that the ZOA's message is heard on college campuses. They are also responsible for making sure the ZOA name is associated with these programs, thus helping ZOA expand its reach and enhance its brand.

Each fellow is responsible for planning four ZOA events throughout the school year and tabling at six events with ZOA materials. They must contribute two items to the ZOA Campus blog. With the expansion to 30 fellows, ZOA Campus is guaranteed at least 120 events on key campuses across the country, as well as 100 to 200 events with non-fellows.

ZOA SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

ZOA Campus hosted a total of nine interns this past summer in its New York and Bay Area offices. Interns helped ZOA Campus expand its database of fact sheets, booklets, and research on anti-Semitic activity on campus. The internship is a great way for students to jump-start their Israel activism and maintain their involvement in the ZOA. 

The ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel arms student leaders with the facts and unique personal experiences they need to be strong Zionist activists on campus.

Israel Office



Public Diplomacy Deputy Minister Michael Oren (center) at ZOA Israel co-sponsored young professionals event in Tel Aviv



(l-r) Yesh Atid MK Aliza Lavie delighted to view anti-BDS video by ZOA Campus leader Heather Alper after introduction by Israel Director Daube

Helping Israel Succeed Amid Cutting Edge Challenges



JEFF DAUBE
Director,
ZOA Israel

Whether as a high-tech pacesetter or as a leading fighter against terror, Israel is more than holding its own at the cutting edge of Western world challenges. And ZOA Israel is making steady progress with its own complementary efforts, educating those who are under-informed about complex realities, legal truths, and Zionist ideas and practice; and turning awareness into pro-Israel action by mobilizing support for all of the above and advancing robust policies and laws.

EDUCATION

Thanks to ZOA Israel and its indomitable partners, long-suppressed alternatives to Palestinian Arab statehood are appearing more frequently and gaining respect in the national discourse. Much work still is needed. Even as the number of “two-state” aficionados in Israel is substantially diminished, we find many yet unwilling to look beyond the next feel good White House lawn ceremony. Thus we continue to take on the lawmakers, diplomats, journalists, NGO heads, academics, and students, asking them to ponder a failed terrorist entity situated at Israel’s jugular—not to mention other, longer term sobering scenarios.

Moving Israel’s diplomatic corps toward a more Zionist orientation has been especially trying, though recent successes are encouraging: for example, the issuing by Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely of new guidelines—with new ministry website content to match—requiring that Israel’s hasbara agents make Israel’s legal rights case, especially to support Judea and Samaria settlement. Hotovely formally thanked ZOA Israel for its role in this and parallel developments.

Against the backdrop of damaging law clinics offered by, for example, the Geneva Initiative and New Israel Fund grantee Yesh Din, ZOA Israel’s Legal Grounds campaign brought its own rights-based alternative onto the education scene. We can expect to see many of the hand-picked law students working someday as key ministry decision makers and academics. Besides MK Amir Ohana and Levy Report co-author Alan Baker, who addressed the group at course end, eight renowned experts lectured variously about the nuances of international law and its application to residence in dispute. Masterful student research also was presented and is being used in our Knesset advocacy.

Even as the number of two-state aficionados is substantially diminished, many are yet unwilling to look beyond the next feel-good, White House lawn ceremony.

ZOA Israel continues to inform Israeli and visiting U.S. leaders about unauthorized European Union construction in Israel-controlled Area C that is enabling Arab squatters; and all kinds of illegal building by Arab or Bedouin populations in and around Jerusalem, the Galilee, and the Negev. Our joint efforts with state land protecting Regavim, e.g., recruiting important eyewitnesses for its trips to E-1 and elsewhere, have been instrumental in getting the word out.

With introducing the younger demographic to political processes now featuring more prominently in ZOA Israel's education agenda, we invited ZOA's winter Student Leadership Mission to Israel leaders Michelle Herman and Catheryn Noel Marshall to partake in our advocacy at the Knesset and on Capitol Hill, respectively. The German Holocaust educator we brought to a Knesset assembly on anti-Israel UNRWA incitement likewise found the experience instructive and energizing.

Following the summer mission led by ZOA Campus Director Zach Stern and his outstanding team, we offered a second Jerusalem Seam Line tour to five trip extenders eager to learn more. Two additional mission participants acquired new insights in the seminars on Jerusalem and Legal Grounds that we presented to them, along with Video Activism interns.

Approached by a New York University graduate professor who was dismayed by the one-sided viewpoint typically imparted to semester abroad students, ZOA Israel balanced his speaker roster with Zionists MK Ohana and Kohelet Policy Forum Co-Director Ran Bar-Yoshafat. We also supplied guidance to a Baruch College mission comprised of MBA students seeking to better understand Israel.

Student groups Im Tirtzu and Hazon Leumi, each in its own way actively promoting Zionist ideas, continue to benefit from ZOA Israel collaborations. ZOA Israel also is collaborating with army preparatory program Aharai, which supports at-risk youth before, during, and after their service to help them flourish as productive Zionist citizens. Latet Panim, another organization we work with, is engaging university students to research the genealogies of faceless soldiers buried on the Mount of Olives (for ex-

ample, those arriving in Israel as Shoah orphans only to have been killed in Israel's War of Independence). We are working on bringing together all four NGOs to coordinate with our own education lineup for this history-rich site.

MOBILIZATION

After European Union (EU) Ambassador Lars Faaborg-Andersen spoke inaccurately at a Yediot Ahronot anti-BDS conference about Israel's borders and more, ZOA Israel's Legal Grounds asked him to publicly debate our chief legal advisor, international law professor Eugene Kontorovich. Despite our repeated attempts, Faaborg-Andersen firmly declined our challenge. A Legal Grounds action alert then had our followers discredit his misrepresentations during a live Facebook event that he organized.

Legal Grounds also was responsible for the Jerusalem Day guerrilla attack on Wikipedia, highlighting that Israel, unlike any other sovereign nation, is not permitted to designate its own capital. We changed London to Manchester, Paris to Marseilles, and so on. Though the online substitutes did not hold for long, our offbeat tactic managed to garner the attention we hoped for in the Hebrew language press.

Increasingly, leadership is stepping up to fill the legal rights vacuum of decades past. A recently held Knesset forum was especially gratifying for the Legal Grounds team, with MKs Yoav Kisch (Likud), Yoav Ben-Tzur (Shas), Oded Forer (Yisrael Beiteinu), and Bezalel Smotrich (Habayit Hayehudi) successively making Israel's superior rights case; and Deputy Minister Hotovely reinforcing their points—MK Talal Abu Arar (United Arab List) heckling her throughout—questioning how more could be expected from the international community while Israel remains unwilling to speak on its own behalf. Education Minister Naftali Bennett later used nearly identical language at a packed Shurat HaDin security conference.

ZOA Israel's push for sundry activities on the Mount of Olives is proceeding well. As intended, we are attracting growing public interest while broadcasting to Israel's adversaries that sovereignty in Jerusalem is non-negotiable.

An all-day touring and performances event held on Passover, largely supported by ally Miri Regev's Culture Ministry and by the Jerusalem Development Authority, kicked off the last round. Two sold-out summer concerts brought back the crowds and a powerful police presence. In our post-events publicity, we underscored the effrontery of coinciding denials by UNESCO of Jewish ties to this very location.

Meanwhile, ZOA Israel, with diaspora partner International Committee for the Preservation of Har HaZeitim (ICPHH), moved a number of security initiatives forward, leading to marked improvement in eastern Jerusalem. Thanks to Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, in particular, substantial funds and forces were additionally allocated. The connections Erdan made for us with top police brass also helped to advance our proposal to build a protective wall around the Mount of Olives cemetery. An additional 4 million shekels (roughly \$1.05 million) were tacked on by the government for its construction.

ZOA Israel's introduction of security expert MK Ohana to ZOA (by way of a well-attended New York event facilitated by ZOA's Howard Katsoff and Liz Berney, and an informative briefing for ZOA's National Board upon Ohana's U.S. return) hit the mark in terms of mobilizing Israel support at this time of great need. Our personal delivery of 8,500 packages to IDF soldiers, during ZOA's 2016 Purim solidarity mission led by Brooklyn President Rubin Margules, hit that mark as well.

On a more somber note, Palestinian Arabs have murdered 141 Americans (as of this writing), with not one having faced so much as a U.S. indictment, let alone punishment. As has become our heartbreaking routine, most recently we visited Kiryat Arba to explain U.S. Justice Department (DOJ) and State Department obligations to the family of Hallel Yaffa Ariel, a beautiful 13-year-old stabbed to death while in her bed. A few days later, we had to repeat this difficult task with Chava Rachel Mark's brother, her stand-in after being seriously injured in the shooting that killed her husband and father of 10, Miki.

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Representative Ron DeSantis (R-FL) have been especially responsive to the grievances of injured and be-



Levy Report advisor Dr. Harel Arnon lecturing about Judea-Samaria building rights in Legal Grounds inaugural law clinic

reaved Americans. DeSantis did not hesitate after we asked him to air the complaints of neglected overseas victims in hearings on the House side, as Cruz had done with his Judiciary subcommittee on the Senate side. We are awaiting an update from Representative Mark Meadows (R-NC), who had given the DOJ official present a 120-day deadline to report on better communications with and assistance for the anguished parties.

On ZOA Israel's latest Washington round, we persuaded DOJ officials and U.S. diplomats to treat rock-throwing and firebombing attacks on the Mount of Olives as acts of terror. As a result, American victims in these instances also may qualify for redress, via the International Terrorism Victim Economic Reimbursement Program.

POLICY / LEGISLATION

ZOA Israel's push to cut off Palestinian Authority (PA) funding—in amounts equal to terrorist salaries and terrorist family stipends—is making further headway. Senator Dan Coats (R-IN) recently introduced an amendment to that effect, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu moved to freeze PA tax revenues. Our years-long probe, with the participation of Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY), to ascertain an exact U.S. aid figure, unfortunately came up against yet another roadblock: that information has now turned classified.

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Culture Minister Miri Regev encouraged by cheering crowds everywhere on the Mount of Olives during Passover mega event

After years of promotion, to mark the Jewish nation's first entry into the Land of Israel, the 10th of Nisan is now officially recognized on Israel's calendar.

Meanwhile, we let members of Knesset and Congress know that the PA's financing of terrorists, which it was assuring everyone would be eliminated, in fact had not been. We circulated Palestinian Media Watch reports demonstrating how the PA was evading detection by first shifting these funds to the PLO. Minister Gilad Erdan graciously agreed to write a letter to Congress, which we presented, approving of our mission to expose this sneaky shell game.

After 23 years, we still find ourselves fighting the anti-incitement battle, but now on the social media front, too. ZOA Israel's conversations with the policy and law chief of DOJ's National Security Division, among others including law professor and ZOA National Board member Malvina Halberstam, have revealed a high free-speech bar. This online phenomenon is almost impossible to legislate against in the U.S., though we are trying, with the help of certain Beltway friends.

During our June visit on the Hill, we pointed to the EU's stricter code of conduct for social media providers Facebook and Google—permitting lawsuits, even—which we had discussed at length back in Israel with Ambassador Faaborg-Andersen and with the EU coordinator on combating anti-Semitism, Katharina von Schnurbein. We also shared the provisions of the new Knesset Terror Law, explaining how it criminalizes any direct call to terror violence, irrespective of whether violence actually is enacted.


Another Israeli social media regulatory bill, sponsored by Labor MK Revital Swid, and presently past its first Knesset reading, also piqued

the interest of ZOA members, who asked us to provide English translations both for this and the aforementioned anti-terror law. The bill is named after brutally slain Richard Lakin, whose son, Micah Avni, has been working tirelessly with ZOA Israel to curb the incitement that he avers was a major cause of his father's murder.

ZOA Israel pitched in again when California Assemblyman Travis Allen asked for help soliciting support for his state legislature's anti-BDS bills. MKs Aliza Lavie (Yesh Atid), Anat Berko (Likud), Sharren Haskell (Likud), and Deputy Speaker Hilik Bar (Labor) readily agreed to participate to the extent permissible. The tour we provided Allen on the Mount of Olives gave him additional insight into the legitimacy challenges faced by Israel.

MK Dr. Lavie, who is also an academic, requested assistance with her plea to the National Women's Studies Association to stop its betrayal of feminist values inherent in its boycott of Israeli professors. We thought to include ZOA Campus mission alumna Heather Alper, interning at Video Activism in Jerusalem, who then produced her own video response, much to Lavie's delight. At a Knesset Christian Allies Caucus forum, we argued in favor of a best-defense-is-a-good-offense legal strategy to help other MKs oppose instances of harmful BDS policy.

Years ago, Legal Grounds advisor and former ZOA National Executive Director Jan Sokolovsky had enlisted ZOA Israel in her push for Knesset legislation—akin to the U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)—concerning foreign government funding of Israeli NGOs. After many iterations, the transparency bill's recent passage expectedly drew condemnations from the international community and from several of the roughly two dozen Israeli groups affected.

ZOA Philadelphia Director Steve Feldman's idea—to have the Jewish nation's first entry into the land of Israel on the 10th of Nisan officially recognized on Israel's calendar—morphed into the new Yom HaAliyah Knesset law, after years of promotion by ZOA Israel and our co-activists. We are tossing around possible next steps to further mark this day of Israel's greatest aliyah, such as holding an annual event at the Qasr al Yahud Jordan River crossing site, and installing a permanent monument. 

ZOA Around the Country



ZOA New York at the Jerusalem Post Annual Conference



Richard Landes discusses *The Cult of the Occupation*, the international community's obsession with Israel's presence in Judea and Samaria

NEW YORK CELEBRATING JERUSALEM AT THE ISRAEL DAY PARADE

Over 200 Zionists from the New York area registered to march with ZOA New York in the annual Celebrate Israel Day parade. This year's parade happened to fall on Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day), which commemorates the re-unification of the Jewish people's eternal capital. ZOA New York chose to highlight the 49th anniversary of re-unification with a Jerusalem-centered theme, including banners and t-shirts that celebrated a unified Jerusalem.

The Israel Day parade was the major event of a busy spring for ZOA New York. The season started with a lecture from Dr. Richard Landes at our general membership meeting in April. Dr. Landes, a recently retired professor of history at Boston University, gave a timely talk entitled *The Cult of the Occupation*, which focused on the international community's obsession with Israel's presence in Judea and Samaria. The evening included a wine-and-hors d'oeuvres reception that was complimentary for current ZOA members. A recording of the lecture is available on the ZOA New York website, at nyc.zoa.org.

In May, ZOA New York sent a delegation of activists to the fifth Jerusalem Post Annual Conference, held at the Marriot Marquis in Times

Square. ZOA members received a highly discounted rate for the conference by registering through the ZOA. This year's theme, Israel, the U.S., and the Free World in the Shadow of Terror, featured high-profile speakers including Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer, Permanent UN Representative Danny Danon, Member of Knesset Anat Berko, and many others. We plan to make this an annual event for our members.

ZIONIST CULTURE CLUB EXPLORES ENTEBBE AND ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTERS

With this year marking the fortieth anniversary of Operation Thunderbolt, the Israeli commando raid on Entebbe, the Zionist Culture Club convened to discuss *Yoni's Last Battle: The Rescue at Entebbe, 1976* by Iddo Netanyahu. The group followed up with a screening of the 1977 film, *Raid on Entebbe*. The book and film paved the way for fascinating conversations about Jewish self-defense and what it means to be a Zionist. Our last segment of the year will focus on Israel's Prime Ministers. In October, we plan to discuss the book, *Menachem Begin: The Battle for Israel's Soul* by Daniel Gordis, and in December, we will screen the documentary film, *The Prime Ministers*.

As always, feel free to reach out to us at nyc@zoa.org if you'd like to learn more about our activities and opportunities for you to become involved.

This year's Celebrate Israel Day parade fell on Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day), marking the 49th anniversary of the re-unification of Jerusalem. ZOA New York chose a Jerusalem-centered theme for the parade, including banners and t-shirts that celebrated a unified Jerusalem.

Whisler:
“By passing this legislation, the state of Florida clearly recognized the hypocrisy and dishonesty of the BDS movement; its deceitful claim that its views are based on ‘human rights’ and ‘international law’ and its sinister goal of mainstreaming bigotry and discrimination into the fabric of our culture.”



New York's Celebrate Israel Day Parade

FLORIDA

ZOA Florida's winter and spring were packed with events and educational programming, beginning with a visit from ZOA National President Morton Klein. Rabbi Eliot Pearlson of Temple Menorah of Miami Beach noted that Klein “defines the decisive description of a leader” and appealed to the community, saying: “A person who wants to be best apprised of issues of concern to the Jewish community should definitely attend this weekend's presentations.” In an interview with *The Florida Jewish Journal*, Klein said, “I want audiences to gain knowledge that they can use in discussions with their friends, families, and neighbors, and I also want to give them confidence that Israel is in the right on all these issues.” Said ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler: “With the terrifying realities facing Israel and the Jewish people today, it is more important than ever that we hear from a leader who is not afraid to tell difficult truths.”

In February, ZOA Florida co-sponsored the David Posnack JCC's annual Tu b'Shvat event. Ms. Whisler's parents, ZOA National Board member Leonard Getz and Susan Getz from Philadelphia, joined the tabling efforts and helped register new members. Visitors to ZOA's table composed letters to Israeli soldiers, to be delivered during ZOA's Purim mission to Israel. *The Jewish Press* covered ZOA Florida's efforts and published a photo of the event.

Later that month, ZOA Florida hosted a surprise visit from the deputy mayors of Kedumim, Raphaella Segal and Shoshana Shilo, and arranged for Ms. Segal to address Young Israel of



ZOA Florida booth at the Celebrate Israel Festival

Hollywood about the importance of strengthening the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, especially Kedumim.

In the political arena, Ms. Whisler encouraged Floridians to contact their lawmakers to support Florida Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen's legislation, which seeks to end the PA's incitement against Israel by shutting down its office in Washington, D.C. ZOA has long called for an end to U.S. financial support for the Palestinian Authority (PA) so long as violence and terror towards Israel are encouraged and celebrated as part of the PA's daily culture.

FLORIDA LEGISLATION BLOCKING BDS IS A FIRST

This past spring, Ms. Whisler proudly witnessed as Governor Rick Scott signed into law a bill that will prevent any company that engages in BDS from doing business with the state of Florida. The bill was introduced by Florida State Senator Joe Negron (R-Palm City) and State Representatives Ritch Workman (R-Melbourne), Jared Moskowitz (D-Coral Springs), and Kevin Rader (D-Delray Beach). Florida is the first state to adopt this bill.

The ZOA helped bring about this huge anti-BDS victory for Florida. Ms. Whisler directed ZOA members to contact their state senators



ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler with Florida Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



Florida Governor Rick Scott signs anti-BDS bill into law

and representatives, and ZOA kept members informed and provided them with resources and talking points regarding the status of the legislation. Whisler was quoted in *The South Florida Sun Sentinel*, saying: “The Zionist Organization of America is very pleased by Florida’s anti-BDS legislative victory and proud to have guided constituents to lobby state lawmakers to vote in favor of it.” She added: “By passing this legislation, the state of Florida clearly recognized the hypocrisy and dishonesty of the BDS movement; its deceitful claim that its views are based on ‘human rights’ and ‘international law’ and its sinister goal of mainstreaming bigotry and discrimination into the fabric of our culture.”

Around the same time, ZOA Florida sent out a press release commending the Michael-Ann Russell JCC in North Miami Beach for making the unprecedented decision to cancel a theatrical production, *Crossing Jerusalem*, because it stereotypes Jews much in the way our enemies do. Whisler was quoted in *The South Florida Sun Sentinel* about the controversy, saying: “The play portrays Israel in an unambiguously negative and unfair way that fosters hate for the Jewish state. This is evident to any audience possessing moral clarity, and in particular is hurtful and insulting to Israelis, who make up a very large part of the South Florida Jewish community.”

One of ZOA Florida’s most anticipated spring

events was an Israeli wine-tasting, facilitated by ZOA’s Co-Director of Government Relations, Joshua London. The wine-tasting featured an assortment of red, white, and blush wines exclusively from wineries in Israel’s biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria, whose sales and exports have been affected by the European Union’s anti-Semitic labeling edict, requiring Israeli companies located in the “West Bank” to be labeled as such. The event, hosted by ZOA Florida and Young Israel of Hollywood, was a huge success and brought in several new ZOA members. ZOA Florida also arranged for Mr. London to facilitate a private discussion in Aventura and to address Young Israel of Hollywood on Shabbat, on “How to Fix the U.S.-Israel Relationship.”

COLLEGE STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS

Students from the Brauser Maimonides Academy in Fort Lauderdale, Hebrew Academy in Miami Beach, Scheck Hillel Community Day School in North Miami, and Israel Scouts of South Florida wrote hundreds of notes for Israeli soldiers that were personally distributed during ZOA’s Purim Mission to Israel.

ZOA Florida’s collaboration with the Scheck School continued with a presentation by Susan

ZOA Florida was proud to bring its largest-ever contingent to ZOA’s Pro-Israel Mission to Capitol Hill in May, including Florida ZOA board members Michael Marcus and Allen Hamaoui.

Included in ZOA Florida’s delegation were two outspoken young Zionists, 13-year-old Yael Hamaoui and high-school student Evan Jacoby.

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ZOA Center for Law and Justice Director Susan Tuchman educates high school seniors on campus anti-Semitism

Tuchman, director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, during College Preparedness Week. Ms. Tuchman addressed the school's graduating class on "The Problem of Campus Anti-Semitism and How to Address It," providing examples of actual anti-Semitic incidents on campuses that some of the students will be attending. The presentation educated students about their right to a non-hostile campus environment under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and aimed to prepare and empower them on how to respond should they experience anti-Semitic harassment or intimidation. One student, quoted in an article published in *The Florida Jewish Journal*, said of Tuchman's presentation: "If I participate in pro-Israel events or general campus programs, I'll be aware of potential signs of hate. If I do experience anti-Semitism in college, I will have taken the steps she taught us to pursue action against anti-Semitism."

Ms. Tuchman also gave a presentation at a parlor meeting in Hollywood and led a discussion for attorneys at the Aventura-based Lichter Law Firm.

In May, ZOA Florida brought its largest-ever contingent to ZOA's annual Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Mission in Washington, D.C., including ZOA Florida board members Michael Marcus and Allen Hamaoui. Delegates met with U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson of Florida, Congresswomen Debbie Wasserman

Schultz and Lois Frankel, and Congressman Ted Deutch to discuss the damage of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran, ending U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority, and UN Security Council dangers. ZOA Florida continues to follow up with the officials on these issues. Included in the delegation were two outspoken young Zionists, 13-year-old Yael Hamaoui and high-school student Evan Jacoby.

In celebration of Israel's independence, ZOA Florida co-sponsored several Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) events, including the Israeli American Council's Celebrate Israel Festival, which was attended by several thousand people. Visitors to ZOA's booth were challenged with some fun Zionist trivia. Ms. Whisler was joined by Shoshanna Stein, an energetic ZOA Florida board member, and volunteer Yonathan Benarroch.

If you would like to become more active with ZOA, please contact florida@zoa.org.

PHILADELPHIA

ZOA PHILADELPHIA COVERS THE WATERFRONT

Greater Philadelphia ZOA hosted a wide range of events over the past few months, ranging from lectures by prominent speakers to counter-demonstrations to our annual Gala and other activities.

We presented "An Evening with Melanie Phillips," featuring the staunchly pro-Israel British author and journalist. The event took place at Congregation Beth Or, a large Reform synagogue in suburban Philadelphia. We also presented "An Evening with Ryan Bellerose," featuring the social-media sensation from Canada, who is an indigenous-rights activist deeply engaged in promoting the Jewish people as the indigenous people of the land of Israel. The event took place at Congregation Mikveh Israel, which is known as "the synagogue of the American Revolution."

On April 1 (April Fool's Day), an aggressive, local anti-Israel group planned to hold an anti-Israel event during the popular First Friday monthly arts festival in Philadelphia's historic area. With advance word of their event, Greater

Lewis B. Dashe's wisdom and intellect, friendship, and passionate Zionism will be missed by us all. Lew devoted more than 60 years to the cause of Israel and Zionism.

Philadelphia ZOA recruited counter-demonstrators, made signs and leaflets, and got out on the street before our adversaries. We had three times more people than did the anti-Israel group, and after about a half-hour they gave up and left.

The Democratic National Convention (DNC) took place in Philadelphia, and there were a number of Israel-related official and unofficial events in the city, including some that were anti-Israel and/or featured anti-Israel speakers. One demonstration included the burning of an Israeli flag in the middle of a Philadelphia street. Greater Philadelphia ZOA leaders attended several of the events—in some cases, to network with DNC attendees; in other cases, to challenge speakers, if need be; and in others, to witness and document what was transpiring.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA was represented by more than 60 people at ZOA's Pro-Israel Mission to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. last May. Over the past few months, Greater Philadelphia

ZOA leaders and members have been well represented in the media, including on talk-radio and in letters to the editor and online articles and analyses.

At our Gala in September 2016, we will honor the following outstanding individuals. Author and National Review contributing editor Andrew C. McCarthy will receive our Ben Hecht Award for Outstanding Journalism. Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick (R-Bucks County) will receive our Friend of Zion Award. Amy Clayman, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey, and her husband, Eric Clayman, past president of Congregation Beth El in Voorhees, NJ, will be receiving our Pillars of the Community Award. Rabbi Steven Saks, of Congregation Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth in Wilmington, DE, will be honored with our Guardian of Israel Award.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA mourns the passing of our beloved board member, Honorary



At "An Evening with Ryan Bellerose" (from left), Executive Director Steve Feldman, Board Chairman Gene Shusman, Bellerose, and Co-President Kevin Ross

“An Evening with Ryan Bellerose” featured the social-media sensation from Canada, who is an indigenous-rights activist deeply engaged in promoting the Jewish people as the indigenous people of the land of Israel.



Speaker Melanie Phillips, ZOA National President Morton A. Klein, Philadelphia ZOA Co-President Lee Bender, Cong. Beth Or member William Wanger

National President and former President of the Mid-Atlantic Region Lewis B. Dashe (Dashewsky). Lew, who was 96 when he died, devoted more than 60 years to the cause of Israel and Zionism, and was a dedicated ZOA member and leader. As recently as a week before he died, Lew was interested in Israel and the goings-on within ZOA. His wisdom and intellect, friendship, and passionate Zionism will be missed by us all.

Our newly designed Web site is up. Find us at www.philly.zoa.org. Among the features is a regularly alternating survey/poll/quiz. Many thanks to the folks at Mac Help NYC.

PITTSBURGH

TEACHING TOLERANCE IN LOCAL SCHOOLS VIA THE HOLOCAUST

The ZOA Pittsburgh chapter is dedicated to helping eradicate religious, ethnic, and racial intolerance. We began 2016 by gearing up for our annual ZOA Tolerance Education Program, which was instituted to combat hatred. The Tolerance Education Program is carried out in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Public Schools

and with support from the city of Pittsburgh. It focuses on the events of the Holocaust to teach young people, during their most impressionable years, about the horrific consequences of hatred. It concentrates on examples of man's inhumanity to man, teaching students to reject intolerance and those who foment it, and teaching understanding and respect of those whose beliefs may differ from their own.

The Tolerance Education Program complements the curriculum provided by the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Various elements of previous ZOA programs now are part of the school curriculum, used to teach the Holocaust. Although the students learn about the Holocaust in their formal studies, what they hear in class generally is treated as just another historical event that soon fades from their memories. But when they go through the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)—where they see the actual consequences of religious, ethnic, and racial hatred in videos, still photos, and static exhibits—most students are left with an indelible realization of the dangers of bigotry. The program was created by the late Dr. Zalman Shapiro who was a long-time, highly respected member of the ZOA's National Board and president of the ZOA's Pittsburgh chapter.



Nathan Firestone lectured on America, Israel, and the 2016 Election



Israel Izzet Bahar discussed Turkish Jews in France during World War II

"I love being a Jew. I look forward to this incredible opportunity to be in Israel and know that, upon my return, I will be even more affected by the words of Hatikvah and more committed to Zionism and my love for Israel."

Over a two week period, 11 buses carrying over 500 students, made their way to the USHMM in Washington, D.C. En route to the museum, students watch educational videos about the Holocaust and Israel. They complete a survey about their knowledge, both before and after the museum visit, charting changes in their attitude and whether they see themselves as standing up against injustice. Later, students participate in an essay contest describing the effects the museum visit had on them. Nominal monetary prizes are awarded.

Here are just a few quotes from student surveys: "Seeing the condition of the Jews really made me sad. The most painful thing which I saw was putting them in the gas chambers and burning their bodies. Even the kids were included in the gas chambers."

"The stories about specific families and individuals who were hurt during the Holocaust. It really hits home how these were real people with lives just like me and you, and it gives you a deeper sense of remembrance for these people."

"The non-Jews who risked their lives to help others. We have to help others or we become oppressed."

"Learning about the Holocaust has honestly made me appreciate others, and what they have

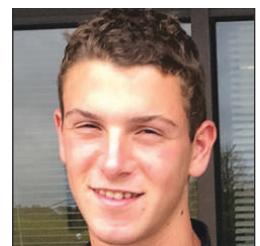
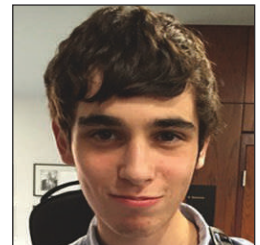
to offer."

"Seeing the many shoes. Piles of them. Each being owned and worn by people. Each pair holding a story. It made me see just how many people were killed."

LECTURES: POLITICS, TURKISH JEWS, AND PRESBYTERIANS

Each summer, ZOA Pittsburgh sponsors lectures, and this year was no different. The first lecture was by Pittsburgh ZOA member Nathan Firestone, who earned a master's degree in Public and International Affairs and a law degree from the University of Pittsburgh. A professor of political science at Point Park University and adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh, Professor Firestone has specialized in American foreign policy and has lectured extensively on Middle East politics. He is also a senior magisterial district judge.

In his talk, "America, Israel, and the 2016 Election," Firestone discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates and the oddities of this year's elections, comparing them with elections of the 20th century. Firestone also surmised what effect the 2016 election might have on the relationship between the U.S. and Israel.



ZOA Israel scholarship recipients
Avigdor Felder,
Tanya Markel, and
Ariel Schwartz

In 2010, Executive Director Pavilack led Pittsburgh's Ministers Delegation to Israel; 10 Christian clergy members took part. Pavilack has remained in contact with a number of them and grew very close with Reverend Ted Martin of Hampton Presbyterian Church... To increase the Middle East I.Q. of average church members, who may lack exposure to the conflict, the two men created a program entitled A Middle East Discussion.

The next lecture, "Turkish Jews in France During World War II and the Curious Behavior of the U.S. Ambassador in Turkey," was presented by Dr. Israel Izzet Bahar. Dr. Bahar completed his M.A. and Ph.D. in Jewish Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. He is the author of "Turkey and the Rescue of European Jews (2015)." Prior to coming to the U.S., Dr. Bahar earned bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical/electronic engineering in Ankara, Turkey.

Pittsburgh Executive Director Stuart Pavilack participated in the adult education program of Congregation Beth El of the South Hills, where he delivered a lecture on the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) and its animosity toward Israel. Since 2010, Pavilack has been involved in dialogues with leaders of the Pittsburgh Jewish community and clergy from the Pittsburgh Presby (see below). It has been a long and difficult process, one which has lost ground after some early progress.

His presentation included a history of one arm of the church, the Israel Palestine Mission Network (IPMN). Founded in 2004, the IPMN is heavily influenced by Palestinian Christian clergy who believe in revisionist theory (i.e., it is the Palestinians whose exodus from Egypt is celebrated at Passover). IPMN is affiliated with the anti-Israel, anti-Semitic Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem. Many of these clergy members have been deeply involved in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement since the group's inception. The IPMN appears to promote its own agenda to the membership of PCUSA. The lecture was very well attended, and audience members engaged Pavilack during a Q and A session that followed his lecture.

ZOA ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ZOA Pittsburgh has long believed that a trip to Israel by Jewish students helps them to feel the history of the Jewish people and cement their Jewish identity. To that end, the ZOA Israel Scholarship Committee was established. Since its inception in 1962, hundreds of Pittsburgh Jewish high-school students have received ZOA scholarships. The program is funded by endowments created by ZOA members.

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ZOA Pittsburgh is pleased to announce the Israel scholarship recipients for 2016. Avigdor Felder, Tanya Markel, and Ariel Schwartz have each been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Avigdor wrote in his essay: "The Torah tells us about Jews in Israel, but the Jewish connection to Israel doesn't end with ancient history. Jews traveled to Israel to establish a modern homeland. Jews have sacrificed for Israel and seen countless miracles occur." Avigdor attended the NCSY Kollel Camp.

Tanya, who attended Camp YT&T (Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow), wrote in her essay, "The state of Israel, for me, is a symbol of hope. It symbolizes the Jews as a nation, a race, and a religion, all at the same time."

Ariel traveled to Israel as part of the Emma Kaufmann Counselor-in-Training program.



Erez with University students

He wrote, “I love being a Jew. I look forward to this incredible opportunity to be in Israel and know that, upon my return, I will be even more affected by the words of Hatikvah and more committed to Zionism and my love for Israel.”

A MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSION WITH CLERGY

In 2010, Executive Director Pavilack led Pittsburgh’s Ministers Delegation to Israel; 10 Christian clergy members took part. Pavilack has remained in contact with a number of them and grew very close with Reverend Ted Martin of Hampton Presbyterian Church. Reverend Martin was embarrassed by the PCUSA after its 2014 General Assembly passed anti-Israel resolutions. To increase the Middle East I.Q. of average church members, who may lack information about the conflict, the two men created a program entitled “A Middle East Discussion.” Martin discussed the history of the Church’s involvement in sending missionaries to the Middle East and scripture relevant to Presbyterians, while Pavilack discussed such topics as occupation, settlements, and borders. Pittsburgh Board Member Hirsh Dlinn assisted Pavilack in the discussion. Attendees gained a better under-

standing of these topics, but more work needs to be done. Pavilack and Martin hope to schedule another presentation in the fall.

Grace Baptist Church offered its biennial event, “A Night to Honor Israel.” In addition to an educational component about Israel, the evening raises funds for an Israeli charity. Two years ago, it was the Lone Soldier Program. This year, the church aimed to purchase an ambulance for Israel. Pavilack served on a committee that helped direct and coordinate fundraising with the American Friends of Magen David Adom. The evening was incredible. The church was filled with members waving Israeli flags and expressing their support for Israel. The church raised \$12,000 that night and are well on their way to reaching their goal.

DETROIT

PROTECTING PRO-ISRAEL STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

The Zionist Organization of America was the only organization to object to the unfair treatment and targeting of University of Michigan student Jesse Arm, who faced an ethics investigation after he respectfully confronted anti-

“The main thing I learned is that there can’t be any discussions of peace as long as the Palestinians teach their kids to kill Jews. If you want to look at the aspiration of a nation, look at what they teach their kids. Their aspiration is to destroy the Jewish state, not to make peace.”—Daniel Talmid

Israel demonstrators on campus. Arm, who is Jewish, said that he was upset over “the taste, timing, and appropriateness of [the demonstrators’] display in light of all the recent terrorism that has befallen Western civilization over the last few weeks, particularly in Israel.” Indeed, the anti-Israel demonstration took place on Nov. 19, 2015, the same day that Ezra Schwartz, a peer of Arm’s, was killed in a Palestinian Arab terrorist attack in Israel. Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, wrote to the University of Michigan on behalf of nine Jewish organizations, admonishing them for allowing Israel-bashers to challenge Jesse Arm’s right to free speech. The ZOA also wrote letters to the media, urging community members to write to the university to uphold the free speech rights of all students and to prevent the Israel-bashers from squelching pro-Israel voices on campus.

Miriam Cohen, a University of Michigan graduate and a young member of ZOA-Michigan’s Board of Trustees, spoke before the university’s Board of Regents. As an alumna, Cohen expressed her extreme concern with the way in which the university is responding to the intimidation of Jewish and pro-Israel students on campus and the chilling of their right to free speech. Recent incidents include demonstrations advocating Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) that intimidate Jewish and non-Jewish

students on campus, as well as the university’s failure to intervene when efforts were made to silence Jesse Arm—and, by extension, all pro-Israel students—on campus.

ISRAEL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

High school students from both public and Jewish day schools around Metro Detroit participated in a workshop sponsored by ZOA’s Michigan chapter, where they learned about Israel’s history, Jewish heritage, and advocating for Israel. Participants in the Israel Education Workshop are eligible to apply for scholarships that can be used toward the cost of summer or year-long educational programs in Israel. The ZOA’s Michigan chapter is happy to educate these future Jewish leaders and help support their travels to Israel.

SPEAKING IN HIGH SCHOOLS; YOUNG ADULT KRAV MAGA

ZOA-MI Director Kobi Erez spoke in several schools about anti-Semitism, Israel, and the media and the Israeli-Palestinian Arab conflict. Both Jewish and non-Jewish students gained a new perspective on the conflict and the challenges that Israel is facing on a daily basis.



At ZOA event, Abraham Sion explains the basis of Israel's legitimacy under international law to San Francisco high school students

As part of the effort to create a pro-Israel community in Michigan that together will form a stronger and more effective force and voice for Israel, ZOA-MI held weekly Krav Maga classes for young adults who are passionate about Israel.

DEBATING WITH J STREET AND A TALK WITH IDF SOLDIERS

Erez also participated in a college debate with a J Street representative. Debate topics included the two-state solution and its implications for Israel's security, anti-Semitism, comparing global jihad with Palestinian Arab terror groups, Israel's historic right to the land, and Palestinian Arab incitement in the media and schools. Daniel Talmid, a student who listened to the debate said: "The main thing I learned is that there can't be any discussions of peace as long as the Palestinians teach their kids to kill Jews. If you want to look at the aspiration of a nation, look at what they teach their kids. Their aspiration is to destroy the Jewish state, not to make peace."

While visiting Israel, Erez gave a talk to Israeli soldiers about anti-Semitism and the efforts of ZOA and American Jewry to protect Israel and its interests overseas, as well as the challenges facing the pro-Israel community in America.

WEST COAST

ZOA WEST COAST INTERNS PLAN A CAMPUS OFFENSIVE

The offices of the Zionist Organization of America in the Western Region have officially moved, from Oakland to Berkeley, CA. The ZOA is now operating less than a mile from the University of California, Berkeley campus, and will continue to ensure a strong Zionist presence in the East Bay, a region traditionally hostile to Zionism. The new office is large enough to host meetings and additional employees. In fact, this summer's internship program hosted more interns than ever before at ZOA's West Coast offices.

*Western
Region
interns'
innovative
projects seek
to change the
tactics of
pro-Israel
campus
groups in
order to go on
the offensive
against SJP
and the
corrupt
Palestinian
Arab factions
they support.*



David Meir-Levi explains the implications of dividing Jerusalem to a group in Walnut Creek, CA

Four bright college students worked through July and August to increase ZOA West Coast's presence on social media, draft new materials to arm Israel activists on college campuses, and develop programming for young professionals in the Bay Area. The summer interns focused their projects on targeting the Palestinian Authority (PA) for the embezzlement and misappropriation of foreign aid, and the systematic indoctrination of Palestinian Arab youth to hate Israel and Jews. The innovative projects seek to change the tactics of pro-Israel groups on college campuses in order to go on the offensive against Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and the corrupt Palestinian Arab factions they support.

UC REGENTS: ANTI-SEMITISM, ANTI-ZIONISM HAVE NO PLACE ON UC CAMPUSES

The ZOA West Coast chapter, along with our partners, achieved a major victory in the fight to combat anti-Semitism on America's college campuses. The University of California (UC) Board

of Regents, which oversees 10 campuses and nearly 240,000 students, voted unanimously to adopt a policy of Principles Against Intolerance. The document includes the Regents' strong statement that "[a]nti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, and other forms of discrimination have no place at the University of California." The Regents called on University of California leaders "actively to challenge anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination when and wherever they emerge within the University community."

The ZOA worked closely with regional partners to lobby the UC Regents to identify the anti-Semitism and Israel-bashing that Jewish and pro-Israel students have been facing and to take action against the perpetrators. The Western Region chapter collaborated with ZOA's Center for Law and Justice to develop statements and provide information to the UC Regents, in addition to working with ZOA Campus to identify specific incidents of harassment and discrimination.

The lobbying effort lasted over a year and was bitterly contested by the anti-Semitic hate groups Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) and SJP. These groups argued against any statement from



ZOA West Coast and allies testify at meeting of UC Board of Regents, who acknowledged that anti-Zionism is a form of discrimination

The UC Board of Regents voted unanimously to adopt a policy of Principles Against Intolerance that includes the Regents' strong statement that "[a]nti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, and other forms of discrimination have no place at the University of California."

the Regents which would condemn or in any way inhibit their anti-Israel activities and rhetoric—even though their actions were creating a hostile learning environment for many Jewish and pro-Israel students. JVP and SJP cited the free speech protections under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, claiming that a Regents statement condemning their vicious anti-Israel rhetoric and identifying it as anti-Semitic would squelch their rights to criticize Israel and advocate on Palestinian Arab issues.

Despite the tremendous backlash against our efforts, the UC Regents did finally recognize that anti-Zionism—specifically, the denial of Jewish rights to self-determination and to a state in the historic Jewish homeland—is anti-Semitic. The Regents also made it clear that harassment and threats, among other conduct, “will not be tolerated within the University community.”

While ZOA and our partners have achieved a significant victory, the fight to enforce these principles, and to ensure that Jewish students and Israel supporters are being adequately protected from discrimination on their campuses, will continue.

EMPOWERING JEWISH YOUTH THROUGH KRAV MAGA

Continuing the theme of empowering pro-Israel youth in 2016, West Coast Executive Director David Kadosh led courses in Krav Maga (a Jewish self-defense style) for 10 student groups throughout the region. The program, which highlights Zionism's focus on the importance of Jewish self-defense, was introduced at Cal State Northridge, Cal State Fullerton, San Jose State, UC Santa Cruz, Western Washington University, Loyola Marymount, the Club Z retreat for Bay Area high-school students, the Chabad West Coast Shabbaton, and the annual San Diego Israel advocacy retreat (comprised of student leaders from UC San Diego and San Diego State). Students who complete the course leave with a practical knowledge of self-defense tactics and learn Zionism's role in reclaiming the narrative of Jewish strength.

ZOA's West Coast chapter also sponsored a number of educational programs on campus and for the wider community. The year opened with a Middle East update from Israeli scholar

Students who complete the [Krav Maga] course leave with a practical knowledge of self-defense tactics and learn Zionism's role in reclaiming the narrative of Jewish strength.

Mordechai Kedar of Bar-Ilan University, who explained the threats to Israel from the Sunni-Shia sectarian fighting throughout the region, focusing on the Syrian civil war. Professor Kedar, who is fluent in Arabic, is best known for his debates with Arab officials on the Al-Jazeera news network.

SPEAKERS AFFIRM ISRAEL'S SOVEREIGN RIGHTS, BARE HOAXES

In February, the ZOA hosted two talks in San Francisco by Professor Abraham Sion of Israel's Ariel University, at a community event and to a group of high-school students at the Lisa Kampner Hebrew Academy. Sion drew on his experiences as a military judge in Gaza and as chair of the Ariel University Center for Law and Mass Media to affirm Israel's sovereign rights in Judea and Samaria through an analysis of international law.

Following a White House leak in March that President Obama was going to seek UN Security Council action to force Israel's hand in accepting eastern Jerusalem as the future capital of a Palestinian Arab state, ZOA West Coast organized a talk in Walnut Creek by Professor David Meir-Levi. He explained the centrality of Jerusalem to the Jewish people, Israel's history in the city, and the security and moral implications of dividing the city. Professor Meir-Levi is an author, former IDF soldier, professor emeritus at San Jose State University (SJSU), and former lecturer at Stanford University.


At the end of March, ZOA West Coast facilitated speaking events featuring Aryeh Green, the founder and former director of MediaCentral, a Jerusalem-based project providing support services to foreign journalists based in or visiting Israel. Mr. Green spoke at the Jewish Activities Center of Los Angeles (JACLA) and at a political science class and the Hillel at SJSU, where he discussed the mainstream media's misrepresentation of Israel and efforts to delegitimize the Jewish state.

In April, ZOA West Coast organized four speaking events for authors throughout Califor-

nia. At the local San Diego ZOA chapter, author Sha'i ben-Tekoa discussed his book *Phantom Nation*, which uncovers the invention of "Palestinian" national identity in order to obstruct peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors. In addition, the ZOA hosted three large community events throughout the Bay Area with best-selling author Edwin Black. Mr. Black led a talk on BDS and the European Union's labeling of Israeli products for the kickoff event at Covenant Wines, a kosher winery in Berkeley. His second event was at the Rossmoor retirement community, where he exposed NGOs and public money being used to incite violence against Israel, largely based on the research for his most recent book, *Financing the Flames*. His last event, at the Palo Alto JCC, dealt with understanding Israel's legitimacy under international law.

JERUSALEM HISTORY OLD AND NEW; YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMMING

In celebration of Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day), ZOA West Coast sponsored a talk by UC Berkeley Professor Ron Hassner at a rooftop party at the San Francisco Jewish Federation, overlooking the scenic Bay Bridge and Embarcadero. Professor Hassner walked the group through the ancient and modern history of the strong Jewish connection to Jerusalem. He also explained how the PA was invoking Muslim importance of the Temple Mount and lying about alleged Israeli plans to change the status quo for Muslim worshippers in order to incite Palestinian Arabs to riot and murder Jews (aka the "Stabbing Intifada").

The ZOA West Coast chapter is expanding, with plans to establish a dedicated Young Professional board to engage the post-college young adult community with regular Zionist programming. Events on campus and in the community are being scheduled for fall 2016. ZOA will continue to set an example of principled Zionist leadership and will fight to defend the rights of Israel supporters throughout the region. To quote the book of Tehillim, the ZOA leads "from strength to strength." 

In Memoriam

Dr. Irving Moskowitz

Dr. Zalman Shapiro

Lew Dashe

DR. IRVING MOSKOWITZ: ZIONIST ACTIVIST AND PHILANTHROPIC GIANT

An extraordinary friend of the ZOA, Dr. Irving Moskowitz was—and his loving, wonderful wife, Cherna, continues to be—among the greatest Jewish patriots of our generation.

His extraordinary accomplishments include helping to save eastern Jerusalem (the real and biblical Jerusalem) for the Jewish people and working relentlessly to save the Jewish heartland of Judea and Samaria for its original and continuous inhabitants, the Jewish people.

Less well-known is the fact that Irving and Cherna Moskowitz saved the ZOA from closing its doors. In 1994, after Morton Klein became the ZOA's 30th president, Klein learned that ZOA had a mere \$3,000 in its coffers. We were ready to close our doors, until Irving made a substantial gift to insure ZOA's survival for that year. Without Irving's generosity, ZOA may well have been forced to end its then 96-year existence.

Irving was a dear friend to ZOA President Morton Klein. "We spoke several times a week. I've never met anyone with such genuine passion for Eretz Yisrael as Irving Moskowitz, and it was a love that was pure," Klein said. "He wanted nothing from his work and philanthropy but to see the Jewish homeland and the Jewish people survive and flourish."

Irving had personal relationships with many of Israel's leading figures. When he introduced Morton Klein to Benjamin Netanyahu—ZOA's keynote speaker at the 1994 Gala, where Irving received ZOA's prestigious Louis Brandeis Award—Netanyahu said: "You know, Irving is one of my favorite people." Klein notes that he had to beg Irving to accept this honor.

Klein adds: "Irving was brilliant. He was a great medical doctor as well as a great businessman. But the only thing Irving ever talked to me about, besides Israel, was baseball. He was a star center fielder for his high-school team, and he proudly showed me newspaper clippings stating that Moskowitz could run like the wind and was a great power hitter." One article went on to predict that "he could well be the next Joe DiMaggio." He was offered a minor league contract but instead chose to enter University of Wisconsin Medical School.

Irving's loss is immeasurable. Few have accomplished for the Jewish people what Dr. Moskowitz accomplished. This soft-spoken, modest giant will never be forgotten. Cherna, his talented and committed wife, has continued his sacred work.

May the memory of these generous and dedicated Zionist activists and Israel advocates be a blessing. May the Jewish people be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.



DR. IRVING MOSKOWITZ

"I've never met anyone with such genuine passion for Eretz Yisrael as Irving Moskowitz. He wanted nothing from his work and philanthropy but to see the Jewish homeland and the Jewish people survive and flourish."

**– ZOA President
Morton A. Klein**



DR. ZALMAN SHAPIRO

ZOA President Morton A. Klein said, “Zalman was one of the strongest and most committed activists for Israel I’ve ever known. And when he set his mind to a pro-Israel or pro-ZOA project, he fought like a tiger to see it through—and see it through he did.”

DR. ZALMAN SHAPIRO: ZIONIST ACTIVIST AND ZOA LEADER

Words from Dr. Michael Goldblatt, Chairman, and Morton A. Klein, President:

The Zionist Organization of America mourns the passing of Dr. Zalman Mordecai Shapiro, a ZOA leader and major Zionist activist. Dr. Shapiro was a most revered, respected, and distinguished member of the ZOA National Board and one of its longest serving members. He held many important posts at the ZOA, including president of ZOA’s Pittsburgh chapter—one of ZOA’s most active and important chapters—which he played a major role in saving and reviving after it experienced difficulties.

On several occasions Zalman was asked to be national president but declined. In 2008, he and his wife, Evelyn, were honored by the ZOA for their “extraordinary contributions to Israel, the Jewish community, and ZOA for over 60 years.”

Dr. Shapiro was a relentless pro-Israel nationalist, who correctly predicted that the Oslo and Gaza agreements would lead to disaster. He worked fervently against these mistaken policies.

A physical chemist and inventor, Dr. Shapiro received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Johns Hopkins University. He held 15

patents, including a 2009 patent on a process to make less expensively the commercial production of diamonds, and he played a key role in the development of the reactor that powered the world’s first nuclear powered submarine, the Nautilus. He worked for Westinghouse Electric and worked on developing the fuel for the first commercial nuclear power plant. He founded Nuclear Materials & Equipment Corp. to develop improved methods of processing nuclear fuel.

Zalman enjoyed close relationships with many of Israel’s high government officials. Some have credited him with helping Israel in its development of nuclear weapons; others, with helping to protect Israel’s water supply.

ZOA President Morton A. Klein said, “Zalman was one of the strongest and most committed activists for Israel I’ve ever known. And when he set his mind to a pro-Israel or pro-ZOA project, he fought like a tiger to see it through—and see it through he did. Zalman was a focused and tireless Zionist and ZOA leader. His brilliance, passion, and clarity of vision on behalf of his beloved Israel will be sorely missed.”

Dr. Shapiro was married to Evelyn Greenberg Shapiro and had three children, Joshua, Ezra, and Deborah.

May his family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

LEW DASHE: ONE OF ZOA'S LONGEST SERVING AND MOST DISTINGUISHED LEADERS

Lewis B. Dashevsky (aka Dashe), 96, of Philadelphia, honorary ZOA national president, a retired Certified Public Accountant, and former owner of Lewis B. Dashe & Co., passed away in June. Mr. Dashevsky was an accountant and management consultant before starting his own business. He retired in 1981 to devote his life to his true passions: Israel, Zionism, and the welfare of the Jewish people.

Mr. Dashevsky first went to Israel in 1955, when he was engaged by the accounting firm Kesselman & Kesselman for a special management-consulting assignment and system installations in the Jewish State, a mere seven years after it was re-established. He lived in Israel for five months as part of that assignment and subsequently visited more than 30 times.

Most of Mr. Dashevsky's pro-Israel advocacy activities took place under the auspices of the ZOA. He served as a board member of the National ZOA and Greater Philadelphia ZOA, and was president of ZOA's Mid-Atlantic Region for more than 20 years. He also served on ZOA's National Executive Committee and National Administrative Board.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA presented him with its Meritorious Service Medal at the organization's 2012 Gala.


Mr. Dashevsky was a founder of a group known as ACT FAST (Action Committee To Fight Anti-Semitism Today), which was active in the 1970s and '80s. He was instrumental in the formation of the Jordan is Palestine Committee, an organization that included delegates from five nations, and served as its mid-Atlantic

chairman. He was past president of the Philadelphia branch of the American Zionist Movement; a board member of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia; and served on the National and Overseas Allocation Committee, forerunner of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. He also was active with the Wallenberg Committee and the Coordinating Committee on Vital Jewish Issues.

Mr. Dashevsky was a graduate of Temple University and took classes at the University of Pennsylvania. During World War II, he worked in the inspection division of the naval aircraft factory at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and was an instructor at its aviation inspection school. In 1944, he attended the Army finance school at Fort Harrison in Indiana. After his 1955 stint in Israel, he began his own firm, which was located in the Western Savings Bank Building. Mr. Dashevsky was a longtime member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and retained his membership for decades after retiring from active practice.

A man of many talents, hobbies, and interests, in 1944 and '45, he copyrighted 21 original songs. In 1947, he wrote and copyrighted a musical with 27 songs, called "Things Was Made That Way (in the Key of Black)." He also played guitar and studied at the Barnes Foundation. An avid coin collector and stamp collector, he received the 50-year medal from the American Numismatic Society.

Mr. Dashevsky was a longtime member of the Congregations of Shaare Shamayim.

Born on Sept 5, 1919, to Michael and Jennie Dashevsky, Lew was predeceased by his wife, the former Gloria Alexenberg. He is survived by his daughter, Dr. Jodi Dashe (Gad Ifrah); a grandson, Jacob Ifrah; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews. 



LEW DASHE

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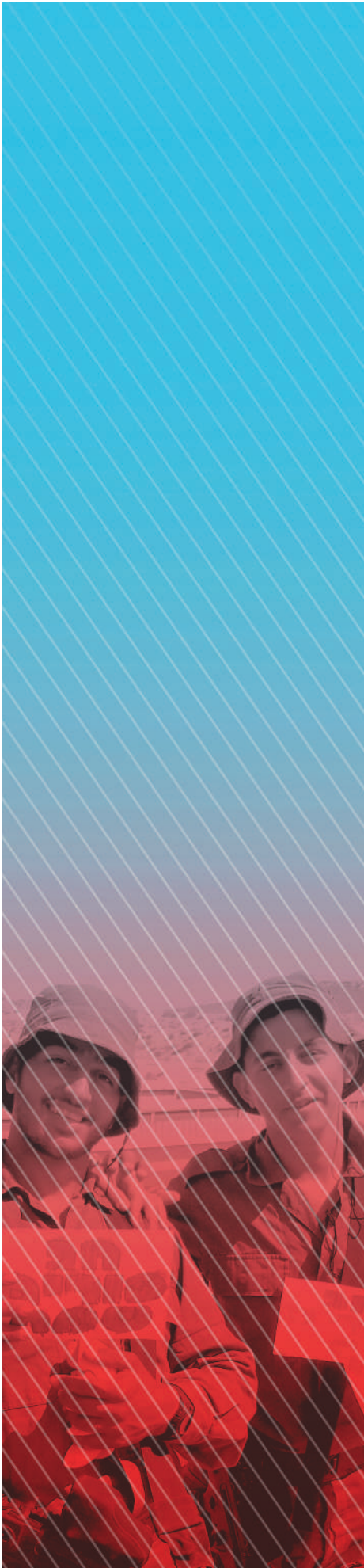
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FOR MORE INFO:

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