



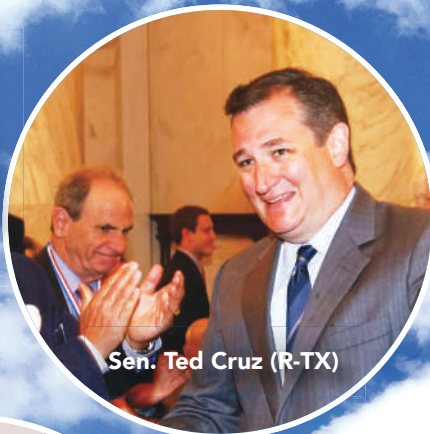
ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

FALL
2017

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ZOA
D.C.
Mission
2017



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)



Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)



Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)



Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY)



ZOA Delegate with Cong.
Brad Sherman (D-CA)



Dr. Sebastian Gorka,
Dep. Asst. to Pres.;
Frank Gaffney, Ctr.
Sec. Policy



IRIS AND SHALOM MAIDENBAUM, ESQ.
THE LOUIS D. BRANDEIS AWARD

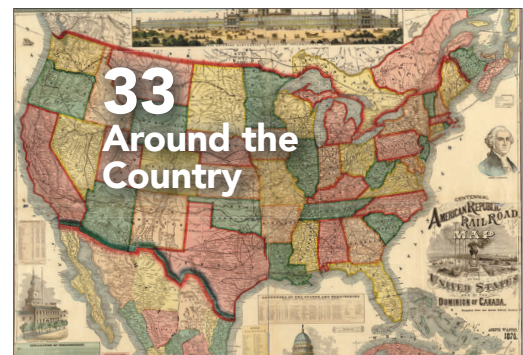
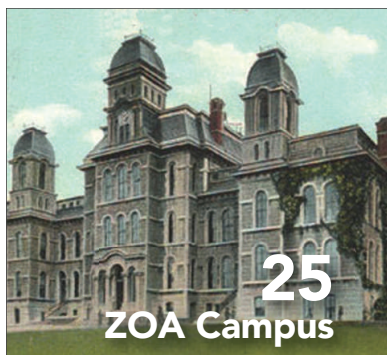
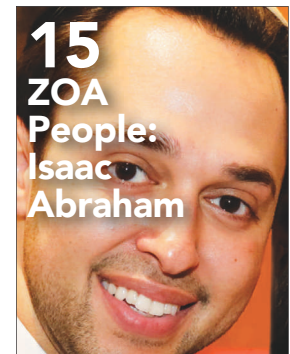
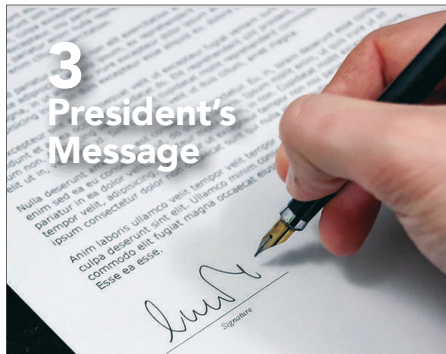
U.S. SENATOR TOM COTTON
DR. MIRIAM AND SHELDON ADELSON DEFENDER OF ISRAEL AWARD

AMBASSADOR DAVID FRIEDMAN
DR. BOB SHILLMAN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING DIPLOMACY

U.S. SENATOR JOE LIEBERMAN
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

CHRISTOPHER RUDDY
MORTIMER ZUCKERMAN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING JOURNALISM
SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY STEVE BANNON AND AMB. DANNY DANON
LIZ CLAMAN - FOX TV STAR - EMCEE

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Published by the
Zionist Organization of America

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Design: Simone Weissman
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President's Message

JERUSALEM WAS NEVER HOLY TO MUSLIMS

It's time to end the propaganda myth that Jerusalem is holy to Muslims.

Jerusalem was the capital of the Jewish nation under King David and other Jewish kings for hundreds of years. The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 stated: *"In 1996, the State of Israel will celebrate the 3,000th anniversary of the Jewish presence in Jerusalem since King David's entry."*

Jerusalem was never the capital of any other nation. After the Arab conquest of Israel in 716 CE, the Arabs made Ramla their capital—not Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is the Jewish people's holiest city. Jerusalem's Old City (in the eastern portion of Jerusalem, the real Jerusalem) contains the millennia old Jewish quarter and Judaism's holiest site, the Temple Mount where the First and Second Jewish Temples stood, long before the birth of Islam. And eastern Jerusalem also contains the world's oldest (3,000 years old) and largest Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives. (Eastern Jerusalem is the real Jerusalem throughout Biblical and human history; western Jerusalem was built in recent years.)

Jerusalem is mentioned almost 700 times in the Torah, the Jewish holy books. Jerusalem is never mentioned in the Koran—not even once.

Throughout the millennia, Jews always pray *for* Jerusalem 20 times each day, remember Jerusalem in holiday and wedding ceremonies, and pray facing Jerusalem. By contrast, Muslims pray facing Mecca. There are *no* Muslim prayers for Jerusalem.

Muslims make their pilgrimages to Mecca; while Jewish pilgrimages are to Jerusalem. One of the five pillars of Islam (the five obligatory fundamental Muslim practices) is the "Hajj" pilgrimage to the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

The Torah commands the Jewish people to make pilgrimages to the Temple in Jerusalem three times each year, on Judaism's three pilgrimage festivals (Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot).

Jews have lived in Jerusalem throughout the millennia. Since at least the mid-1800s, the majority of the people living in Jerusalem have been Jews. Theodore Herzl wrote in his diary about his arrival in Jerusalem on the evening of October 31, 1898: *"The streets were alive with Jews sauntering in the moonlight."* The 1907 prestigious Baedeker Travel Guide reported that at that time, Jerusalem had 40,000 Jews; 13,000 Christians and 7,000 Muslims.

In an attempt to create an Islamic religious connection to Jerusalem, Muslims point to Koran and *hadith* passages referring to Muhammad's *dream* (not an actual event) of journeying to heaven on his steed Buraq from "Al Aqsa"—the "farthest mosque." However, the "farthest mosque" could not possibly have meant Jerusalem because the Koran refers to Palestine as the "nearest" place, and Jerusalem was a central crossroads in the Middle East—not a "farthest" place. Moreover, Jerusalem's eventual "Al Aqsa Mosque" was built long *after* the Koran and the Hadith were written. The mosque was named "Al Aqsa" after the fact, to create a myth about the location of Muhammad's dream. During Muhammad's day, Jerusalem was ruled by Byzantine Christians, and a Byzantine Christian church stood on the Temple Mount.

So little did Jerusalem mean to the Muslim Ottomans that, during the First World War, they abandoned it to the British without a fight and even contemplated destroying the city entirely before leaving it.



MORTON A. KLEIN
National
President,
Zionist
Organization
of America

Significantly, neither the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) original National Charter (drafted in 1964, during Jordanian Muslim rule), nor the PLO's 1968 National Charter, nor the Fatah (Arafat's terrorist group) Constitution even mention Jerusalem, let alone call for its establishment as a Palestinian Arab capital.

In 1948, six Arab nations invaded Israel, and Jordan captured and illegally occupied the eastern portion of Jerusalem for 19 years (1948-1967). During Jordan's illegal occupation, Jordan demolished 58-centuries-old Jewish synagogues, killed or expelled the Jews, pillaged tombstones of the 3,000-year-old Mount of Olives Jewish cemetery to line latrines and build roads, denied Jews access to their holiest religious sites, and harshly discriminated against Christians and churches. Jordan prohibited Christian churches and communities from buying land or opening new schools, required Christian schools to teach the Koran, and refused to allow Christian holidays.

Under Jordanian Arab Muslim rule, Jerusalem became a small isolated town. Arabs abandoned Jerusalem and moved to Amman.

Significantly, neither the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) original National Charter (drafted in 1964, during Jordanian Muslim rule), nor the PLO's 1968 National Charter, nor the Fatah (Arafat's terrorist group) Constitution even mention Jerusalem, let alone call for its establishment as a Palestinian Arab capital.

During Jordan's 19-year illegal occupation of Jerusalem, Jordan kept its capital in Amman, built Jordan's first university in Amman, as well as the King's numerous residences, and made its Friday prayer radio broadcasts from Amman—not from Jerusalem. Arab leaders did not even bother visiting Jerusalem (with the brief exception of King Hussein). Jordan allowed eastern Jerusalem to fall into disrepair—to become a slum, with virtually no water or plumbing or electricity. This is of course not how an Islamic nation would treat a city that was really holy to Islam.

Tellingly, in the not-so-distant past, Muslims recognized the Temple Mount as the site of the biblical Jewish temples. Thus, the Jerusalem Muslim Supreme Council's publication, *"A Brief Guide to the Haram Al-Sharif"* (1925 edition, page 4), states about Jerusalem's Temple Mount; *"Its identity with the site of Solomon's Temple is beyond dispute. This, too, is the spot, according to the universal belief, on which 'David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.'"* (The quotation is from 2 Samuel 24:25.)

The same Muslim publication notes on page 16: *"In the west wall of the chamber, a door opens into a staircase descending to Solomon's stables. This is a vast subterranean chamber.... It dates probably as far back as the construction of Solomon's Temple. According to Josephus, it was in existence and was used as a place of refuge by the Jews at the time of the conquest of Jerusalem by Titus in the year 70 A.D."* (After 1954, all such references to the biblical Temples were excised from this publication.)

Mideast scholar Prof. Francis Peters of NYU said that Muslims have always regarded Jerusalem *"with careless indifference."* There has never even been an important place of Muslim learning built or established there.

Leon Uris, famed author of *"Exodus"* wrote, *"Jerusalem has known only two periods of true greatness and these have been separated by 2000 years. Greatness has only happened under Jewish rule.... Jews have remained constant in their love throughout the centuries. It is the longest and deepest love affair in the history of the world."*

It is only by the reunification of Jerusalem under Israeli rule since 1967 that the city has been revitalized, enjoyed stunning growth, and finally enjoys full freedom of religion and access to holy sites for people of every faith. This would be threatened by its redivision, as is already obvious in the massive Christian exodus from Palestinian-Arab-controlled Gaza and Bethlehem.

Whatever form a final peace deal may one day take, there is no morally just, religiously or factually based, or legally sound reason to dignify the falsified, fabricated Muslim claims to Jerusalem.

The fabrication that Jerusalem is holy to Islam impedes peace, instigates bloodshed, promotes a historic lie, and denies Judaism's religious, historic and legal rights. It's time to set the record straight.



Morton A. Klein
National President

Follow Morton Klein on Twitter @mortonaklein7

Capitol Hill Pro-Israel Mission

HUNDREDS OF ZOA PRO-ISRAEL ACTIVISTS LOBBY CONGRESS

***“G-d bless ZOA. I’m here to say thank you.
There is no organization in America like ZOA...
People here speak truth to lies,
bring light to darkness.”
—Sen. Ted Cruz***

SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL BILLS

Hundreds of activists from across the country participated in the ZOA’s Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Mission on June 6, 2017. Meeting with almost 100 members of Congress or their staffers, ZOA activists urged Congress to:

- 1) Support the Taylor Force Act, which would stop all aid to Mahmoud Abbas’s Palestinian Authority (PA) unless it ends all pensions to terrorists and their families.
- 2) Support House and Senate bills that would impose new sanctions and strengthen existing financial sanctions against Iran.
- 3) Support House and Senate bills to eliminate the president’s waiver authority and withhold certain funds from the State Dept. until the U.S. embassy is moved to Jerusalem.
- 4) Support House and Senate bills that would prohibit U.S. funding of any UN agency until the UN ends its bias against and demonization of Israel.

At the ZOA’s packed congressional luncheon, held in the Russell Senate Office Building, ZOA activists were addressed by many Democratic and Republican senators and House members, an official from the Trump administration, and other pro-Israel leaders. A sampling of the speeches follows:

MISSION SPEAKERS:

ZOA National
President Morton Klein

ZOA National President Morton A. Klein said, “This is an extraordinary and remarkable time for the Jewish people. Israel controls Jerusalem and most of Judea and Samaria, we have a powerful army, and a friend in the White House in President Donald Trump. The Senate voted yesterday 90 to 0 that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of Israel.”

Turning to an oft-repeated fiction about Jerusalem, Klein observed: “Jerusalem is not holy to Muslims; we are the only ones stating that truth. It’s a complete falsehood. The Temple Mount is called the Temple Mount, not the Mosque Mount...the majority of people living in Jerusalem since the 1850s have been Jews.”

Klein described the claim that Israel is illegally occupying Palestinian Arab lands as an “Orwellian falsehood. Occupation means one country seizing the sovereign land of another country. Israel was the sovereign land of the Jewish people... Until the 1960s, everyone knew that the term ‘Palestinian’ meant Jew... Arabs use the term West Bank to de-Judaize Judea and sever our millennia-long

connection with it.... Ninety-eight percent of Palestinian Arabs live in areas under Palestinian Arab control. Israel's ongoing security presence in parts of Judea and Samaria is the primary reason there is far less terrorism in Israel."

Turning to misleading terminology, Klein observed: "This is an Arab-Islamic war against Israel.... Don't use the term 'Arab-Israeli conflict.' Don't just say that Mahmoud Abbas's Palestinian Authority is not a partner for peace. That's too weak. Tell the truth: that they are an enemy regime. Stop using the term 'two-state solution.' Israel is already a state. No one is talking of creating two states, but of creating one state, a Palestinian Arab state. Call it what it is: the Palestinian State solution. Calling this a two-state solution diminishes Israel's sovereignty.... Don't use the term 'West Bank.' It was called Judea/Samaria for thousands of years until the 1960s. Calling Judea/Samaria the West Bank de-Judaizes it. Don't use the term 'settlements.' They are Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, the biblical Jewish heartland, not foreign colonies in another country. Stop using the term 'occupation,' because there is no occupation. Our political, religious, and legal right is much greater than that of the Arabs."

Klein concluded with the words of Bob Dylan's song, "Neighborhood Bully," which expresses the absurdity of Israel being depicted as a regional bully.

"I am not just honored. I am grateful for what this room represents. I am grateful to fighters like Mort Klein."
—Dr. Sebastian Gorka

Sen. Ted Cruz

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX): "G-d bless ZOA. I'm here in the spirit of celebration and to say thank you. There is no organization in America like ZOA. There is no pro-Israel leader in America with the clarity and ferocity of Morton Klein. I'm glad that the people here speak truth to lies, bring light to darkness. What characterizes ZOA is a relentless commitment to the truth.

"We have a lot to celebrate, in that Barack Obama is no longer president.... We no longer have an executive branch that is relentlessly hostile to Israel.... What a relief it is to have Nikki Haley at the UN. Isn't it nice to have a UN ambassador who knows the difference between the IDF and Hamas?

"I don't know how you can make peace with those who want to murder you. Here's what I've told the administration: No one wants peace more than Israel. But if you want peace, what will further peace is moving the embassy. The only thing the terrorists respect is strength. If the embassy is moved, Egypt, the Saudis, Jordan will make noise, but privately, they'll breathe sighs of relief, because they will know that if the administration has the backbone to do that, then the administration will have the backbone to deal with Iran.

"I wish that on January 20, the Iran deal had been ripped to shreds. But at a minimum, what I would suggest to ZOA is that you use your collective voice to submit the Iran deal to the Senate as a treaty, where we will vote it down. It's amazing how following the Constitution resolves things.

"[UN Security Council Resolution 2334 is] blatantly, nakedly anti-Israel. The UN declared that much of Israel is illegal and illegitimate, the Jewish control of the Western Wall, and the Jewish Quarter, and the Temple Mount, and the Mt. of Olives Cemetery is illegal and illegitimate. When running for president, Obama circulated widely a picture of himself wearing a yarmulke, standing at the Western Wall, which he now has allowed the UN to declare is illegally and illegitimately in Israel's hands.

"When Abbas came to Washington, D.C., I wish that Abbas had agreed to stop writing checks to pay terrorists. We have much to celebrate with the new administration, but there's more to do. I thank you for your courage and dedication."

Sen. Tom Cotton

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AK) said: "We need to move our embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.... [It would be] an important reminder to the Palestinian people that there are certain issues that are just not open to negotiation. The simple fact of the matter is that Jerusalem is and will be the capital of Israel. Israel should not return to the lines from over 50 years ago that are simply indefensible.... I support the Taylor Force Act.... We are simply saying that you need to cease paying terrorists to kill.

“The UN’s Security Council Resolution 2334 in December was the worst resolution at the UN since the Zionism is Racism Resolution. We are not trying to remake the world, just to get the UN to renounce anti-Semitism. I support the Iran Sanctions Act. The Iran deal was a terrible deal, and Iran is violating it. Tell your congresspersons to bring the Act to the floor and to vote for it.... ZOA’s advocacy efforts are important. You couldn’t be here during a better week.”

Dr. Sebastian Gorka

Dr. Sebastian Gorka, former deputy assistant to President Trump, received a standing ovation and was introduced by Mort Klein as “one of the staunchest allies in support of Israel and in the fight against Islamic terrorism.” Dr. Gorka remarked: “I am not just honored. I am grateful for what this room represents. I am grateful to fighters like Mort Klein. I would like to thank everyone who supported the administration, and individuals in the administration, against the smear campaign by those who seek to undermine the relationship between the administration and Israel. Manchester, the knife intifada, Al Qaeda, ISIS, and so on are all the new totalitarianisms. It is an existential fight for our existence.... It is absurd to say that terrorism is the result of lack of education and poverty. That can be exploited by terrorists, but that’s not the center of gravity. The issue is the terrorists’ ideology.... The president understands that we are in a war with totalitarianism and is in it to win it.... We will support those Muslims who want to defeat those like ISIS.... Just as Reagan delegitimized communism, we must delegitimize the ideology of the jihadists. We will have won when the black flag of ISIS is reviled across the globe as much as the black and red and white flag of the Third Reich.”

Editor Mollie Hemingway

Mollie Hemingway, senior editor at The Federalist and a Fox News contributor, said: “My understanding of Israel has been greatly increased by discussions with ZOA’s Josh London. My understanding was nothing until I visited Israel first-hand and saw that the so-called security wall



Editor Mollie Hemingway speaking at D.C. Mission

was actually a fence.... I hope you understand that terrorists are manipulating and exploiting the media and using it to their advantage all the time.... ZOA, continue to take time with reporters and journalists in doing the work you do.”

Rep. Louie Gohmert

Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) quipped about a compromise on the U.S. embassy issue: “Instead of moving the embassy directly from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, first move it to King David’s first capital, in Hebron. The tomb of David is in Hebron.” Regarding President Trump’s proposed travel ban, Rep. Gohmert observed, “We are going to have to get realistic at some point. There will be some nations that have refugees that are a danger to this country. When judges give constitutional rights to people who are not citizens and have no standing, and are going to share U.S. constitutional rights with the whole world, with people who hate us, this

***“You need willing partners for peace... When you have Abbas naming schools after terrorists and paying terrorists, that is not a partner for peace.”
—Rep. Matt Gaetz***

is insane.” Turning to President Trump’s efforts to produce an Arab/Israeli peace, he said, “Israel gave away land to try to get peace, and the land was used as a staging ground to attack Israel.”

Sen. Sherrod Brown

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) said: “I told Prime Minister Netanyahu, ‘I know you’re happy with the new president and standing up for Israel. I grew up in a Lutheran family in which my faith is important to me. I am familiar with the Jewish faith’s fight for social justice.’”

Rep. Ron DeSantis

Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL): “Fifty years ago, we saw an improbable victory, in a war that could have ended Israel’s existence.... We hear all about not upsetting the peace process, delaying the embassy move. Well, if you want to improve their [Palestinian Arabs’] behavior, moving the embassy is the best thing you can do.... We can’t keep paying the Palestinian Authority when they give money to terrorists. Israel is what’s right about the Middle East.... I appreciate you guys here at ZOA because you have moral clarity about the issues that Israel is facing.... We have to finally designate the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization.”

Rep. Claudia Tenney

Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY) said: “I spent six years in the New York State Assembly. That’s where I was introduced to Jewish issues.... My son attended the Jewish Community Center in Utica, NY... [which] wanted to reach out to help the Bosnian Muslims and bring them to Utica for safe haven. It made me realize how strong the Jewish faith is and how far Jews are willing to go to help.... We support your initiatives and Israel. I’m looking forward to legislation that will assist you, so please reach out to me.”

Rep. Mark Meadows

Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), chairman of the Freedom Caucus: “One of the reasons that I’m



Rep. Ron DeSantis speaking at D.C. Mission

***“We can’t keep paying the Palestinian Authority when they give money to terrorists.... I appreciate you guys here at ZOA because you have moral clarity about the issues that Israel is facing.”
—Rep. Ron DeSantis***

in Congress is not just to grill members of the Department of Justice to enforce the Koby Mandell Act that ZOA introduced and got passed, not just to see if people in government are doing their jobs. When my wife and I came here, we asked ourselves, ‘What can I do for the Jewish people and the nation of Israel today?’ It’s in my heart, and it’s my passion.... I was in the Egyptian embassy about four or five years ago when President Morsi from the Muslim Brotherhood was in power, speaking about what we can do about the Israeli-Egyptian relationship. There were six members of the Muslim Brotherhood there. I shared very firmly that unless they got their attitude right about Israel, there would be no money coming from the U.S. If we can’t make them see the light, we can at least make them feel the heat.”

CUFI's Gary Bauer

Gary Bauer, former Republican presidential candidate and leader of Christians United for Israel (CUFI), said: "It's a real pleasure to be in a room of American Jews who are at least as pro-Israel as I am. In this city, most people, at the first sight of trouble, run for the tall grass, but Mort Klein runs for the front lines.... When I felt bad that our embassy did not get moved, I spent some time reflecting on the last eight years. We were living in a time when a U.S. administration was more upset about Jews building homes in Jerusalem than about Iran building nuclear bombs. December's UN Security Council Resolution 2334 was a shameful vote, a parting present to Israel from the Obama administration.... Obama secretly negotiated with Iran for two years. Then he gave them billions of dollars, some in cash. We released Iranian agents. And this is a country that was directly responsible for manufacturing the IEDs (improvised explosive devices) that killed American soldiers in Iraq. In the new administration, defending Israel is in, ZOA and CUFI are in. J Street is out."

Rep. David Brat

Rep. David Brat (R-VA): "I wrote the book, 'American Underdog: Proof That Principles Matter', which, among others things, explains the three pillars of America's greatness—the Judeo-Christian tradition, the rule of law, and free markets.... Countries that have the three pillars I've described have the most human rights, women's rights, and so on. You fight hard for the US/Israel relationship. Keep doing G-d's work."

Rep. Matt Gaetz

Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) said: "I just returned from my first trip to Israel...[and] there were a few takeaways. Israel is doing a tremendous amount of work to improve the quality of life for her people and her Arab neighbors, including in agriculture, medicine, education, energy.... Nations who get these benefits need to acknowledge this. Israel invested millions of dollars to


provide intensive care units for Arab neighbors, and Arabs refused to even put a small plaque saying that this was donated by the generosity of the Israeli people.... You need willing partners for peace, and Abbas is no such partner. When you have Abbas naming schools after terrorists and paying terrorists, that is not a partner for peace.

"The UN is transferring cash to the PA with no oversight, and we end up with Palestinian school textbooks that glorify terror.... Abbas will never follow the requirements, the commitments under Oslo, which he signed."

Frank Gaffney

Frank Gaffney, president of the Washington-based Center for Security Policy, said: "I'm honored to be here with Mort Klein, who received our Keeper of the Flame Award." Noting the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War, he said, "During those memorable six days...those lands were recovered by Israel, putting to an end threats Israel faced during its first couple of decades of existence. Now, once again, Israel is being told it must give up the high ground.... But there can be no peace if the high ground between Israel and the Palestinians is in the latter's hands. So, whether it's trying to divide Jerusalem or make a Palestinian state in Judea/Samaria, no good will come of this, for Israelis or Palestinians. We tried this in Gaza, we tried this in Lebanon, and what followed in both cases was an unmitigated disaster. Israel is on the front line for us in the very dangerous Middle East."

THANKS TO ZOA STAFF

Mort Klein thanked Howard Katzoff and the entire ZOA staff for their work in making the ZOA's Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Mission such a success. Mort gave special thanks to Josh London and Dan Pollak, co-directors of the ZOA's Government Relations Department, who were masters of ceremonies at the congressional luncheon and led the discussion of issues, and who worked so hard to bring such an impressive array of members of Congress to address ZOA activists. 

"In this city, most people, at the first sight of trouble, run for the tall grass, but Mort Klein runs for the front lines.... In the new administration, defending Israel is in, ZOA and CUFI are in. J Street is out."

—Gary Bauer

DC MISSION PICTORIAL



1 ZOA members Roberta Dzubow and Brenda Schlenger and Greater Philadelphia ZOA Board Member Judith Taylor

2 Co-Director, Government Relations Josh London

3 Mort Klein and Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC)

4 Kennedy Caucus room in the U.S. Senate with ZOA delegates

5 Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Mort Klein

6 Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) thanking Co-Director, Government Relations Dan Pollak

7 A speaker addressing the ZOA delegates

8 ZOA delegates including Dr. Eugene Greenstein of Michigan



DC MISSION PICTORIAL



1 ZOA delegates

2 Steve Feldman, Philadelphia Executive Director, and Rep. Dave Brat (R-VA)

3 Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC)

4 Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL)

5 Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

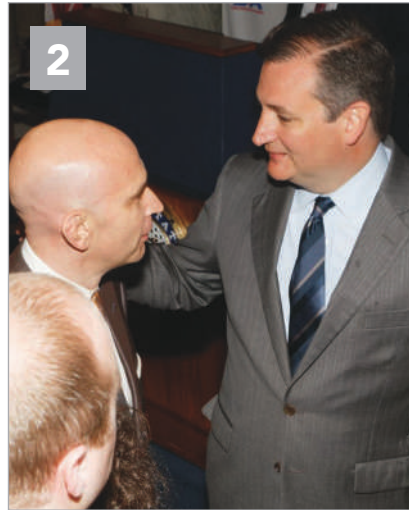
6 Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

7 Mort Klein and Frank Gaffney, President of Center for Security Policy, with Josh London in the background

8 ZOA NY Exec. Director Zach Stern (center) with ZOA delegates



DC MISSION PICTORIAL



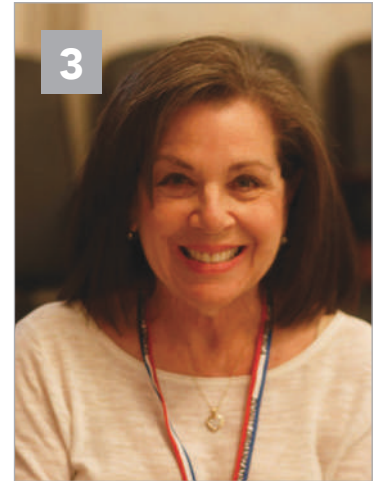
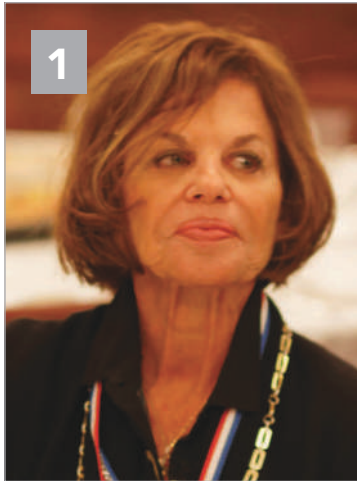
- 1 John Rosen, ZOA Executive VP
- 2 Daniel Mandel, Director of ZOA's Center for Middle East Policy, and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)
- 3 ZOA's Zach Stern, Paul Basisty, Nancy Hollander, and Enid Roman
- 4 ZOA delegate
- 5 Mort Klein and Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)
- 6 ZOA delegates including Dr. Alan Mazurek
- 7 ZOA delegate
- 8 Event speakers Gary Bauer, CUFI Action fund, Dr. Sebastian Gorka, Deputy Assistant to President Trump, and Frank Gaffney, President of Center for Security Policy

DC MISSION PICTORIAL



- 1 Dr. Sebastian Gorka, Deputy Assistant to President Trump, and Mort Klein
- 2 Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) and his aide, Derek Silver, former student activist and ZOA pro-Israel student activism honoree
- 3 ZOA Philly Co-President Lee Bender and Philadelphia area delegates
- 4 Rep. Dave Brat (R-VA) and Gary Bauer of CUFI
- 5 ZOA delegates meet with Congressional staffer
- 6 Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY)
- 7 Mid-Atlantic ZOA Campus Coordinator Or Taylor and Michael Bender
- 8 Ken Abramowitz speaking, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) in foreground

DC MISSION PICTORIAL



1 Greater Philadelphia ZOA Board Member
Judith Taylor

2 Mid-Atlantic ZOA Campus Coordinator
Or Taylor and Michael Bender

3 ZOA delegate

4 Gary Bauer, CUFI Action fund

5 ZOA delegate

6 Mort Klein

7 ZOA delegate Patti Klein and Pittsburgh
Executive Director Stuart Pavilack



ZOA People

"It is the responsibility of the world to support Israel," says Isaac Abraham, a New York City real estate entrepreneur and member of ZOA's national board. Given the Jewish people's history and what the world has done to us over millennia, he believes it is only fitting. "Why is there so much pushback?" he asks, rhetorically. One can rightly say that Isaac Abraham is pushing back against that "pushback."

For the New-York-City-bred and based son of an Argentinian mother and Afghani father, with family that has lived throughout the Middle East, it was natural to be a Zionist, Isaac says, although he notes that it was not until an incident in college that a spark was ignited. Isaac was spending a study year abroad at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, when a Palestinian Arab suicide bombing occurred two blocks from the campus. While he had always been pro-Israel, he says, "my perspective changed," and he became an activist.

Then he attended a talk by ZOA National President Morton Klein.

"I met Morton Klein at a Passover event in upstate New York," he recalls. "I've never connected with anyone who speaks about Israel [the way he connected with Mort]. Mort's lecture was on a par with my logic. It was the first time I heard the truth."

After their meeting, Isaac began helping ZOA with the organization's real estate matters, pro bono. Three years ago, he says, "Mort asked me to join the board," and Isaac accepted. "It's a pleasure to help Israel and ZOA."

Isaac, 31, is a co-founder of Witnick Real Estate Partners, a boutique private-equity company started three years ago. The firm acquires, develops, and manages mixed-use and multi-family buildings, concentrating on North Brooklyn and Manhattan. "We make improvements enhancing the quality of life for tenants," he says.

As for his work with ZOA, Isaac tries to spread the word about our organization among his peers and others with whom he interacts. He tells them that ZOA "sends the right message" about Israel, the Middle East, and the Arab war against Israel. "It's not sugar-coated. ZOA gets right down to business." The organization's leadership, he says, is "taking the right steps. It makes me excited to be a part of ZOA."

Isaac's view of the ZOA's work may differ from the views of others. "I don't consider it [simply] a pro-Zionist agenda; I regard it as spreading the truth," he says.

And that truth is most sorely needed, he says, at America's universities and colleges. The University of California (UC) statewide system, in particular, "is very tainted." (The ZOA, especially through our Center for Law and Justice, has aggressively pursued problems at UC campuses.)

PROFILE:



ISAAC ABRAHAM


Generally, notes Isaac, the attitude on America's campuses is, "whatever Israel does is wrong." That must change, he says, and ZOA is doing it. However, he says, "more funds are needed to deploy [ZOA's message] on campuses."

Isaac completed his undergraduate studies at Queens College CUNY and obtained his MBA degree from the University of Rochester. While there, he and another student co-founded a chapter of JAMBA (Jewish Association of MBAs). He earned another master's degree, in real estate, at Columbia University.

Ironically, Columbia, based in the heart of New York City, has for years been one of the most anti-Israel campuses. Isaac is optimistic that this will change. "There are some young people going against the norm," he says. "We hope the tide will turn."

Isaac recognizes that "people need to be informed about what's going on," which ZOA is doing as part of its mission. But, he says, "we need better education, more [social media]."

While education and social media have played a role in his own growth as a pro-Israel advocate and young leader, "a big factor is the stories that I heard growing up," he says. Isaac's family from Iran, Lebanon, and elsewhere in the Middle East helped shape his outlook from an early age. "I've gotten a holistic perspective," he says. On his mother's side, many relatives were murdered in the Holocaust. "That also impacted my experience."

"Being a Zionist is part of my fiber," Isaac states proudly. "My parents never needed to force me to love Israel and care about Israel. Being involved with ZOA helps me fulfill that passion." 

Center for Law and Justice

If implemented, the Student Senate's BDS amendment would prevent students and student groups from exercising their right to affiliate with and support Israel. It also would make Pitzer the first campus in North America to carry out a boycott against Israel.



SUSAN TUCHMAN
Director, Center for
Law and Justice

PITZER COLLEGE RESCINDS ITS BDS INITIATIVE, EMBRACING ZOA'S LEGAL ARGUMENT FOR REPEAL

Last April, the Student Senate of California's Pitzer College amended its bylaws to support a boycott of Israel. The amendment prohibited using Student Activities Funds for "payments on goods or services" from certain "corporations and organizations associated with the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories." Student Activities Funds come from mandatory fees imposed on all students to support extracurricular activities.

If implemented, the amendment would prevent students and student groups, such as Hillel, from exercising their right to affiliate with and support Israel. It also would make Pitzer the first campus in North America to carry out a boycott against Israel.

The ZOA and other groups urged Pitzer's leadership to rescind the amendment. In a letter last May, the ZOA informed the leadership that rescinding the amendment was a legal imperative, based on a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2000. The court decided that when universities impose mandatory student activities fees—as Pitzer does—the fees have to be allocated in a viewpoint-neutral basis, in order

to comply with the First Amendment. Pitzer is a private institution, but the ZOA argued that since the college represents itself as upholding the First Amendment, it would likely be held to the same standards under the Constitution as a public university. The ZOA informed the trustees that if the Student Senate were permitted to implement its amendment, and thereby prevent student fees from being allocated in a way that supports Israel, the college would be violating the viewpoint-neutrality requirement mandated by the Supreme Court.

Based on the statement Pitzer's Board of Trustees issued last June rescinding the amendment, the trustees were plainly persuaded by the ZOA's legal argument:

Student Activities Funds are derived from mandatory fees the College levies on all students. Consequently, the Board expects the Student Senate to remain neutral in determining the organizations it recognizes and funds, the amount of funding allocated to each organization, and any restrictions imposed on such funds.

The trustees decided that the amendment was invalid because it "applies a particular point of view on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in restricting the use of Student Activities Funds by all Student Senate-approved student groups." It thus "inappropriately curtails the funds usage rights of all such groups, including those that may have a different perspective."

Based on the statement Pitzer's Board of Trustees issued last June rescinding the amendment, the trustees were plainly persuaded by the ZOA's legal argument.



Dani Dayan, Israel's Consul General in New York (courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

Pitzer College reached the right result under the law and for the good of the campus. The trustees rejected the Student Senate's divisive, anti-Semitic tactics and prevented an initiative that surely would have poisoned the campus climate, particularly for Jewish and pro-Israel students.

AFTER ISRAELI DIPLOMAT'S PROGRAM IS DISRUPTED, CITY COLLEGE APOLOGIZES AND INVESTIGATES

Last May, at the invitation of the ZOA and others, Dani Dayan, Israel's Consul General in New York, was a featured speaker at the City College of New York (CCNY). However, members and supporters of the hate group Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) disrupted Mr. Dayan's presentation—a common SJP tactic on many campuses to stifle Jewish and pro-Israel voices.

The ZOA wrote to Dr. Vincent Boudreau, CCNY's interim president, identifying several SJP violations of CCNY's Henderson Rules of Student Conduct. The rules prohibit obstructing others from the exercise of their rights and interfering with an invited guest's right to advocate his or her views without fearing abuse from those with conflicting viewpoints. The ZOA urged President Boudreau to take several remedial steps, which included issuing a written apology to Mr. Dayan, fully investigating the inci-



Pitzer College (courtesy of www.campusgrotto.com)

dent, and sanctioning wrongdoers in accordance with CCNY's rules.

Hours after receiving the ZOA's emailed letter, President Boudreau issued an excellent statement to the CCNY community. It included an apology to Mr. Dayan and notified the community that a committee had been established to investigate the incident and to recommend a course of action, including discipline. Hopefully, these steps will discourage future disruptions and ensure that invited guests can express their pro-Israel views unimpeded.

ZOA RAISES PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ISRAEL-HATER LINDA SARSOOR

Last spring, the School of Public Health at the City University of New York (CUNY) named Linda Sarsour as its commencement speaker. Sarsour, an organizer of last January's Women's March on Washington, has been touted by some as an activist and feminist. However, as the ZOA demonstrated in public statements and in letters to Chancellor James Milliken, Mayor Bill de Blasio, and Governor Andrew Cuomo, Sarsour's record made her a terrible choice for commencement speaker. Sarsour has tweeted that "nothing is creepier than Zionism" and that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "is a waste of a human being." She opposes the existence of the Jewish state and supports the anti-Israel BDS movement.

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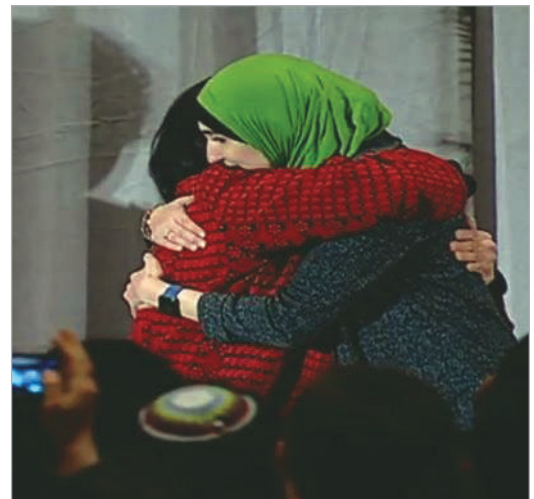
When it comes to anti-Semitism, CUNY should be extra-vigilant. The ZOA recently documented harassment and intimidation endured by Jewish students on four CUNY campuses, including crowds shouting “Jews out of CUNY” and “Death to Jews.”

As the ZOA demonstrated in public statements and in letters to CUNY Chancellor James Milliken, Mayor Bill de Blasio, and Governor Andrew Cuomo, Sarsour’s hateful record made her a terrible choice for commencement speaker.

Even Sarsour’s feminism is bigoted. She claims that Zionists cannot be feminists, and she has condemned and demeaned a genuine feminist, Ayaan Hirsi Ali. Ms. Hirsi Ali was subjected to genital cutting as a young Muslim girl and opposed her family’s efforts to force her to marry against her wishes. In the face of death threats, she has spoken out courageously against the role Islam plays in perpetuating the abuse of girls and women. Yet Sarsour is contemptuous of Hirsi Ali, tweeting that her “vagina should be taken away” and that she doesn’t “deserve” to be a woman.

Sarsour does speak positively about terrorism and violence against Jews and Israelis. She praised a photo of an Arab child holding rocks in both hands and walking toward Israeli soldiers as “the definition of courage.” When criticized for this tweet, Sarsour responded: “The Zionist trolls are out to play. Bring it.” She also praised the intifada—the term for the Palestinian Arab terror war against Jews in Israel—calling it “invaluable on many fronts.”

Last April, Sarsour shared a stage with Rasmea Odeh, who served time in an Israeli prison for her role in a supermarket bombing that killed two college students. After Odeh’s release, she



Linda Sarsour embraces convicted terrorist Rasmea Odeh (courtesy of Legal Insurrection)

was able to immigrate to the U.S. by concealing her criminal record. Now, her U.S. citizenship is being revoked, and she is being deported to Jordan. Sarsour nonetheless publicly praised

Odeh, stating that she was “honored to be on this stage with Rasmea.”

Given Sarsour’s record, it’s hard to fathom how Milliken, CUNY’s trustees, Cuomo, and de Blasio failed to stop this documented bigot and hater from being given a prestigious podium at New York’s public university. CUNY would not have tolerated a commencement speaker with a history of bigotry toward African Americans, Hispanics, or LGBTQ individuals—nor should it. When it comes to anti-Semitism, CUNY should be extra-vigilant. Just a short time ago, the ZOA documented the harassment and intimidation that Jewish students were enduring on four CUNY campuses, including crowds chanting “Jews out of CUNY” and “Death to Jews.”

By honoring Sarsour, CUNY let down the new graduates and their families, who were entitled to a commencement speaker who modeled CUNY’s values of mutual respect, tolerance, and civility. CUNY also sent a terrible message to the university community: that anti-Semitic bigotry is acceptable and that those who have the power and authority to oppose it won’t.

ZOA CONTINUES ITS FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM AT UCI

Since 2004, the ZOA has been fighting for a safe and welcoming learning environment for Jewish students at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). In that year, ZOA filed a student-backed civil rights complaint, alleging that the administration had failed to rectify anti-Semitic hostility in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Recently, there were glimmers of hope that UCI was finally serious about addressing campus anti-Semitism.

In October 2016, Vice Provost Douglas Haynes issued a report entitled “Higher Ground: The Alignment of UCI’s Policies, Principles, and Practices with the UC Regents’ Principles Against Intolerance.” The report acknowledged the fear and feelings of ostracism that some Jewish students experienced at UCI, particularly regarding anti-Israel rhetoric on campus, and recommended steps to remedy these problems.




UCI Chancellor Howard Gillman

Last November, the ZOA’s Susan Tuchman met with Haynes at Hillel International’s offices in Washington, D.C. They discussed the long-standing harassment and intimidation of Jewish students at UCI and how it could be effectively addressed.

Given these positive developments, it was disappointing when, last May, UCI failed to take any action after SJP disrupted a campus program featuring Israel Defense Forces veterans, in violation of UCI rules.

In a letter to UCI Chancellor Howard Gillman, the ZOA documented SJP’s serial violations of UCI’s rules, its role in creating a hostile anti-Semitic environment, and its repeated disruption of Jewish and pro-Israel speakers and programs. The ZOA argued that after such a long pattern of egregious behavior, SJP’s registered status should be revoked—especially if UCI is committed to addressing the fear and feelings of ostracism that Jewish students have endured.

To date, there is no evidence that UCI has imposed any consequences on SJP. Thus, UCI remains a campus where Jewish and pro-Israel students may feel neither safe nor welcome. 

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Government Relations

ZOA remains one of the only Jewish organizations not in denial—and perhaps the only one that never pretended otherwise—about the actual state of partisan reality on issues relating to Israel.



Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

As Washington continues its preoccupation with health care policy and the alleged Russia scandal, important foreign policy is suffering from some inattention. The Trump administration still has the potential to make game-changing impacts to Iran policy, the Arab war against Israel, and other areas where ZOA is heavily engaged, but it appears some additional patience may be required to allow the administration to make a difference in each of these areas. Congress still has an important role to play at driving policy, as well. We've noted in the past the increasingly partisan environment in Congress and the impact this has had on our policy issues. Unfortunately, this divide has increased and gotten much worse. The pro-Israel consensus within the Democratic Party was already under siege by political and ideological forces within the party's big tent. President Obama actively enabled those forces and encouraged the ongoing fraying of the pro-Israel consensus in exchange for short-term political gain to, among other things, smash resistance to the Iran deal.

The situation today has deteriorated, as anti-Israel elements have grown more emboldened. The larger context of opposition to all things related to President Trump has added yet another layer of difficulty, standing in the way of efforts to find common ground.

ZOA remains one of the only Jewish organizations not in denial—and perhaps the only one that never pretended otherwise—about the actual state of partisan reality on issues relating to Israel. ZOA remains firmly in favor of strong bipartisan pro-Israel policies, but when we encounter the reality of partisan hostility, we do not pretend it is not present and so never allow good actions to be held hostage to such niceties.

THE TAYLOR FORCE ACT

Taylor Force was a U.S. citizen, Army veteran, and West Point graduate who was killed by Palestinian Arab terrorists while on a graduate school trip to Israel in 2016. The Taylor Force Act currently working its way through Congress will limit or eliminate U.S. funding to the Palestinian Authority (PA) as long as the PA continues to make payments to terrorists and their families. It turns out that these payments, made on a sliding scale depending on how heinous the original crimes were, amount to a significant portion of the \$500 million dollars the U.S. pays annually to the PA.

ZOA has been a champion of this bill, which was the main focus of our successful June 2017 mission. The next step is the elimination of all



DAN POLLAK
Co-Director,
Government
Relations Department



JOSH LONDON
Co-Director,
Government
Relations Department

aid to the PA until it begins to fulfill its many interim peaceaccord obligations, such as ending the promotion of hatred and violence against Jews and Israel in its schools, media, speeches, and children's camps. 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, as actual refugees from the conflicts in Syria and Iraq tax 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 cares for all refugees in the world except Palestinian Arabs.

IRAN

The disastrous 2015 Iran deal, aka the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), looms large as President Trump decides how best to mitigate and reverse the damage caused by this catastrophic blunder. So far, the Trump administration has moved cautiously. In the administration's first six months, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has twice certified that Iran is observing the letter of the agreement while violating its spirit. In fact, the ZOA has pointed out that there have been numerous violations of the agreement's actual terms, and we look forward to the administration making the case to our allies that the agreement is not aiding the cause of keeping Iran constrained. Unless something changes, Iran is cruising under the deal to a full military nuclear capability, even without cheating, in just a few years. Since the agreement's implementation, Iran has embarked on a series of actions that show utter contempt for the international community, and the U.S. in particular. This agreement must be officially terminated.

U.S. EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM AND OTHER PRIORITIES


ZOA also remains committed to moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. The Trump administration has continued the abysmal bipartisan presidential tradition of ignoring the intent

of the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act and using a national security exception intended to be temporary to neuter the bill completely. President Trump's staff, including Dr. Sebastian Gorka, have told the ZOA and other Jewish groups that the president intends to keep his campaign promise to move the embassy before his term is over. ZOA continues to believe this act will have more than symbolic significance, thereby enhancing the chances of real peace in the region.

The ZOA's Government Relations Department also continues to focus on our other regular legislative priorities, including fighting 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 attacks against pedestrians, and shootings in Israel are directly attributable to PA incitement. The U.S. has done little to hold Mahmoud Abbas, now enjoying the 12th year of his four-year term, accountable for his barbaric statements encouraging violence and murder.

In addition to dealing with our elected officials, Government Relations interacts with Jewish and Christian pro-Israel organizations in Washington, as well as other American Jewish groups. For example, in conjunction with ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, we continue to pursue opportunities to team with other Jewish groups to combat BDS, to make certain that Title VI Department of Education grants to Middle Eastern Studies departments are appropriately used, and to ensure that the Department of Education enforces its policy protecting Jewish students from discrimination at universities.

We work closely with our regional directors and with Jeff Daube, ZOA Israel's director. We also participate in meetings, public forums, and policy discussions with foreign policy and political professionals, and we continue to engage in print and broadcast media opportunities to spread the word on ZOA's issues. Government Relations co-directors have also visited ZOA chapters to give talks and educate our members on the situation in Washington. 

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Purim Mission

ZOA'S EXCITING 2017 PURIM MISSION TO ISRAEL

THE MISSION TO ISRAEL OFFERS INSIGHTS ON BORDER POLICE, ARAB NEIGHBORS, KIBBUTZ GUARDS AND MORE

I have been to Israel many times, but never has my life changed in the way it changed this year during the ZOA's 10-day Purim Mission to Israel.

Howard Katsoff, ZOA's deputy executive director, called my sister in Ohio and me in Atlanta to ask us to join the mission he was planning with Jeff Daube, director of ZOA's Israel office. Little did I know that by the end of the trip, I would be a different person.

ZOA's Purim shalach manot mission was created to bring the joy of Purim to the Magav, the Israeli border police who patrol the area between Israel and Samaria (part of the so-called West Bank). In these tense places, soldiers are not allowed to leave their posts for Purim.

So, we loaded our bulletproof bus with big plastic bags filled with candy and other goodies, as well as letters to the soldiers written by children at Jewish day schools across the U.S., including Atlanta's Epstein School and Torah Day School.

Our first stop was at the most dangerous post, Tzomet Patuach in Samaria. The soldiers there have faced shootings, stabbings, car ramming and other incidents. They were thrilled to see us. The unit's commander, an Israeli Arab Muslim, talked to us, and we sang and danced with the soldiers.

When we learned that it was the birthday of a soldier in the watchtower, we formed a semi-circle and sang to wish him a happy birthday. One of our mission members ran up the stairs to hand him a letter and goodies, and the soldier put his hand over his heart, read the letter and wiped tears from his eyes.



Goldie Kopmor (co-author with Harriet Cortell of the article in the Atlanta and Dayton newspapers), with soldiers

No one seems to show these brave border guards how much we care about them, how much we appreciate their protection, and how much we pray for them, even in the U.S.

The elite units at the border bases in Tulkarem and Qalqilya are made up of Christians, Jews, Druze, and Muslims, all of whom are fluent in Arabic and Hebrew. "Do you think we want to live under the oppressive PLO or Hamas or sharia law?" one soldier said. "In Israel, we are free people."

On Shabbat afternoon, an Arab Muslim newspaper reporter, Khaled Abu Toameh, talked to us about the facts on the ground.

"There will never be a two-state solution," he said. "There will never be a political peace between Israel and the PLO. Even if you give them 99 percent of all they want, they will not take it. Why? Because their goal is the complete destruction of Israel and the complete dominance of the entire Mideast" and then the world.

We were told that children are being taught in Palestinian Arab schools to hate anyone different from themselves and to embrace martyrdom as the path to greatness.



From left:
Jeff Daube,
Rubin Margules,
Dr. Alan Mazurek,
and Howard Katzoff
with IDF soldiers

EFRAT, SDEROT, AND KIBBUTZ NAHAL OZ

Visiting the “settlement” of Efrat, which is located 20 minutes outside Jerusalem, and Sderot, on the Gaza border, was truly a life-changing experience. These are beautiful, bustling towns of some 10,000 and 20,000 people, respectively, with modern buildings and homes with bomb shelters.

Sderot has two bomb shelters on every street because the city gets only a 15-second warning when rockets are fired from Gaza. We were impressed by the residents’ bravery, their faith in G-d, and their joy in Torah.

As our bus drove into Sderot, Rabbi David Fendel—who serves both the city and a yeshiva where students spend half the year learning Torah and half serving in the military—greeted us with dance and song. We followed as he led a parade of dancing, singing yeshiva boys, accompanied by a horn-blaring, Purim-decorated truck.

The most lasting impression occurred at Kibbutz Nahal Oz, a five-minute drive from Sderot and a half-mile and three fields (under which Hamas could be digging tunnels) from Gaza. We stood at the wire fence separating the kibbutz from the fields and could hear a truck we saw moving along the border road in Gaza.

The brave kibbutz families are protected by a group of trained men and women volunteer

commandos, called Yatar Israel. This ATV (all-terrain vehicle) unit patrols the area and reacts quickly to capture terrorists in areas that security vehicles cannot reach, such as narrow alleys and dirt roads in the hills and fields. Many of these volunteers work day jobs, then patrol at night, leaving only a couple of hours for sleep. “My wife and children live here. Of course, I am going to be a Yatar volunteer to protect them,” one commando said. “Why do we live here? Because this is our home, and Israel needs us.”

BUILDING THE BORDER FENCE

Thanks to the ZOA mission, we came to realize how deeply biased the media is and how naive Western thinking is. The misconceptions include Israel’s border barrier. In fact, only five percent of it is a cement wall; the rest is a wire fence with 24-hour video monitoring and electronic touch sensors. Dan Tirza, the retired Israel Defense Forces colonel who planned the 451-mile-long fence, told us that plotting the route was one of his biggest responsibilities. He explained that he zigzagged it in order to try and keep Arab houses and agricultural land together.

After witnessing the unbelievable bravery of our people in Israel, who are risking their lives to keep Israel safe and strong, we realized that those



Participants in the ZOA's Purim Mission to Israel

of us who are not living in Israel must do more to help the soldiers and border police and show them we care. We are an eternal people, bound to each other through our Torah covenant with G-d, responsible to those who came before us to continue the holy work of ensuring that this sacred gift of the land of Israel will be there for those who come after us.

MOUNT OF OLIVES CEMETERY

One holy moment came during our visit to the 3,000-year-old Jewish cemetery on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives, which contains more than 200,000 graves, including those of prophets and revered rabbis.

Without the protection of an armed guard, it has been dangerous for Jews to hold burials, visit graves, or even to travel the streets, through a heavily Arab area, leading to the cemetery. Today, thanks to the ZOA and the efforts of Jeff Daube, there are 147 monitored surveillance cameras and an extra police presence on nearby roads and in the cemetery.


Standing among those graves, I felt Jewish history come alive. At the burial site of Prime Minister Menachem Begin and his wife, and looking over the countless white burial monu-



May Long with IDF soldier

ments of our Jewish people, I realized even more strongly how connected we Jews are to one another, to Torah, and to the land of Israel.

That was made more poignant when Howard Katsoff showed my sister and me the burial site of our great-grandmother, Sima, who immigrated to Israel around 1904 to escape pogroms in Poland and was buried on the Mount of Olives in 1914.

For a brief moment, time stopped. My soul was part of hers and part of every soul buried there. 

ZOA Campus

Throughout the spring semester, we co-sponsored a variety of events that proudly displayed Zionist values and educated both students and faculty about the importance of Israel advocacy.

ZOA CAMPUS: THE MOST UNAPOLOGETIC ZIONIST VOICE ON AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

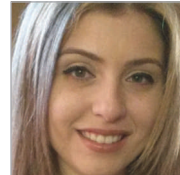
ONWARD AND UPWARD AROUND THE COUNTRY

ZOA Campus achieved new heights, both on campuses and within our department, in the 2016-17 academic year. Campus coordinators helped to plan and execute 206 meaningful pro-Israel and Zionist events on 123 campuses across the nation, with over 155 pro-Israel student groups.

Leore Ben-David, formerly associate director of ZOA Campus and the West Coast Campus Coordinator, has been promoted to managing director of ZOA Campus. New England Campus Coordinator Jonathan Ginsburg also rose in the ranks, to his new role as associate director of ZOA Campus.

Southeast Campus Coordinator Annie Cohen joined the team in the fall of 2016, and has been engaging college students in her region in pro-Israel activities while promoting Zionism on campus. ZOA Campus was honored to host Mark Halawa, a Kuwaiti-born Muslim who discovered and reclaimed his Jewish roots, at Florida Atlantic University. ZOA Campus also co-sponsored a tour of campuses throughout Florida with writer and activist Hen Mazzig.

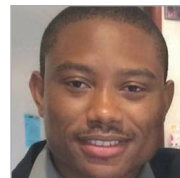
Midwest Campus Coordinator Liora Chaya Levich, who grew up in Ma'ale Adumim, is the department's newest addition [at the time of writing]. Based in Chicago, she began working at the ZOA in early 2017. ZOA Campus continues to have strong relationships with key schools in the Midwest region. Throughout the spring semester, we co-sponsored a variety of events that proudly displayed Zionist values and educated both students and faculty about the importance of Israel advocacy.



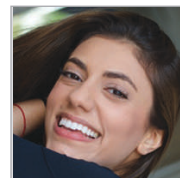
Managing Director & West Coast Campus Coordinator
LEORE BEN-DAVID, Los Angeles, CA



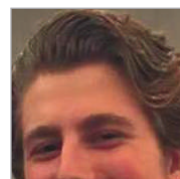
Associate Director and Northeast Campus Coordinator
JONATHAN GINSBURG, Boston, MA



Krav Maga Educator and Ohio/Michigan Campus Coordinator
PANDIT MAMI, Detroit, MI



Southeast Campus Coordinator
ANNIE COHEN, Miami, FL



Mid-Atlantic Campus Coordinator
OR TAYLOR, Washington, D.C.



Midwest Campus Coordinator
LIORA LEVICH, Chicago, IL



Tri-State Campus Coordinator
SETH GREENWALD, New York, NY

SodaStream has been a target of the BDS movement, even though it has been a model of peaceful Jewish-Arab coexistence... [students] are getting a quick lesson on why BDS hurts Palestinian Arabs more than it will ever affect Israel's economy.



Three ZOA Israel trip alumni with ZOA Campus Associate Director Jonathan Ginsburg at an Artists for Israel event at Brandeis University

ZOA Campus in New England and upstate New York continued its strong work, engaging regional students and professionals while championing the spirit of Zionism. In April, ZOA Campus was especially proud and grateful to host Sharren Haskel, the Likud party's youngest female member of Knesset. MK Haskel had speaking engagements at Harvard and Brandeis universities.

In the Mid-Atlantic region, Or Taylor built and maintained connections with seven new schools and introduced them to all that ZOA Campus has to offer. At Muhlenberg College, a small liberal arts college in Allentown, Pennsylvania, ZOA Campus hosted Neil Lazarus, an expert in Middle East policy, diplomacy, and communications. We also were extremely proud to celebrate the State of Israel's 69th Independence Day by co-sponsoring Yom Ha'atzmaut festivals at the University of Pennsylvania, Muhlenberg College, East Carolina University, Temple University, and other campuses. ZOA Campus also helped defeat a BDS resolution at George Washington University and will continue this fight in the semesters to come.

Pandit Mami, former Midwest Campus Coordinator, is now the campus coordinator covering Ohio and Michigan. In March, we collaborated with the Ohio State University Hillel to defeat a BDS referendum for the third time in three con-

secutive years. Due to the popularity of and high demand for his Krav Maga education program, Pandit now tours the country teaching Jewish self-defense to campus student groups. Working with our dedicated Campus Fellow at Western Washington University, we hosted a Krav Maga tour of universities in the Pacific Northwest, including Oregon and Washington.

Across the country, ZOA's campus coordinators and their Campus Fellows conducted over 50 SodaStream Root Beer Float events. These events were inspired by Leore Ben-David's work in the West Coast region. She equipped her Campus Fellows with SodaStream sparkling water machines to use as interactive tools while they tabled and engaged with students about Israel. SodaStream has been a target of the BDS movement, even though it has been a model of peaceful Jewish-Arab co-existence. As students are having fun carbonating and custom-flavoring their fizzy water from the SodaStream machines, they are getting a quick lesson on why BDS hurts Palestinian Arabs more than it will ever affect Israel's economy. To top it off, they get to take home their bubbly beverages in a special ZOA 120th anniversary reusable mood cup. (It changes color to blue if you are a true Zionist.)

ON- AND OFF-CAMPUS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

ZOA Campus was invited to contribute as a partner organization at numerous national student conferences across the country. In February, ZOA Campus was invited to run a SodaStream tabling event at the International Anti-BDS Conference in Los Angeles. The event was a huge success, and the ZOA Campus table drew a disproportionately large crowd due to its unique interactive nature.

In March, ZOA Campus hosted a large, well-attended gathering in Washington, D.C. We had secured a stylish venue across the street from the Convention Center where the AIPAC Policy Conference takes place. ZOA Campus has hosted a student gathering for years, and other organizations do the same. But the day before the event—because we had generated extreme buzz via word of mouth and a strong social media presence—we understood that a partial rent-out of the venue would not suffice.

We packed the place with over 900 attendees, including young professionals, students, ZOA Israel trip alumni, Campus Fellows, national board members, and longtime ZOA supporters. Our event was the talk of the town, and we have big shoes to fill for next year, as people are already asking how they can secure a place on the ZOA's invitation list.

In June, ZOA Campus led a seminar on Zionism and hosted a large-scale Krav Maga session at the largest conservative women's student conference in Dallas, Texas.

ZOA FELLOWSHIP: BUILDING BRIDGES BASED ON SHARED VALUES

Focusing on the indigenous rights of Jews to the land of Judea, ZOA Campus co-sponsored events ranging from guest speakers and panel discussions to cooking classes and film screenings. These events not only attracted and engaged students who would not normally attend pro-Israel or Jewish events; they also built

a foundation for meaningful connections with student leaders from the Armenian, Assyrian, Coptic, and Native American communities. The goal is to reverse the anti-Israel bias that groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) are fueling on campus.

This year marked the 50-year anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification after the Six-Day War. ZOA Campus saw this as an educational opportunity to expand on why the ZOA supports an eternal and undivided capital for the Jewish people in Jerusalem. ZOA Campus participated in commemorative events at Israeli consulates, Jewish Federations, and Hillels throughout the U.S.

SUMMER STUDENT LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL

In June and July, more than 30 students—about a third from West Coast universities, mostly in Southern California—participated in our second annual ZOA Summer Mission to Israel. We hand-picked the travelers to participate in a journey that, as one student remarked, “transformed my life and opened my eyes to the privileges I took for granted as an American Jew in the U.S.”

The Mission to Israel is a fun, intense two weeks of immersive and experiential education and advocacy training in Israel. Students travel throughout the Jewish state, including Jerusalem, Judea/Samaria, and strategic border regions (the Western Negev, Galilee, Jordan Valley, and Golan Heights). They meet with Knesset members from different political parties, Jewish and Arab Israeli journalists, policy and military experts, and much more.

This trip is designed to engage in a meaningful way Israel activists and those committed to becoming Israel activists on their college campuses. In preparation for the trip, ZOA Campus encouraged the students to arm themselves with all of the falsehoods about Israel that they are often exposed to on campus. We then challenged them to dispel each and every one through facts on the ground, personal experiences, and first-hand accounts.

On the trip, students heard from Itamar Marcus, founder and director of Palestinian Media

We packed the place with over 900 attendees, including young professionals, students, ZOA Israel trip alumni, Campus Fellows, national board members, and long-time ZOA supporters.



ZOA's Jonathan Ginsburg (right) and students with MK Sharren Haskel after her talk on Zionism and feminism at Harvard Hillel

Watch (PMW), which monitors Palestinian Authority (PA)- and Hamas-run news outlets, and social and other media, such as TV, radio, and film. Students watched in disbelief as Mr. Marcus showed them clip after clip of PA- and Fatah-sponsored children's TV shows that openly spew hateful incitement against Jews and indoctrinate youth against the people and state of Israel.

The Jewish struggle for independence and survival was another common theme throughout the trip. Students visited the Palmach Museum and understood what it was like for young men and women—many of whom were Holocaust survivors, no older than the students themselves—to step out of concentration camps and onto the battlefield in Palestine.

In Gush Etzion, ZOA campus coordinators and student participants stood together to honor the brave men and women who held down Jerusalem's last line of defense, only to be massacred by the Jordanian legion hours before the declaration of the independence of the State of Israel.


In Dalyat El-Carmel, participants dined at the home of a local Israeli Druze family and learned about the Druze religion, customs,

culture, and social status of this non-Jewish, but Zionist, minority in Israel.

We thank the MZ Foundation and the Falic family for their generous support of our Student Leadership Mission to Israel, which helps build informed, strong and effective advocates for Israel.

ZOA CAMPUS SUMMER INTERNSHIP

ZOA's Campus Summer Internship is an eight-week program that we host at both our national office in New York and our office in Southern California. Heather Alper—a former intern, ZOA Fellow, and Israel trip alumna—managed four interns in New York City, with the assistance of Elliot Frumkin, another former intern and Israel trip alumus. Leore Ben-David managed two interns in Los Angeles.

Interns researched, monitored, and reported on anti-Semitism and anti-Zionist activities on campus and on social media. Additionally, students were exposed to the ZOA's day-to-day operations, so that they could get a sense of the Israel advocacy field, both on campus and within our organization. 

Israel Office



(R-L) Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat and Gush Etzion leader Shlomo Ne'eman oppose demolition of Jewish homes caused by one meter overlap with disputed land in Elazar

TRANSFORMATIVE NEW ADVOCACY DIRECTIONS

The ever-dynamic political landscapes in Israel, the U.S., and Europe have kept the Israel Office hopping even more than usual. In addition, after nearly ten years of ground-work and relationship-building, many pieces are now coming together, in important new ways. This report will focus on three areas of ZOA Israel engagement that signal particular transformative, if not outright game-changing, potential for the road forward.

KNESSET LAW INITIATIVE

Approached by influential interests in the Knesset, the Legal Grounds Campaign (largely supported by ZOA and co-chaired by ZOA Israel Director Jeff Daube) was asked to help spearhead what may turn into a historic endeavor. The state of inequality under the law, experienced for decades by the 450,000 Israeli citizens living in Judea and Samaria, finally is being examined and challenged.

Our collaboration with Orit Struk, administrative head of the Knesset Land of Israel Caucus and a former member of Knesset, began in reaction to a landmark June directive, from Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked and Tourism Minister Yariv Levin,

requiring that Israel's civil laws be applied over the Green Line as they are within it. A promising first move toward ending discrimination based on residence, yes, but the June 1 Shaked-Levin directive is not retroactive. And it pertains only to government bills, not to private bills introduced independently by Knesset members.

So, at an unusually well-attended Knesset hearing on the golden anniversary of the Six-Day War, we announced our intention to advance measures ensuring that new private bills, and select bills enacted into law before June 1, from now on would include Judea/Samaria. After all, as we reminded the plenum, the population in these communities pay their taxes like all other Israeli residents; they also serve disproportionately and with distinction in the IDF.

In a letter to Knesset members, we further described our agenda to support and widely report on the legislative activities of MKs ready to take the lead. In particular, we are looking at laws concerning the disabled, environmental quality, worker entitlements, sexual harassment, maternity rights, and animal rights, as well as laws that prohibit businesses and stores from denying services to uniformed Israeli soldiers.



JEFF DAUBE
Director,
ZOA Israel

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ZOA Israel later pointed out to a number of MKs that leveling the civil-law playing field could help additionally with our struggle against the USAID boycott of Jewish Judea/Samaria. The State Department's oft-proffered claim to justify this policy is that Israel itself treats citizens in the territories differently. The MKs immediately grasped the irony of Israel inadvertently fostering discriminatory U.S. policy, for example, via the recently threatened dismantling of Netiv Ha'avot homes in Elazar, not to mention the large-scale destructions, over past months and years, in Migron, Beit El's Ulpana, Amona, and Ofra. All are the result of a non-transparent, biased adjudication process used solely for Judea/Samaria land disputes. Whether our initiative to address these longstanding injustices ultimately succeeds or not, we can foresee many fresh opportunities along the way to fix the misperceptions about Judea/Samaria's legal status that underlie Israeli diffidence.

"TWO-STATE" ALTERNATIVES

In the face of Palestinian Arab irredentism, bolstered by political correctness and ubiquitous narrow thinking, helping to steer the conversation away from the disastrous two-state paradigm remains a ZOA Israel priority. Roughly a dozen rational alternatives to an irreversible and

existentially dangerous Palestinian Arab sovereign state are presently on the table, but the understanding of their respective benefits and ramifications—especially inside the Beltway—still is seriously limited.

Spring 2009 is the last time the Knesset conducted forums to explore two-state alternatives (hosted in quick succession by Danny Danon, now Israel's UN ambassador, and Tzipi Hotovely, now Israel's deputy foreign minister) before this past June's back-to-back forums, also held with our encouragement and participation. The Legal Grounds team concurrently stepped up its cross-continental inter-parliamentary activities, which had begun in November 2015 with a letter delivered by ZOA Israel to Capitol Hill in coordination with MK Bezalel Smotrich (Bayit Yehudi, Land of Israel Caucus co-chair). For our July 2017 Washington run, we solicited and facilitated proposal letters from four MKs: Yoav Kisch (Likud, Land of Israel Caucus co-chair), Yehudah Glick (Likud), Miki Zohar (Likud), and Shuli Mualem-Refaeli in her capacity as the Bayit Yehudi faction chair. Addressed to fellow legislators in Congress, the letters described favored alternatives ranging from autonomy and federation plans to full Area C annexation.

ZOA Israel's prefacing letter added a request that congressional leaders consider working cooperatively, both with us and with the Knesset, on creating platforms for scrutinizing the vari-



Protests against unequal treatment of Judea/Samaria residents no longer would be needed if the Legal Grounds Knesset law initiative succeeds



(L-R) MK Yehudah Glick, strong advocate for Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, one of four Knesset writers of letters for Washington delivery by Jeff Daube

ous options represented, and on sharing these with their colleagues and constituencies as well as the executive branch. We also asked legislators to revisit the seminal, yet underutilized, Levy Report—having successfully lobbied in 2014 for its entry in the Congressional Record—to emphasize that contemplated alternatives must be based on recognition of Israel's superior claim to Judea/Samaria. The 90-page report, commissioned by Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu and researched by three prominent Israeli jurists, including Supreme Court Justice Edmond Levy, substantiates the rightfulness of this and related claims under international law.

While on past trips to the Hill, ZOA Israel Director Daube had observed a modicum of interest in investigating the alternatives raised, the insertion of individual MK plans into this latest iteration catalyzed a very definite “Let’s hear more about this” attitude. Congressmen Ron DeSantis (R-FL) and Bill Johnson (R-OH), co-chairs of the new Israel Victory Caucus (IVC)—in which ZOA Israel has been separately asked to lend a hand—believe that IVC could be an appropriate sponsor for the in-person or live simulcast briefings we are requesting. We also are consulting with MKs Oded Forer (Yisrael Beiteinu) and Yaakov Peri (Yesh Atid), co-chairs of IVC on the Israel side, on the complex logistics involved in getting this underway.

Continuing to act as an intermediary between Israeli and U.S. leadership, ZOA Israel/Legal Grounds is assembling the next set of letters from MKs to members of Congress, which will include, among others, another from MK Smotrich, and from former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, now a Kulanu MK and deputy minister. It should be noted that, while ZOA has long advocated breaking out of the untenable two-state box, it does not endorse any specific alternative plan.

EUROPEAN ANTI-SEMITISM

ZOA Israel has expanded its reach to parts of Europe in its fight against the disseminated lie of illegal Israeli occupation and other manifestations of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. For 23 years, ZOA has maintained a laser-sharp focus on Palestinian/Islamic incitement as a root cause for these spiking phenomena. Pursuing a bolder response, ZOA Israel also is now spotlighting the need for a tripartite—Israel, the U.S., and Europe—coordinated assessment and action plan.

ZOA Israel’s more direct engagement with European matters began on the heels of several meetings and events attended in close proximity in Israel: with the European Union’s Coordinator for Combating Anti-Semitism, Katharina von Schnurbein, concerning the dangers of so-

ZOA Israel has expanded its reach to parts of Europe in its fight against the disseminated lie of illegal Israeli occupation and other manifestations of anti-Semitism and Israel de-legitimization.



(L-R) MK Shuli Mualem-Refaeli and Middle East scholar Dr. Mordechai Kedar push different two-state alternatives at community event




Legal Grounds presents paper at Hague conference on advancing Israel's rights under international law

Dutch Ambassador to Israel Plug agreed that a tri-continental discourse could be helpful for preventing future hate fests, and assured us he would bring our proposal to the attention of his government.

cial media; with the Knesset Diaspora committee chair, MK Avraham Neguise (Likud), in hearings featuring European Members of Parliament; at two conferences of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and in ongoing consultations requested of us by leading anti-Semitism experts, including Dutch Israeli Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld. At the same time, we found ourselves closely following the U.S. hearings on multilateral approaches to European anti-Semitism led by Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), who chairs the Global Human Rights Subcommittee.

We decided to prioritize the Netherlands, particularly, after meetings with its sympathetic Jerusalem consulate attaché, who was working in tandem for the since-discredited, anti-Israel NGO, World Vision, and for EU Ambassador to Israel Lars Faaborg-Andersen. Having been solicited as well by a strongly pro-Israel Dutch group looking for guidance in its quest to defend Israel by means of international law, ZOA Israel's Legal Grounds sent attorney Karen Stahl-Don to their Hague Peace Palace conference in June. Stahl-Don, a former student of ZOA national board member Prof. Malvina Halberstam, presented an outstanding paper on the relevance of UN General Assembly Resolution 181, which she also summarized at our Legal Grounds Law Course certificate-award ceremony.

Apprised by Dr. Gerstenfeld about the worries of the Dutch Jewish community after an April Rotterdam conference was scheduled by a Hamas-Muslim Brotherhood front group, the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC), ZOA Israel sent a letter to Rep. Smith, asking him to reach out to the Dutch authorities. We also met subsequently with Dutch Ambassador to Israel Gilles Beschoor Plug to discuss prevention, at least, of future such hate fests. Ambassador Plug agreed that a tri-continental discourse could be helpful in this regard and assured us that he would bring our proposal to the attention of his government.

The PRC conference could not be stopped, but our letter to Rep. Smith may have been responsible for a different step in the right direction. After encouraging him to urge Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to fill the vacant Special Envoy to Combat Anti-Semitism position—ZOA Israel had worked on Jerusalem issues with former officeholder Ira Forman—we saw that Smith had sponsored the H.R. 1191 bill for that purpose days later. As part of our summer Washington rounds, we continued to advocate for 1191 with the additional request that the position be upgraded to the more authoritative one of ambassador-at-large. 

ZOA Around the Country

New York has hundreds of organizations dedicated to fostering a community for Jews in general, but none that focus on Israel advocacy and Zionist community-building. ZOA New York is now the only major organization in the area that focuses on strong Zionist education and community-building for young professionals.

ZOA NEW YORK NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The ZOA's New York chapter is proud to announce the appointment of Zach Stern as its new executive director. Zach has been with the ZOA for almost four years and is excited to take on this new role. Before starting this position, he served as managing director of ZOA Campus for more than two years. While leading ZOA Campus, he expanded ZOA's reach at universities to unprecedented levels and oversaw the expansion of the department. He aims to see similar success for ZOA New York as its executive director.

Before working at the ZOA, Zach lived in Tel Aviv and worked for a small nonprofit dedicated to fighting anti-Semitism. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, where he majored in public relations and advertising. He has used his background to spread the ZOA's brand on campus and hopes to do the same in the New York community.

NEW YOUNG PROFESSIONALS INITIATIVE

ZOA New York is excited to announce the launch of its young professionals initiative. The ZOA has had a major presence on local campuses and has engaged hundreds of students throughout New York. However, when these students graduated, there was little in the way of programming to draw them to the ZOA.



ZOA's Zach Stern and Jackie Shafer with speaker Dr. Mordechai Kedar

We are building an initiative, with custom programming, to engage this demographic after college and keep them involved throughout their 20s and 30s. This initiative will create lifelong ZOA members and position the ZOA as a primary resource for young Zionist professionals.

The initiative is especially beneficial for the ZOA because it allows the organization to fill a large gap in New York's pro-Israel market. While there are currently many pro-Israel organizations geared toward students and older adults, there are no organizations dedicated to fostering a community for young Zionists in their 20s and early 30s. Moreover, New York has hundreds of organizations dedicated to fostering a community for Jews in general, but none that focus on Israel advocacy and Zionist community-building. ZOA New York is now the only major organization in the area that focuses on strong Zionist education and community-building for young professionals.

In order to build this community and educate young professionals, ZOA New York will hold monthly—and even bi-weekly—events to engage this demographic. Following are some examples of events the chapter will run:

- Social and educational event series, such as Sunday brunches, movie screenings, and Israel-themed Shabbat dinners;
- Educational and social events, such as wine tastings from Judea/Samaria and Zionist-themed bar trivia;
- Educational speakers, such as IDF soldiers and journalists;

The young professionals initiative will create lifelong ZOA members and position the ZOA as a primary resource for young Zionist professionals.

The ZOA is an event-based, grassroots organization dedicated to providing opportunities for Zionists to learn about and advocate for Israel. ZOA New York's expansion aims to accomplish exactly that.

Whisler encouraged the audience to take active roles in advocating for Israel, combatting anti-Zionism, and responding to the lies spread about Israel.

- Advocacy-training workshops to help young professionals turn their passion into effective messaging. Topics will include social media, political engagement, effective pro-Israel messaging, and more;

- Larger Zionist-themed parties to welcome in new people and spread the ZOA brand to a new audience.

Building this initiative will require help from numerous young professional leaders. To this end, ZOA New York has formed a young professionals board to help launch these programs. The board had its first meeting over the summer and plans to meet regularly during the year.

EXPANSION OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ZOA New York is also excited to announce the expansion of our general community activities. We plan to run events roughly once a month for community members ranging from educational speakers to social galas and everything in between. Additionally, the chapter has already taken advantage of the beautiful event space in the ZOA's new midtown Manhattan national headquarters. In July, we hosted Dr. Mordechai Kedar there, with more than 70 people attending, and we plan to hold similar events throughout the year.

The ZOA is an event-based, grassroots organization dedicated to providing opportunities for Zionists to learn about and advocate for Israel. ZOA New York's event expansion aims to accomplish exactly that.

BUILDING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

ZOA New York has started to expand its partnership network with the goal of bringing more people into the ZOA. Over the summer, New York Executive Director Zach Stern met with numerous heads of other pro-Israel organizations to create the foundation for more events with more partners. He has many events in the works with these organizations, which will be posted on nyc.zoa.org.

GET INVOLVED IN ZOA NEW YORK!

Interested in getting involved in this growing chapter? Please email Zach Stern at zstern@zoa.org to learn more. Zach is more than happy to meet with anyone to discuss potential involvement and the growth of the ZOA.

ZOA FLORIDA

DISCUSSIONS, A PREMIERE, BUENOS AIRES MEMORIALS, AND A WINE TASTING

In response to UN Security Council Resolution 2334, ZOA Florida hosted a panel discussion moderated by best-selling author and investigative journalist Edwin Black on the topic of defunding and replacing the United Nations. ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler introduced the program at the packed Palm Beach Synagogue.

The panelists included Irving Berkowitz, academic affairs dean at Palm Beach College; Lawrence Muscant, vice-president of Washington (D.C.)-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies; Mark Langfan, a New York-based attorney and lecturer on Israel; Zionist activist David Shimon; and international law attorney Laurie Regan. At the discussion, Ms. Whisler encouraged the audience to take an active role in advocating for Israel, combatting anti-Zionism, and responding to the lies spread about Israel.

ZOA Florida's Jacksonville supporters hosted an inaugural event with a presentation by Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, about anti-Semitism and the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. Program organizer Sam Rogozinski and ZOA Florida board member Dr. Mark Fleisher introduced the program, praising ZOA for combating these problems. The well-received presentation was followed by a dinner sponsored by Rhonda and Dr. Mark Fleisher.

Filmmaker Avi Goldwasser premiered his new film, "Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance on



ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler (right) with graduating ZOA High School Fellows Avi Bryan and Abigail Winograd

Campus,” in North Miami. The documentary exposes the tolerance on college campuses for hate and hatred of Jews. One of the experts featured in the film is ZOA’s Susan Tuchman. ZOA Florida was a proud sponsor of the sold-out event.

ZOA Florida co-sponsored the Israeli Consulate’s memorial event commemorating the terrorist attack on the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires. In addition, our chapter joined with several other organizations in the annual commemoration of the AMIA Jewish Community Center terrorist attack, also in Buenos Aires. ZOA was honored to light a candle in memory of the victims of these tragedies.

ZOA’s annual wine tasting at Young Israel of Hollywood was a sold-out event featuring wines from Judea/Samaria, generously donated by the Israeli Wine Producers Association. Sharona Whisler introduced the program with a review of UN Security Council Resolution 2334 and its lies about Israel. She applauded the guests for standing up to BDS simply by attending the event and supporting the wineries and ZOA’s important work.

Joshua London, ZOA’s co-director of government relations and an expert on Israeli wines, offered descriptions of each wine, including the historical significance of the land where the vineyards are located. Guests had the opportunity to order cases of wine.



Expert panel on the topic of defunding and replacing the UN, with ZOA’s Sharona Whisler (second from right)

ZOA PREPS HIGH-SCHOOLERS FOR COLLEGE AND HONORS GRADUATING FELLOWS

Students from Brauser Maimonides Academy in Hollywood, Scheck Hillel Community School in North Miami Beach, and Hebrew Academy in Miami Beach were recruited by ZOA Florida to participate in ZOA’s annual mishloach manot Purim Mission to Israel by writing personal notes of support to Israeli soldiers. In addition to the letters, students at the Scheck Hillel School sent a poster to the city of Sderot inscribed with messages of support.

At the end of the school year, ZOA Florida participated in the Scheck Hillel School’s College Readiness Week, preparing high-school seniors for possible anti-Zionist campus environments. Introduced by three of ZOA’s High School Fellows from Scheck, ZOA’s Susan Tuchman discussed students’ legal rights, how to recognize anti-Semitism, and what students should do if they experience campus anti-Semitism. She shared footage from campuses and provided examples of actual incidents to help lead the discussion. Later that day, Ms. Tuchman gave the same presentation to high-school juniors and seniors at Katz Yeshiva High School in Boca Raton.

This past spring, Florida Director Whisler congratulated the first class of ZOA High School Fellows—Abigail Winograd, Jordan Zackon, Avi Bryan, Malka Shuster, Aliza Posner, and

Whisler: “Zionism is an essential part of the Jewish nation reclaiming Jerusalem. In the face of seemingly insurmountable odds against us, the Jewish people came together to declare that the solution for us is freedom and prosperity in our holy land. We will not be denied our right to practice G-d’s Torah, and we will not walk like sheep to slaughter. That is Zionism.”



Attendees at the Young Israel of Hollywood Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut event

The fellowship for high-school seniors was launched in fall 2016 at Scheck Hillel Community School and Hebrew Academy to empower young leaders in their roles as Zionist advocates and activists.

Gabriel A.—on their graduation. The ZOA's fellowship program for high-school seniors, which was launched in the fall of 2016 at the Scheck Hillel Community School and Hebrew Academy, is a pilot program to empower young leaders in their roles as Zionist advocates and activists. The program was praised by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), who wrote that it would “undoubtedly equip high school students with the tools they need to become leaders and activists in their communities.”

The graduating fellows each were awarded a commemorative stamp issued by the State of Israel in honor of ZOA's 120th anniversary. The four symbols on the limited-quantity stamp represent the four areas in which ZOA directs its activities: Congress, the justice system, higher education, and media.

YOM HAZIKARON, YOM HA'ATZMAUT, YOM YERUSHALAYIM

ZOA Florida was the main sponsor of the Young Israel of Hollywood's Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. Our chapter also participated in Miami Beach's Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut events at Hebrew Academy, organized by the Falic family.

The program powerfully commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Entebbe raid, featuring accounts by two of the youngest survivors of the rescue, Shay Gross and Benny Davidson. The event also featured Rabbi Shmuley Boteach; Israel's consul general to Florida and Puerto

Rico, Lior Hiat; and a special presentation for high-school students by activist Joe Zevuloni and rapper Ari Lesser. Mr. Zevuloni encouraged students to stand up against the hate and lies that are spread about Israel and to always be proud Zionists. Hebrew Academy's ZOA High School Fellows introduced the student program and shared their experiences.

The 50th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification was marked by an event at Chabad of Aventura organized by congregant Daniel Kahane. Sharona Whisler joined a series of speakers and discussed the spiritual significance of Jerusalem to the Jewish people, including historical context and Jordan's complete disregard for the city while it was under Jordan's control.

“Zionism is an essential part of the Jewish nation reclaiming Jerusalem. In the face of seemingly insurmountable odds against us, the Jewish people came together to declare that the solution for us is freedom and prosperity in our holy land,” Whisler said. “We will not be denied our right to practice G-d's Torah, and we will not walk like sheep to slaughter. That is Zionism. The miracles we witness in our time are not unlike the miracles we read in the Torah. They have come to pass because of our faith and our action. Our future prosperity in the land of Israel is written. But we must never take it for granted.”

COLLABORATION WITH CHRISTIAN FRIENDS

ZOA Florida met with the Hispanic Israel Leadership Coalition for a Heal Our Campus breakfast. Youth pastors and Christian leaders were invited to a breakfast panel of campus Israel advocacy experts from ZOA, Turning Point USA, and StandWithUs. Each panelist described a specific challenge facing pro-Israel students on campus. Southeast Campus Coordinator Annie Cohen represented ZOA on this panel.

LOBBYING ON CAPITOL HILL

Florida members once again participated in ZOA's one-day pro-Israel lobbying mission to Capitol Hill, meeting with the offices of Rep.

Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL), and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL). All three pledged their support for bills calling for increased sanctions on Iran, and we thanked them for this. We would have liked Wasserman Schultz and Frankel to pledge their support for the three other serious bills we discussed: the Taylor Force Act, aimed at cutting U.S. funding to the Palestinian Authority so long as incitement continues and pensions are being paid to terrorists and their families; the Recognition of Jerusalem as the Capital of the State of Israel Act, which would remove the presidential security waiver; and a series of bills aimed at reforming the UN's anti-Israel bias by withholding funding to the UN. At the time of writing, we still hope for their support of these vital bills.

ZOA CONDEMNS ROGER WATERS

National ZOA issued a press release condemning musician Roger Waters and the performance arenas and concert facilities that are giving him a platform. The ZOA stated in the press release that stadiums hosting Waters' concerts "are tarnishing their reputations by allowing their names to be associated with a vicious anti-Semite who promotes lies about Israel and the Jewish people."

Miami's American Airlines Arena was among the venues that ZOA urged to "reject and condemn Waters and his hateful attacks against Jews" and Israel. The community also spoke up. The Greater Miami Jewish Federation issued a statement entitled "Anti-Semitism and Hatred Are Not Welcome in Miami." In addition, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez urged residents to "reject anti-Semitism in all its forms, not only because it will offend our Jewish residents, but because it would offend all Miamians."

If you would like to learn about upcoming ZOA Florida events and opportunities or get more involved, please contact florida@zoa.org.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA Gala invitation, highlighting ZOA's 120th anniversary

ZOA GREATER PHILADELPHIA



ANNUAL PHILADELPHIA GALA GETS UNDERWAY

As this report goes to press, the ZOA's Greater Philadelphia chapter is gearing up for its annual Gala—the region's biggest pro-Israel social event—on September 12. Honorees this year include Allen Rothenberg, who will receive the Pillar of the Community Award; Jonathan Tobin, the Ben Hecht Award for Outstanding Journalism; Rabbi Yaacov Orimland, Guardian of Israel Award; and Jim and Diane Showers, Friends of Zion Award.

In addition to recognizing the work and dedication of our honorees, we also spend the evening celebrating America and Israel, and the relationship between the two nations. It is a night filled with patriotism and Zionism. We expect some 300 guests.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA
2017 Gala
and Tribute to Israel Advocates

Celebrating
120 Years of Zionism

Honoring

Allen L. Rothenberg

Jonathan S. Tobin

Rabbi Yaacov Orimland

Jim & Diane Showers

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

“Reject anti-Semitism in all its forms, not only because it will offend our Jewish residents, but because it would offend all Miamians.”
—Mayor Carlos Gimenez

Honoree Allen Rothenberg has promulgated legislation and achieved record-breaking awards on behalf of victims of state-sponsored terrorism.



Greater Philadelphia ZOA Washington Mission delegates, from one of our two buses to the event

Allen L. Rothenberg is the founder of one of the nation's leading multi-state personal-injury law firms. He has promulgated legislation and achieved record-breaking awards on behalf of victims of state-sponsored terrorism. For 35 years, he has served as president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs. He is a staunch supporter of Jewish day school education in Philadelphia.

Jonathan S. Tobin is the opinion editor of the Jewish News Service (jns.org) and a contributing writer for the *National Review*. He is a columnist for the *New York Post*, *The Federalist*, *Haaretz*, *Israel Hayom*, and other papers. He was formerly executive editor, senior online editor, and chief political blogger for *Commentary*.

Rabbi Orimland is the religious leader of Young Israel of Margate. He lived in Israel for 15 years, where he ran a yeshiva for American youth who abused drugs, encouraging them to join the IDF once they were clean. He still owns a home in Tsfat and visits Israel at least twice a year.

Jim Showers is executive director and president of the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry (FOI), founded in 1938 by Christians determined to help Europe's Jewish population. He has been with FOI since 2002. Jim authors "Inside View," a regular column in FOI's magazine, *Israel My Glory*. An office professional, Diane Showers has served in churches and evangelical Christian organizations. A committed Christian Zionist, she is involved in numerous efforts in support of Israel.

We are planning to commemorate the historic first American Zionist meeting in the synagogue where it took place.



At a recent quarterly meeting (from left), Treasurer Len Getz, guest speakers Ira Gelman and Itzhak Nissim, and co-Presidents Lee Bender and Kevin Ross

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In honor of ZOA's 120th anniversary, we created what we are calling The 120 Club. The focal point is a banner that will feature the names of 120 local Zionists who have made a contribution to The 120 Club. The banner will be displayed at our meetings, and an electronic version will appear on our website and be included in emails.

Speaking of ZOA's 120th anniversary, ZOA's roots began in Philadelphia on Oct. 16, 1897, at Keshet Israel Synagogue, with a meeting of American Zionists. Keshet Israel still exists in that same building as an active congregation. We plan to meet there in November to commemorate the anniversary. We are considering having actors perform readings from Theodor Herzl, Justice Louis Brandeis, and other prominent Zionists.

Also in November, we are planning a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, with British and Israeli government representatives in attendance.

MEETINGS, MISSION, MEDIA

We have had two quarterly meetings. The first featured Iran expert Omri Ceren of The Israel Project, who discussed "Iran: What You Need to Know." The second featured three speakers on the theme of self-defense: Mireia Pons of the Israeli group Yatar, Six-Day War veteran Itzhak Nissim, and self-defense expert Ira Gelman.

More than 60 members from our region attended ZOA's Annual Washington Advocacy Mission last June, including 14 first-timers. More than 50 made the trip on the two buses we chartered. Based on feedback we received, all had positive experiences.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA leaders have had a number of letters and articles published recently and quite a few speaking engagements. Publications and online media in which we have appeared include: *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Philadelphia Daily News*, *Jewish Exponent*, *Algemeiner*, *Jerusalem Post*, *American Thinker*, *Philadelphia Jewish Voice*, *Times of Israel*, and *FrontPage Mag*. We have also done radio interviews on "The Dom Giordano Show," "Cindy's Corner," and "HebrewNation."

We have spoken before the Jewish War Veterans, Hadassah, Parents of North American Israelis, and Barrack Hebrew Academy, and have addressed a number of synagogues and Christian groups. In addition, we have tabled at various community events.

In a first for Greater Philadelphia ZOA, we had a conference call for our members. National ZOA Deputy Executive Director Howard Katzoff, who spearheaded ZOA's Purim Mission to Israel, was our guest speaker. He reviewed the trip and answered questions. Two local members who also were on the trip, Ruth and Mort Gleit, discussed the mission from their perspective.

ZOA PITTSBURGH

ZOA PITTSBURGH'S ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

ZOA Pittsburgh is proud to continue its Israel Scholarship Program, a tradition that began in 1962. Recognizing Israel's centrality to Jewish life, ZOA works tirelessly to reach out to the youth of Pittsburgh in an effort to engage the next generation of Israel supporters. Each year, three \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to students participating in structured trips to Israel. Julie Paris, chairwoman of the scholarship committee, said: "Students are judged on three criteria: their involvement in

Jewish organizations, volunteerism in the community, and an essay about Israel. This year we had so many qualified applicants, we only wish we could give a scholarship to each one."

ZOA Pittsburgh is deeply grateful to the following families, whose vision has allowed for the establishment of endowments that fund ZOA's Israel Scholarship Program: Avraham and Patti Anouchi; Bernard and the late Esther Klionsky, z"l; Harold and Marla Scheinman; Thelma Esman, z"l; and the family of the late Natalie and Ivan Novick, z"l, who served as ZOA National President.

This year's awardees are listed below, with quotes from their essays:

JASON LEVY

Jason is a junior at Upper St. Clair High School. He visited Israel with the Emma Kaufman Camp CIT program. Jason wrote: "[A negative experience] was very important to my understanding of how important Zionism is to the Jewish people. Every young Jew needs to learn how important a safe homeland is for Jews, and I can't wait to experience that homeland myself."



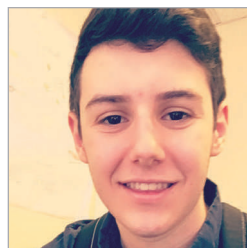
MALKA RINGLER

Malka is a junior at Yeshiva High School. She attended Camp Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow. Malka wrote: "I love Israel because, although I have as yet not had the distinct privilege to experience it, I know it is my home. I love Israel because it is mine. I want to protect that bond, that inherent love and connection that just is."



MOSHE LUZER

Moshe is a senior at Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh. He traveled to Israel with a NCSY Camp. Moshe said in his essay: "My only idea of what Israel life is like is from my friends, who always come back with the biggest smiles, happiest attitudes, and amazing stories. I can only hope that my experiences are similar to others' and [that I] internalize my trip as a catalyst I can use for the rest of my life."



TEACHING TOLERANCE

Dedicated to helping eradicate religious, ethnic, and racial intolerance, ZOA Pittsburgh instituted a Tolerance Education Program in order



A survivor shows students his tattooed arm at the National Holocaust Memorial Museum

to combat hatred. The program is carried out in cooperation with the Board of Education of the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the city of Pittsburgh. The program focuses on the events of the Holocaust to teach young people, during their most impressionable years, about the horrific consequences of hatred and examples of man's inhumanity to man. Teaching students to reject intolerance and those who foment it, the program also fosters an attitude of understanding and respect for those whose beliefs may differ from their own.

The Tolerance Education Program was created by Dr. Zalman Shapiro, z"l, and is directed primarily at 10th grade students who are learning about the Holocaust in their social studies and/or history classes. Though the students learn about the Holocaust as part of the regular school curriculum, what they hear in class is generally presented as just another historical event and 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, photos, and other exhibits—most students are left with an indelible realization of the dangers of bigotry. Each year, 11 motor coaches transport over 500 students to the USHMM in Washington, D.C. After they return, students participate in an essay contest, and modest monetary prizes are awarded to students with winning essays. Since the program's



Pittsburgh students at the National Holocaust Memorial Museum

inception in 1999, ZOA Pittsburgh has taken 6,000 students to the USHMM.

These are the 2017 essay winners, with excerpts from their essays.

FIRST PLACE: JADA WOOD, CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL (CAPA)

"Walking through the museum made the biggest impact on my thoughts and views on the Holocaust. I realized that the Holocaust was even worse than it was ever portrayed in any sources that I previously viewed."

SECOND PLACE: SEAD NIKSIC, OBAMA ACADEMY

"While the surrounding politics were necessary to understand, the third floor down captured the true suffering of the Jewish people in all of its twisted, heartbreaking agony.... Nor will my memory erase the countless other inhumane monstrous actions of the Nazis at the expense of an innocent people."

Since the program's inception in 1999, ZOA Pittsburgh has taken 6,000 students to the Holocaust Museum.

THIRD PLACE (TIE): HOLLY FREUND, CARRICK HIGH SCHOOL

"The museum not only touched my heart and made me think about all the things these poor people endured. The sights I saw at the museum...really touched my emotions and made me feel how I never have before."

THIRD PLACE (TIE): PRECIOUS JACKSON, BRASHEAR HIGH SCHOOL

"Before my expedition to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, I thought because I was not Jewish, the only standing reason as to why it was beneficial was to soak in information and add it onto the things I know...The Holocaust Museum led me to a conclusion that every group of people has a story and telling it is only one of the steps to having it live on forever."

ANNUAL EHRENWERTH LECTURE AT PITTSBURGH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Charlene "Kandy" Reidbord Ehrenwerth was a prominent Pittsburgh trial lawyer, known for her aggressive protection of human and civil rights. She served as the first female assistant district attorney in Allegheny County, where she developed a reputation as a highly talented and fair prosecutor, and subsequently as an assistant attorney general for Pennsylvania.

Kandy also served as an officer for the American Jewish Committee and the ZOA, and she was engaged in efforts to free Jews from the former Soviet Union. Kandy died tragically in a car accident in 1992. To perpetuate Kandy's memory, her loving family created an endowment for an annual lecture that is held at the ZOA Pittsburgh membership meeting.

This year, Rabbi Mark Staitman was scholar-in-residence for the program, held on June 19. His presentation was entitled "The Rapidly Evolving Jewish Community: Big Challenges and Creative Solutions." Rabbi Staitman discussed dwindling populations, intermarriage,



Charlene (Kandy) Reidbord Ehrenwerth



Rabbi Mark Staitman

and declining synagogue affiliation. He detailed the high cost of community involvement, including synagogue and JCC dues, Jewish education, and support for Jewish organizations. He also discussed the need to more effectively utilize human, infrastructure, and financial resources. Rabbi Staitman said that numerous congregations, whose time has passed, may need to merge and/or utilize shared spaces.

He said a new funding structure is needed and suggested the system used in pre-war Europe, where individuals paid an annual levy or community tax. Once paid, individuals could attend the synagogue of their choice, Jewish schools, and Jewish community centers, and be active in other organizations without additional contributions.

Rabbi Staitman said that to increase affiliation, two things are needed that build commitment to Judaism and Israel: speaking Hebrew and finding ways to send people to Israel for extended periods of time and work there.

ELECTION OF THE BOARD

Following the lecture, Ira M. Frank, past president and nominating committee chairman, presented the committee's slate to the membership. The following were elected to serve two-year terms:

Jeffrey L. Pollock, Esq., President
Stephen Neustein, Esq., First Vice-President
Lawrence N. Paper, Esq., Vice-President
Andrea Chester, Vice-President
Jason Small, Treasurer
Julie Paris, Assistant Treasurer
Judy Kobell, Recording Secretary
Lyn Silverman, Corresponding Secretary

Elected to the board were: Jeanne Bair, Dr. Marshall Balk, Hirsh Dlinn, Julian Elbling, Alexandra Greenberg, Rhonda Horvitz, Linda Hurwitz, Gerald Kobell, Esq., Debra Levy, Chaya Pollack, Linda Safyan, Charles Saul, Esq., Seth Schanwald, Dee Selekman, Joe Titlebaum, Sibyl Treblow, Cheryl Weisberg, and Helene Wishnev.

Over 200 people attended a screening of “Faithkeepers,” which details the humanitarian crisis and genocide of Christians and minorities in the Middle East today and traces the past century of persecution and devastation of the region’s Chaldean, Armenian, Assyrian, Jewish, and Coptic communities.

“HATE SPACES” DOCUMENTARY SCREENS AT PITTSBURGH JCC

The ZOA, through its Center for Law and Justice, has been at the forefront of fighting for the rights of Jewish students on U.S. college campuses. ZOA Pittsburgh worked with the Jewish National Fund to build a coalition of 21 synagogues and local and national Jewish organizations to sponsor the Pittsburgh premiere of “Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance on Campus.”

The documentary was shown on July 18 in the Katz Theater at the JCC, with more than 170 in attendance. A post-viewing Q&A was held with Avi Goldwasser, who wrote, directed, and produced the film for Americans for Peace and Tolerance.

ZOA DETROIT ZOA MICHIGAN EDUCATES STUDENTS

This spring, ZOA Michigan Executive Director Kobi Erez gave a presentation to high school students at the Farber Hebrew Day School. He focused on the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement and its similarity to Nazi Germany’s policies of boycotting Jewish stores, products, and literature. Students also heard facts about the Israeli-Arab conflict and were presented with anti-Israel scenarios they might encounter on their future college campuses, as well as some tactics to handle these kinds of situations.

This presentation is part of ZOA’s ongoing mission to educate, train, and motivate students to become passionate, dedicated, and effective pro-Israel advocates. ZOA Michigan provides support to students who advocate for Israel on campus.



Executive Director Kobi Erez addresses high schoolers at Farber Hebrew Day School

RAISING AWARENESS OF GENOCIDE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

On July 24, ZOA Michigan hosted a screening of Clarion Project’s powerful new documentary, “Faithkeepers.” Over 200 people attended. “Faithkeepers” puts a face and a voice to the humanitarian crisis and genocide of Christians and minorities in the Middle East today and traces the past century of persecution and devastation of the region’s Chaldean, Armenian, Assyrian, Jewish, and Coptic communities.

The program included special guest speakers, including co-producer Richard Green, who discussed the making of the film. Clarion’s national security analyst, Ryan Mauro, described the present geopolitical situation in the area, and Nahren Anweya detailed the horrific experiences her family endured in Iraq.

ZOA urged the community to get in touch with U.S. officials and ask them to take action on the issue.

ISRAEL ADVOCACY FOR YOUNG ADULTS, CAMPUS DEBATE

At this year’s Israel Education Workshop, students learned about the Israeli-Arab conflict, Jewish history and heritage, Zionism, and serving in the IDF. We also discussed how to answer tough questions about Israel that students might be asked on college campuses. As part of the program, some students plan to host



ZOA Michigan Executive Director Kobi Erez debating J Street on campus



ZOA Michigan's annual young adult barbecue

ZOA-sponsored Israel events on their campuses.

The program's purpose is to educate, train, and motivate students to become passionate, dedicated, and effective pro-Israel advocates, and to provide scholarship assistance to students participating in an organized educational trip to Israel.

This spring, Kobi Erez debated a representative of J Street before an audience of college students at an event hosted by Hillel of Metro Detroit. Key issues discussed included the so-called two-state solution, Palestinian Arab terrorist culture, the right of the Jewish people to live anywhere in Israel, international pressure on Israel and how J Street lobbied for it, the war with Gaza, and anti-Israel bias worldwide.

ZOA YOUNG ADULT BARBECUE, OP-EDS

ZOA Michigan had a successful barbecue event, with over 70 young adults from a variety of backgrounds. We saw many previous attendees and some new faces as well, and everyone had the chance to learn about ZOA and Israel advocacy in a fun atmosphere.

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

Opinion pieces by our members concerning the Iran deal, the Israeli-Palestinian Arab conflict, anti-Semitism, and BDS have been published in local and national print and online media, including the *Detroit Jewish News* and the *Times of Israel*, reaching thousands of people and educating them on current events.

ZOA WEST COAST

The ZOA's West Coast chapter pursued an aggressive, two-fold mission in the spring of 2017: to engage a wider segment of the community and expose them to ZOA educational initiatives, and to empower Jewish youth and combat the rising trend of anti-Semitism that California students are experiencing. The chapter accomplished this two-fold mission and is now working to build on its achievements.

ZOA IN THE COMMUNITY

ZOA West Coast ran two large events with veteran Israeli diplomat Ambassador Dore Gold, in San Francisco and Palo Alto. Ambassador Gold highlighted Israel's diplomatic initiatives, which he spearheaded on behalf of the Foreign Ministry, to build relationships with Sunni Arab and African countries while maintaining and strengthening Israel's historic ties. The first event was held at Temple Emanu-El, the largest synagogue in San Francisco and a new community for ZOA. The second event was held at the Palo Alto JCC and was preceded by a VIP reception and meet-and-greet for ZOA members. Over 350 people attended the two programs.

On the heels of the outgoing Obama administration's backstabbing of Israel at the United Nations via its orchestration of, and subsequent abstention from, UN Security Council Resolution 2334, the pro-Israel community in Northern California was searching for a means

ZOA Michigan had a successful barbecue event, with over 70 young adults from a variety of backgrounds.

Mr. Pollak noted ZOA's careful analysis and balanced approach to President Trump's victory and subsequent political appointments. ZOA expressed concern where justified, yet also defended appointees in the face of baseless charges of anti-Semitism from politicized Jewish organizations.

to undermine U.S. complicity in the regular UN assaults on Israel.

ZOA West Coast organized an event in Montara (CA) with author Edwin Black, who introduced his plan to defund and replace the UN with a more accountable world body, called the Covenant of Democratic Nations. Mr. Black spoke of the history of the UN's founding, out of the ashes of the no-longer-relevant League of Nations, and drew the conclusion that the UN has also outlived its effectiveness to achieve its stated goal of promoting world peace through diplomacy. The UN has not been able to prevent or cease conflicts since its establishment and has demonstrated a warped approach to confronting world problems. Every year, the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council issue countless resolutions against Israel's democracy while ignoring the real human rights violations of Israel's Arab neighbors and rogue states like Iran and North Korea.

The solution Mr. Black proposed would see the UN defunded and a new world body established with strict criteria for admission: adherence to democratic values, protection of human rights for all citizens, and respect for the rule of law. The program featuring Mr. Black was graciously hosted by the Pellegrini family and also helped expose ZOA to many non-Jews who are concerned about UN overreach.

ZOA West Coast also organized two events with Joel Pollak, senior editor of Breitbart News. After the 2016 election of President Donald Trump, many falsehoods were perpetuated by Jewish community leaders against the president and his cabinet appointees, including the former executive chair of Breitbart News, Stephen Bannon, who was appointed as White House chief strategist, a senior advisor to the president.

The ADL, San Francisco JCRC, and Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect displayed unprecedented partisanship and leveled charges of anti-Semitism against Bannon and other Trump nominees. In his presentation, Mr. Pollak cleared up many misconceptions about Breitbart News and Bannon, his former boss. He spoke to ZOA members in Menlo Park and to a group called Nob Hill Republican Women in San Francisco, sharing excerpts and experiences from his latest book, "How Trump Won."



Joel Pollak, chief editor of Breitbart News, addresses Nob Hill Republican Women in San Francisco

Mr. Pollak noted ZOA's careful analysis and balanced approach to President Trump's victory and subsequent political appointments. ZOA expressed concern where justified, yet also defended appointees in the face of baseless charges of anti-Semitism from politicized Jewish organizations. He praised ZOA National President Morton Klein for his political astuteness to seek engagement with the new administration, while many Jewish community leaders preferred to sow political discord to satisfy their partisan donor base.

ZOA's West Coast chapter exhibited a larger presence in the Jewish community in the spring of 2017. ZOA was represented at the official welcome reception for Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, a year after he was prevented from speaking at San Francisco State University by anti-Israel protestors. ZOA West Coast also arranged a tour of San Francisco Jewish landmarks for Israel Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Uri Ariel and his delegation.

Additionally, the West Coast chapter was represented at the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces' commemoration of the 50-year anniversary of the Six-Day War. The event honored the three Israeli soldiers immortalized in the famous photograph depicting their liberation of the Kotel (Western Wall) in the Old City of Jerusalem. In Los Angeles, ZOA West Coast operated a booth at the Celebrate Israel Festival, the largest Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) celebration on the West Coast.



1 Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat (left) with ZOA Director David Kadosh

2 Palo Alto premiere of the "Hate Spaces" documentary

3 ZOA West Coast Executive Director David Kadosh speaks to students at the Turning Point USA conference of San Francisco Jewish landmarks conference

EMPOWERING JEWISH YOUTH

In addition to ZOA's community engagement efforts, the West Coast chapter devoted significant attention to the empowerment and education of Jewish youth and the combatting of systemic anti-Semitism.

ZOA organized three screenings of the new documentary "Hate Spaces" with the film's writer, director, and producer, Avi Goldwasser. This important film exposes the pervasive anti-Semitism that Jewish students face on American college campuses. The premiere was held at the Palo Alto JCC, followed by screenings at the Rossmoor community in Walnut Creek and the UC Berkeley Chabad house.

ZOA's West Coast executive director, David Kadosh, was invited to serve on a panel to present ZOA's Israel advocacy approach to visiting Israeli teenagers at the San Francisco Jewish Federation. The panel was comprised of representatives from AIPAC, StandWithUs, J Street, and ZOA. Kadosh explained ZOA's unique position in the American Israel advocacy world and distinguished ZOA from each of the other organizations on the panel.

ZOA had a significant presence at the Turning Point USA Young Women's Leadership Summit in Dallas, Texas. Turning Point USA is an organization that has popularized the conservative movement through chapters on over 1,000 American college campuses and high schools. ZOA operated an informational table through-

out the conference and collected hundreds of new student contacts, in addition to running two breakout sessions.

David Kadosh led a session on "The Progressive Abandonment of Israel," which highlighted the mainstream acceptance of anti-Israel policy and rhetoric among American progressives. He warned that this trend is gaining momentum, thanks to leading figures in the Democratic Party such as Barack Obama, Bernie Sanders, and Keith Ellison.

Mr. Kadosh also worked with ZOA Midwest Campus Coordinator Pandit Mami to lead the largest Krav Maga session in ZOA Campus history, with over 120 participants. They taught practical applications of this effective Israeli self-defense style and spoke about the history of Krav Maga as a response to anti-Semitism and modern Zionism's reclamation of the Jewish fighting spirit. The program also discussed the threat from stabbings and vehicular assaults, which have been occurring in Israel since 2015 and replicated in Islamist terrorist attacks in Europe and the U.S. ZOA was well received at the conference, with many student leaders eager to work with their respective regional campus coordinators upon their return to school.

In addition, Mr. Kadosh led workshops on the importance of Jewish self-defense, with introductory Krav Maga demonstrations at UC Berkeley, Chico State University, San Joaquin Delta College, and California State University, Northridge. He ran a ZOA table during the so-

ZOA was well received at the conference, with many student leaders eager to work with their respective regional campus coordinators upon their return to school.



1 ZOA Booth at the Celebrate Israel Festival in Los Angeles



2 ZOA hosts Edwin Black (second from left) at the home of Nina and Mario Pellegrini to unveil his plan to defund and replace the UN



3 ZOA hosts Uri Ariel (center), Israel's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, for a tour of San Francisco Jewish landmarks

called Israel Apartheid Week at UC Berkeley and at Cal State Northridge's annual Israel festival for Yom Ha'atzmaut.

For the second year in a row, Mr. Kadosh instructed members of Club Z, a local Bay Area Zionist youth group, on the fundamentals of safe firearm handling with a practical shooting course. Zionist high-school students and their families were taught the principles of Zionism that seek internal responsibility for the collective Jewish defense and learned responsible techniques to better defend themselves and their community.

COMBATTING ANTI-SEMITISM

ZOA's West Coast chapter was contacted by parents of students attending Alameda High School, who had suffered through a year of anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation. Upon further investigation and speaking with other families, it became apparent that the problem was district-wide, even in the elementary and middle schools.

Parents had raised their concerns with school officials and provided them with evidence of threats to Jewish students and district-wide anti-Semitic vandalism. Yet school officials never took sufficient action against the perpetrators, never publicly condemned these actions as anti-Semitic, and never educated students about anti-

Semitism and the harm it causes. Some of the anti-Semitic bullying took place in the presence of teachers who typically failed to intervene as is their duty under the law.

The ZOA Center for Law and Justice, led by Susan Tuchman, was called upon to address the grave, systemic problem of anti-Semitism facing Jewish students throughout the district. With support from parents, the ZOA described the problems in detail to district officials and recommended reasonable and doable solutions, including (1) punishing the anti-Semitic bullies; (2) educating students with age-appropriate programs on the dangers of anti-Semitism, including when it is expressed as anti-Israelism; (3) training for teachers, staff, and administrators to recognize and respond to anti-Semitic incidents when they occur; (4) creating programs to educate parents about anti-Semitism; (5) issuing strong statements identifying and condemning anti-Semitic incidents in the district; (6) hosting educational programs during Jewish American History Month; and (7) sponsoring age-appropriate programs for Holocaust Remembrance Day.

ZOA West Coast and the Center for Law and Justice are maintaining pressure on district officials to ensure that they afford to Jewish students the same protections they afford to other minorities. ZOA is the organization the community can count on to defend Jewish pride and Jewish lives. **ZOA**

***ZOA is the
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