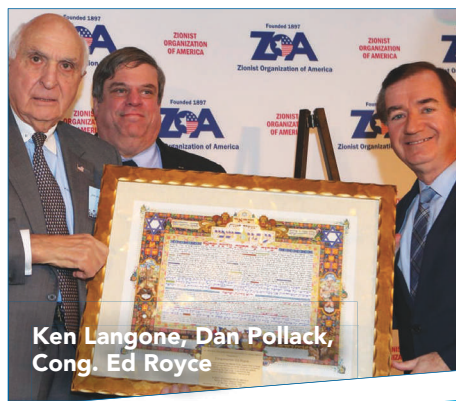




ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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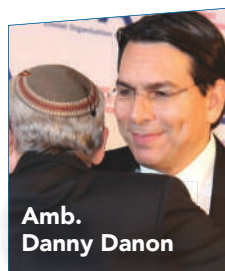


Bernie Marcus, Billi Marcus, Prof. Alan Dershowitz, Gary Erlbaum, Ken Langone



Morton Klein, Charles Gasparino, Arthur Schwartz, Jim Tisch

**MARCUS, ROYCE, DANON, DERSHOWITZ
NETANYAHU, LANGONE, TISCH
ALSO SPEAK AT MAJOR ZOA GALA**



Amb.
Danny Danon



Prof. Alan Dershowitz,
Jim Tisch



Morton Klein,
Minister Naftali
Bennett



Myron Zimmerman, ZOA Campus professionals



Dr. Michael
Goldblatt



Tyler Korn, Jay Knopf, Rubin Margules, Amb. Danon, Trump Advisor Jason Greenblatt, Morton Klein, Dr. Judith Rosen, Philippe Karsenty



Yeshiva University's Y-Studs

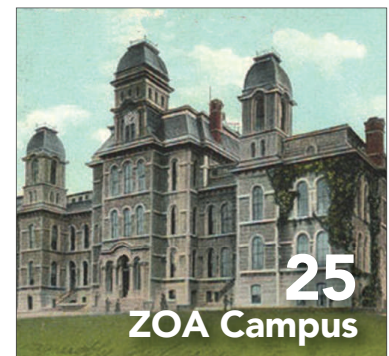
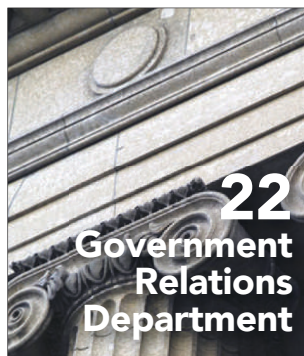
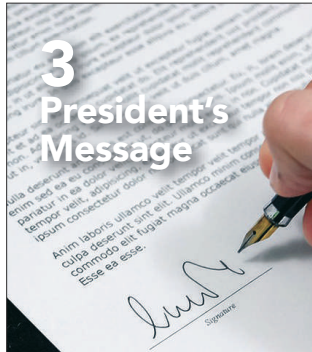
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**PRO-ISRAEL
CAPITOL HILL MISSION**
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President's Message

Over the course of the ZOA's 120-year history, we have championed many critical issues affecting Israel and the Jewish people.

One is calling for an end to U.S. aid to Mahmoud Abbas's anti-peace, terrorist-promoting Palestinian Authority (PA). Our taxpayer dollars should not be helping to pay for Palestinian Arab terrorism, the promotion of hatred and murder against Jews or the PA's lifetime salary payments to the families of Jew-killing terrorists.

U.S. aid to the PA can be as targeted as Washington determines, but aid is fungible. Money in PA coffers for legitimate purposes frees up money for terrorism, hate education and stipends to jailed Palestinian terrorists and the families of dead terrorists. That is why the ZOA called on the Trump administration, even before the start of its term, to link U.S. taxpayer funding of the PA to its compliance with the Oslo agreements.

Abbas's PA has not fulfilled its commitments under the Oslo agreements to arrest terrorists, outlaw terrorist groups, end pensions to families of Jew-killing terrorists and end the incitement to hatred and murder in the PA-controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps that fuels the conflict. The PA has repeatedly and explicitly refused to accept Israel's existence as a Jewish state. It has deliberately orchestrated attacks on Jews visiting the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site. It has applauded knife and car attacks on Jews. It educates Palestinian Arab youth to view murdering Jews as a religious and national duty—an astonishing institutionalization of hatred and child abuse.

The PA has publicized lies denying any Jewish connection to the Temple Mount, to Jerusalem and to the whole land of Israel. It calls for a future state that is ethnically cleansed of Jews. It demands the legally baseless, so-called "right of return." It does not disarm and disarm terrorist groups. It has sought a unity government with the genocidal terrorist movement Hamas, which calls in its charter for the destruction of Israel and the global murder of Jews. It has refused negotiations with Israel, except for two meetings in the past eight years.

When Mahmoud Abbas says that he will never accept Israel as a Jewish state, demands that Israel absorb millions of descendants of Palestin-

ian Arab refugees rather than settling them in a Palestinian Arab state to emerge from negotiations, and refuses to accept an end to the conflict and claims, as necessitated by a peace agreement, we have to ask the question: Why on earth is the U.S. funding the PA?

Abbas would be only too happy to have the genocidal Hamas terrorist movement as part of his pro-terror, anti-peace regime. Indeed, the constitution of Fatah, which is headed by Abbas, calls for the destruction of Israel and the use of terrorism as an indispensable element in the struggle to achieve that goal.



MORTON A. KLEIN
National
President,
Zionist
Organization
of America

“Abbas’s PA has not fulfilled its commitments under the Oslo agreements to arrest terrorists, outlaw terrorist groups, end pensions to families of Jew-killing terrorists and end the incitement to hatred and murder in the PA-controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps that fuels the conflict.”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Under such conditions, there is neither wisdom nor justification for U.S. taxpayer funding of this regime. It is also noteworthy that both the American public as a whole and American Jews have opposed U.S. funding for the PA. For example, a January 2014 National Omnibus poll showed that an overwhelming majority of Americans, some 72 percent, opposed planned funding to the PA, as opposed to a mere 15 percent in favor of it—an almost 5-to-1 ratio. Similarly, the 2011 American Jewish Committee's Survey of American Jewish Opinion showed that an overwhelming 73 percent of American Jews opposed continued U.S. funding to the PA, as opposed to a mere 21 percent who supported its continuation, "if the Palestinian Authority and Hamas form a unity government." (This question has not been asked by the AJC since 2011).

Quite simply, the PA should not be the recipient of U.S. aid because it is an unreconstructed, terror-sponsoring regime whose leadership refuses to accept Israel's existence as a Jewish state. It is undeserving of any international support, rewards or concessions. We applaud the fact that the Trump administration has served

notice to the PA that, if it continues to pursue action against Israel in international courts and forums, the U.S. will terminate aid to the PA.

In truth, the justification for doing this does not need to await another PA assault on Israel but, in any event, this is precisely the sort of choice and pressure that the PA has needed and has not been receiving since the start of the Oslo process. The ZOA is calling on the Trump administration to terminate U.S. aid to the PA. Such aid was always predicated on the basis that the PA is a partner for peace with Israel. That proposition was never true, and it has been conclusively disproved again and again. It is our hope that through our efforts, we can work to implement better policy to ensure security and peace in Israel for all its citizens.



Morton A. Klein
National President

ZOA GALA

ZOA Gala Honors Home Depot's Bernie Marcus, House Foreign Affairs Chair Ed Royce, Ambassador Danny Danon, and Professor Alan Dershowitz

**ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU ADDRESSED
THE DINNER BY VIDEO;
MINISTER NAFTALI BENNETT ALSO SPOKE**

Awards

Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award

Presented to distinguished businessman, philanthropist and ardent Zionist leader Bernie Marcus by Michael Leven, former president and COO of Las Vegas Sands Corp., former chair, Birthright.

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson Award

Presented to Cong. Ed Royce (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, by Ken Langone, entrepreneur, co-founder of Home Depot, major donor to NYU Langone Medical Center and sought-after political analyst on various TV news programs.

Dr. Bob Shillman Award for Outstanding Pro-Israel Diplomacy

Presented to Ambassador Danny Danon by Max Shillman, the son of a great Zionist Dr. Bob Shillman, founder and chairman of Cognex Corp.

Mort Zuckerman Award for Outstanding Journalism

Presented to Professor Alan Dershowitz for his pro-Israel writings through his best-selling books and his columns with leading print and online publications, as well as radio and TV. The award was presented by Jim Tisch, past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and CEO of Loews Corp.

Myron Zimmerman Student Award

Presented to UC San Diego student Adina Wollner by ZOA board member Myron Zimmerman, Zionist extraordinaire, and ZOA Campus Managing Director Zach Stern.

Ambassador Danny Danon commenced with the words, "*Hinei matov umanayim shevet achim gam yachad*" ("Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity"), commending ZOA for its stalwart advocacy over the years on behalf of Israel.

Over 1,200 people attended the Zionist Organization of America's annual 118th Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 20, at Manhattan's elegant Grand Hyatt Hotel. Major ZOA donors generously provided tables for 255 student activists from universities and colleges around the country.

Israel's Ambassador to the UN, His Excellency Danny Danon, delivered the keynote address. Attendees also heard from Bernie Marcus, Home Depot's co-founder; Naftali Bennett, Israel's Minister of Education and Diaspora Affairs; Alan Dershowitz, Harvard Law professor emeritus, best-selling author and defender of Israel; and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA). Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the crowd by video. ZOA board member and vice chair Dr. Alan Mazurek delivered the Dvar Torah. Yeshiva University's Y-Studs a cappella singers and a Klezmer group provided musical entertainment.

**Mr. Bennett
noted,
to general
applause,
that “one
cannot
occupy his
own home.”**

NAFTALI BENNETT, MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS

Naftali Bennett extended greetings from his government and spoke of the challenges Israel is facing—including its very legitimacy—and the ways in which Israel is meeting those challenges. He quoted a statement by Jewish leader Simon the Hasmonean from over 2,000 years ago: “We did not take a foreign land and did not rule the property of strangers; rather, the land of our fathers was taken unjustly, and now that we have the opportunity, we have returned it to ourselves.” Mr. Bennett noted, to general applause, that “one cannot occupy his own home.”

Mr. Bennett also observed that many leaders are repeating the same failed policies that have brought us to our present impasse. Despite the fact that Israel is “doing everything by the book,” including making massive territorial withdrawals, it is facing a terrorist regime in Gaza that menaces Tel Aviv. Mr. Bennett described Israel as “the light-house in the storm of the Middle East,” even as the Arab Spring has degenerated into Islamic winter. He cited Israel’s tremendous network of ties across the world, including with India and China. With the support of ZOA and Jews around the world, Mr. Bennett said, “we will win.”

MORTON A. KLEIN, ZOA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

In introducing Morton Klein, ZOA National Board Chairman Dr. Michael Goldblatt described him as the savior, 23 years ago, of a near-bankrupt and moribund ZOA and a “worthy heir of Begin and Jabotinsky.” Mr. Klein jokingly thanked Dr. Goldblatt for delivering his introduction “exactly as [my] mother wrote it.”

Mr. Klein welcomed the audience to the “Academy Awards of the Jewish world,” noting that this Brandeis Dinner included the “largest number of people attending a ZOA dinner since the first dinner in 1897.” But “it’s understandable,” he said. “The speakers [then] were Theodor Herzl and Ze’ev Jabotinsky.” Looking around at the throng of enthusiastic Israel supporters, Mr. Klein noted, “If this group of committed

Zionists had been around in the 1930s and ’40s, Jewish and perhaps world history might have looked far different....Never again shall we be Jews of silence. Never. Never.”

Mr. Klein questioned how other Jewish organizations could be silent while Israel-bashers such as Rep. Keith Ellison—who has called Israel an “apartheid state,” worked for anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan and voted against funding for Israel—was being anointed chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Mr. Klein warned about the prospect of outgoing President Obama permitting the UN Security Council to pass a unilateral resolution supporting Palestinian statehood. [Editor’s note: Mr. Klein’s warning came to pass.] He also dwelt on the increasing evidence of Iranian violations of last year’s nuclear deal, noting that Iran is making heavy water, testing new ballistic missiles and violating various aspects of the agreement, which will enhance its ability to acquire nuclear weapons in the not-too-distant future.

Mr. Klein described the exceptional work being done by ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, ZOA Campus, ZOA’s Government Relations Department and ZOA’s Israel office. He then discussed the infamous UNESCO resolutions erasing the Jewish historical connection and rights to the Temple Mount and Jerusalem. Jerusalem, he noted, was mentioned nowhere in the Quran, as compared to the hundreds of references to the city in the Hebrew Bible. Mr. Klein recounted that Jerusalem had fallen into such disrepair under Jordan’s 19-year illegal occupation that it had often lacked running water, and that no Arab leader, other than King Hussein, had ever visited the city during this period. He added: “In fact, I’ll say it: It is a propaganda myth that Jerusalem is holy to Muslims. It is not.”

Mr. Klein noted that Israel has given away 40 percent of Judea/Samaria and all of Gaza, only to receive in return increased terrorist assaults. He staunchly defended Israel’s right to intervene in Palestinian Authority territories to combat continuing terrorism, saying that the IDF could withdraw immediately from these areas if there were no threat to Israel and its citizens. Despite repeated offers of statehood to Palestinian Arabs—in 1937, 1947, 2000 and

2008—there continues to be no Palestinian acceptance, as doing so would encompass recognizing the Jewish State of Israel, which they have continuously refused to do.

Mr. Klein exposed the absurdity of those who blame Israel for lack of peace, throwing back at these accusers the opening lyrics of Nobel laureate Bob Dylan's song "Neighborhood Bully":

"Well, the neighborhood bully, he's just one man / His enemies say he's on their land / They got him outnumbered about a million to one / He got no place to escape to, no place to run / He's the neighborhood bully. / The neighborhood bully, he just lives to survive / He's criticized and condemned for being alive / He's not supposed to fight back, he's supposed to have thick skin / He's supposed to lay down and die when his door is kicked in / He's the neighborhood bully. / The neighborhood bully been driven out of every land / He's wandered the earth an exiled man / Seen his family scattered, his people hounded and torn / He's always on trial for just being born / He's the neighborhood bully."

Building on the theme of Jewish solitude in opposition to the ideas and hatred of the world, Mr. Klein produced a long list of events and ideas in which the Jewish people defied world opinion, only to be shown as right—whether about the singularity of G-d or the anti-Semitic trope of Jews as "well-poisoners" and "consumers of Gentile blood" in matzahs—always with the refrain: "The whole world was wrong; we were right."

ALAN DERSHOWITZ, PROFESSOR OF LAW, EMERITUS

Professor Alan Dershowitz urged attendees to fight anti-Semitic forces, whether they come from the left or the right. He noted that American liberals could learn a lesson from American conservatives who, to their credit, had marginalized Pat Buchanan's fringe ideas and followers in the 1990s, showing that "there is no room for anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism in American conservatism." He also spoke of the efforts of some European far-right figures to gain respectability by dropping overt anti-Semitism while targeting other groups, like Muslims, and

he noted the difficulties of defending Israel on university campuses. "The left in Europe and the United States is moving more left, and the right is moving more right," he said. "I think these trends are troubling...Israel and Jews have historically always thrived at the center. We've always suffered between the extremes of right and left...between the black of fascism and the red of communism....We must be as stalwart in condemning bigotry among our friends as we are in condemning bigotry among our enemies." Professor Dershowitz urged conservatives to come out against bigots on the right, just as he had with bigots on the left. Noting that "it was very hard for me to come out against Black Lives Matter, because for me black lives matter," Professor Dershowitz said that he had ceased all contact with the movement after it adopted an anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic platform.

Professor Dershowitz turned to the new phenomenon of intersectionality, whereby diverse groups promoting left-wing causes adopt anti-Israel positions in order to make pro-Israel Jewish liberal participation impossible. He noted: "There is no disagreement in Israel about how terrible the Iran agreement was...I have written to the president-elect, telling him not to tear up the agreement but to rigorously enforce it, especially the deal's preamble, stating that Iran will never become a nuclear power. And it must be the stated policy of the United States that this is an integral element of the deal and that the U.S. will never allow it to develop nuclear weapons. This is a consensus issue."

Turning to the issue of an "implied threat" from President Obama to support or permit a UN Security Council resolution to approve Palestinian statehood, Professor Dershowitz stated that this would be "a horrible, horrible decision. It would be a horror from my liberal position, because if the UN gets involved in the peace process, it sends the message that the Palestinians need not compromise or negotiate because they will get a state through the UN. So, it's antithetical to peace. How dare a lame duck president try to change 30 years of American foreign policy, without any political accountability or any checks and balances?" He added: "Israel must always remain a bipartisan issue...I will fight to keep the Democratic

"The left in Europe and the United States is moving more left, and the right is moving more right... I think these trends are troubling... Israel and Jews have historically always thrived at the center."

— Prof. Alan Dershowitz

“This pay-to-slay scheme has got to stop... Where the U.S. does not lead, we only embolden our enemies, including the enemies of Israel, the closest ally of the United States.”

— Cong. Ed Royce

Party pro-Israel. It won't be easy. And it won't be any easier if Keith Ellison is appointed the head of the DNC [Democratic National Committee].

Professor Dershowitz praised ZOA: “I think the ZOA is a great, great organization,” he said. “I thank you for making the case for Israel.”

CONG. ED ROYCE, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

In his introduction, Ken Langone described Rep. Royce's tireless fight to close loopholes in legislation that enable the Palestinian Authority (PA) to continue to receive U.S. taxpayer funding, despite the PA's complicity in terrorism and incitement to hate and murder Jews.

Rep. Royce spoke movingly of his understanding of the Holocaust and the state of defenselessness from which the establishment of Israel has rescued the Jewish people after two millennia of exile and homelessness. Affirming the importance of the U.S. standing by Israel through thick and thin, Rep. Royce stated, “For us, it's not only a strategic necessity; it is also for us a moral imperative.” To that end, he outlined the efforts he has been spearheading in Congress to enhance military cooperation with Israel and to bring accountability to Mahmoud Abbas's PA. Rep. Royce promised to fight the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and spoke of his ongoing efforts to expose the terrible flaws in the Iran nuclear deal.

Noting the PA practice of funding terrorist families, paying stipends to jailed Palestinian terrorists and generally rewarding and honoring terrorists, Rep. Royce said, “This pay-to-slay scheme has got to stop.... Where the U.S. does not lead, we only embolden our enemies, including the enemies of Israel, the closest ally of the United States.” He added: “The U.S. must cut off funding to the Palestinian Authority if it continues to pay monetary rewards to terrorists and their families.” He also pledged to work closely with the incoming Trump administration

to combat the variety of anti-Israel forces seeking to harm and ultimately destroy the Jewish State.

DANNY DANON, ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN

Ambassador Danny Danon commenced with the words, “Hinei matov umanayim shevet achim gam yachad” (“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity”), praising ZOA for its stalwart advocacy over the years on behalf of Israel. He spoke in detail about Israel within the UN system, where it has been continuously singled out for slander and condemnation. Ambassador Danon noted how even at the UN, changes can be made that demonstrate to friend and foe that Israel will not permit itself to be ostracized and pilloried. He recounted how he had recently convened within the walls of the UN a major international forum on the anti-Semitic BDS movement, which seeks to delegitimize Israel as a prelude to its isolation and eventual elimination. This conference, which featured ZOA's Morton Klein as a main speaker, marked a first in the history of the UN, as did Ambassador Danon's election in June 2016 to chair the UN's Legal Committee—the first time an Israeli has been able to break through the unofficial blackballing of Israeli representatives on UN committees. Ambassador Danon also noted that the Israel Mission to the UN works “very closely with the U.S. Mission every single day at the UN” to forge a common strategy to ensure that Israel is not singled out for opprobrium or unjustly targeted in resolutions of various UN committees.

Ambassador Danon concluded with praise for the ZOA, noting that Israel can always rely on the ZOA to fight tenaciously and responsibly for Israel.

The Dinner co-chairs were Ken Langone and Michael Leven. Gary Erlbaum, president of Greentree Properties and vice-president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, acted as master of ceremonies with grace and ease. **ZOA**

Gala



- 1 Naftali Bennett, Israel's Minister of Education
- 2 Vicki Erlbaum and Gary Erlbaum, ZOA Gala emcee
- 3 ZOA college activists
- 4 National President Morton Klein, National Vice President Stanley Rosenberg, Esq., and Judy Rosenberg
- 5 ZOA college activists
- 6 Billi Marcus; Bernard Marcus, co-founder of Home Depot and Louis D. Brandeis Award recipient; Israeli Amb. to UN Danny Danon, Dr. Bob Shillman Award recipient



Gala



1 Bernie Marcus, Joe Frager and friends

2 Charles Gasparino of Fox Business Network; Pari Schwartz, National Treasurer Henry Schwartz, National President Morton Klein, Rita Klein

3 National Vice President Dr. Arthur Kook, Amb. Danny Danon, Vice-Chair Dr. Alan Mazurek, Karen Mazurek

4 National Board member Isaac Abraham, National Executive Director David Drimer, National Secretary Mark Levenson, Esq.

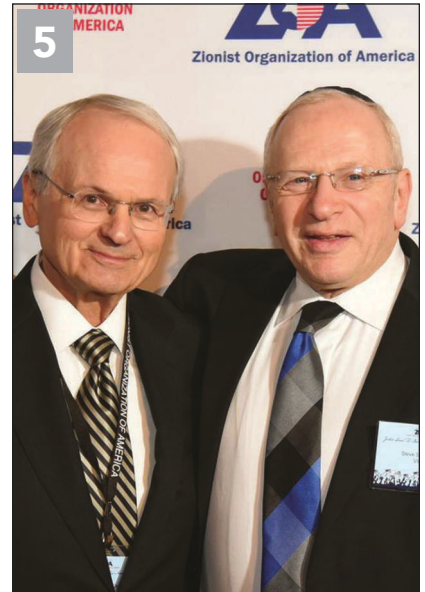
5 ZOA college activists



Gala



- 1 ZOA college activists
- 2 Andrea and Michael Leven, past president of Las Vegas Sands Corp.
- 3 ZOA college activists
- 4 Bernie Marcus receives Brandeis Award from Michael Leven
- 5 Morton Klein and Stephen Savitsky, past president and chairman of the Orthodox Union
- 6 National Board member Clifford Rieders, Esq.
- 7 Michael Leven, Ken Langone, co-founder of Home Depot



Gala



- 1 Vice-Chair Dr. Alan Mazurek delivering Dvar Torah
- 2 ZOA college activists
- 3 Louis Brandeis Award recipient Bernie Marcus
- 4 Myron Zimmerman, past Brandeis Award recipient; Myron Zimmerman Student Award recipient Adina Wollner; and ZOA Campus Managing Director Zach Stern
- 5 Professor Alan Dershowitz (center, right) with National Board members Michael Orbach, James Pollack, Martin Sokol, Dr. Michael Goldblatt, Morton Klein, Mark Levenson, Esq., Leonard Getz, Dr. Alan Mazurek, and Jay Knopf



Gala



1 ZOA college activists

2 Managing Director of ZOA
Campus Zach Stern with
ZOA campus professionals

3 National Vice President
Myron Zimmerman with
ZOA campus professionals and
student awardee Adina Wollner

4 Chairman Dr. Michael Goldblatt
and Dr. David Goldblatt

5 ZOA college activists



Gala



1 Penny Rosen and National Board member Dr. Judith Rosen



2 Professor Alan Dershowitz, Mort Zuckerman Award recipient

3 Marilyn Hertz; National Vice President Eli Hertz; Cong. Ed Royce, Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Adelson Award recipient; and National Secretary Mark Levenson, Esq.



4 Mao Shillman, wife of Dr. Bob Shillman



5 Rita Klein and journalist Philippe Karsenty



ZOA People

National Board member Nelson Obus contributes tremendously to ZOA by bringing his expertise in managing funds to the ZOA's audit, finance and budget committees. He has a lifelong interest in Israel, though he first visited it only in his forties.

Nelson was born in Wynnefield, Pennsylvania, and for generations, his family—one of the first Jewish families to settle there, in 1909—has been involved in the town's Conservative Jewish movement. In fact, the community took shape in his family's living room in 1921, when 11 Jews met to form the congregation that built Temple Har Zion, in 1923. Says Nelson, "I was raised pretty close to the spiritual center of Conservative Judaism."

Wynnefield was "95 percent Jewish" at the time he was born, he says. The local public schools were "mostly Jewish" on the elementary level, and chiefly Jewish and black at the high school level. Nelson attended Central High, then one of the top public schools in the nation, graduating a year behind the ZOA's Mort Klein, although the two did not know each other at the time.

Nelson attended Camp Ramah, a Jewish summer camp in the Poconos that provided an immersion in Jewish life and the Hebrew language. A camper there for nine summers, he enjoyed outdoor life and gained

Profile: Nelson Obus

Board member Nelson Obus oversees ZOA's budget, investment and audit committees

a permanent interest in nature and the environment. These experiences helped set his interests and priorities in the years that followed. While attending college at the Bronx campus of New York University, Nelson served as a nature counselor at Camp Ramah. He suddenly found himself running the whole show in 1967, when his senior colleague, an Israeli, was called home during the Six Day War.

Nelson attended Brandeis University on a scholarship, subsequently working in environmental education for a decade. In 1982, he embarked on his present career when a friend from Wynnefield, seeking someone of talent not tainted by the usual mill of business schools, hired him to



help develop his investment business. Nelson thus became a professional money manager, working in partnership with ZOA board member Josh Landes.

He didn't visit Israel until taking his family there in 1998, but his love of Israel goes back to his formative years. "I had always cared for Israel and followed its fortunes," recalls Obus. "In fact, I was born six months before the State of Israel was. In our congregation, I still remember the empowering experience, as it was to us, of consciously changing our pronunciation of Hebrew from the Ashkenazic to the modern Sephardic, greeting people with 'Shabbat Shalom' instead of 'Good Shabbos.' This was the Hebrew being spoken by our people,

"The reason that I committed to ZOA is because it's really the only organization that steps up, is genuinely no-nonsense and tells it like it is. The ZOA has what I call a radical candor about what is truly going on."

***“I normally try
and keep my
professional life
separate from
my other
activities...
but I care
enough
about ZOA
to apply my
expertise
and make
an exception.”***

living freely in our own country for the first time in two thousand years.

“On my third visit to Israel, in 2002,” he said, “I visited Judea/Samaria and also the beautiful communities that were then in Gaza, like Netzarim. I became very interested in these communities and their fate, the 13,000 Jews who were forced to leave behind their lives. I can’t forget how the lovely synagogue in Netzarim was ransacked and burnt out by the Palestinian Arabs who overran it when Israel withdrew. I joined ZOA for this very reason—out of concern for Israel and these communities.

“It also made me think about the future,” he says. “If Israel had such a terrible time trying to resettle 13,000 Jews from Gaza, imagine the chaos if it ever tried to uproot and resettle 400,000 Jews from Judea/Samaria. Part of what got me involved in ZOA was meditating on this question: What is it about Israel that creates such controversy and enmity, especially in Europe? Clearly, many in the world have not accepted that the Jews have a right to be a free, independent people.

“Yasser Arafat succeeded brilliantly at laying guilt on the Europeans, who suffer from a guilt complex about their colonial past and the many things they did as colonialists,” Nelson observes. “He convinced many Euro-

peans that opposing Israel was opposing the sort of things Europeans had once been. They are victims of a toxic variety of the Stockholm Syndrome, where they adopt the views of the people—Arafat’s terrorists—who threaten them.

“The reason that I committed to ZOA is because it’s really the only organization that steps up, is genuinely no-nonsense and tells it like it is. The ZOA has what I call a radical candor about what is truly going on. Perhaps that reflects my origins. Growing up in Wynnefield was to grow up in a no-nonsense, competitive place where people didn’t suffer fools gladly, didn’t get easily fooled by BS, were striving lower-middle-class or middle-class, gritty Jewish kids. I see this with Mort and other Jews who come from Philadelphia. We had an immediate sense of shared background and understanding.”

With evident pride, Obus recalls: “I remember when President Reagan was negotiating with Mikhail Gorbachev, Philadelphia Jews were among the toughest in their demands regarding emigration of Soviet Jewry, leading Gorbachev to say at one point, ‘What is it with these Philadelphia Jews?’

“ZOA is in a very unusual position in the American Jewish community. No one else does what we do. It is a very unique entity which

stands virtually alone in a very admirable position advocating and working on behalf of Israel and the U.S./Israel relationship. That role would be inconceivable without Mort Klein, his creativity and drive.

“As I had a long history in nonprofits, because of my prior experience in high-profile environmental education, Mort approached me to get involved with ZOA,” says Nelson. “It was easy to say yes, because I agreed with the positions ZOA takes up. How can you have a two-state solution, so-called, when you’re negotiating with people like Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority? And why rush it? Perhaps, contrary to what we often hear, time is on our side.”

With his financial management skills, working on budget, investment and audit committees for ZOA was an obvious fit, even though “I normally try and keep my professional life separate from my other activities,” he says. “But I care enough about ZOA to apply my expertise and make an exception.”

Nelson is married to Eve, whom he met while living in Boston. They have a son, 30, who is a videographer, and a daughter, 27, who is studying for a master’s degree at Georgetown University, specializing in the intersection of technology, social media and nonprofits. **ZOA**



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA **PRO-ISRAEL** **CAPITOL HILL MISSION** TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017



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DR. MICHAEL GOLDBLATT, Chairman
MORTON A. KLEIN, National President



The investigation was triggered by a 14-page letter from the ZOA to the chancellor and CUNY's Board of Trustees, describing in detail the anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation that Jewish students were enduring on four CUNY campuses—largely at the hands of an anti-Semitic hate group called Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).



SUSAN TUCHMAN
Director, Center for
Law and Justice

CUNY Investigation Confirms Numerous Anti-Semitic Incidents, But Recommends No Consequences

On September 9, 2016, hours before the start of the Jewish Sabbath, James B. Milliken, chancellor of the City University of New York (CUNY), released an investigative report prepared by two outside attorneys who were engaged to investigate allegations of anti-Semitism at CUNY. The investigation was triggered by

a 14-page letter from the ZOA to the chancellor and CUNY's Board of Trustees, describing in detail the anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation that Jewish students were enduring on four CUNY campuses—Hunter College, Brooklyn College, the College of Staten Island and John Jay College of Criminal Justice—largely at the hands of an anti-Semitic hate group called Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).

The investigation, which was conducted by attorneys Paul Shechtman and Barbara S. Jones, confirmed that CUNY has been plagued by numerous anti-Semitic incidents, many perpetrated by SJP. For example, an SJP-organized rally at Hunter College to protest rising tuition and growing student debt turned into a vehicle for attacking Jews. Protesters screamed that Jewish people are “racist sons of bitches” and shouted, “Go back home, and get the f--k out of my country.” The crowd also chanted, “Jews out of CUNY” and “Death to Jews.”

At Brooklyn College, a Jewish student who did not endorse SJP's positions was repeatedly harassed by an SJP member who sent her alarming messages, including "I hope you don't walk alone on campus." Another Jewish student was threatened by an SJP member simply because she refused to take an anti-Israel flyer. Members of the campus Israel Club were called "dirty Jews" and similar expletives.

At the College of Staten Island, a Jewish student carrying a sign promoting harmony on campus was told by another student, "I wouldn't hug a Jew." When an anti-Israel student disrupted another student's in-class presentation on women in the Israel Defense Forces, shouting that Israeli soldiers were "killers," the professor did not intervene. Both a student Hillel member and the Hillel chapter's executive director were bullied and harassed on Facebook.

At John Jay College, SJP threatened the Muslim Student Association (MSA) for co-hosting an event with Hillel, even though the event was about the New York City Police Department and had nothing to do with Israel. The threats worked; fearful, the MSA dropped its sponsorship. In 2015, a student with an Israeli flag patch on his backpack was called a "Zionist pig" and had a water bottle thrown at his head.

The investigators acknowledged that these and other anti-Semitic incidents caused students to feel harassed, threatened and unsafe, and made some fearful of openly identifying as Jewish on campus. But the investigators concluded that the incidents were protected speech that CUNY could not punish, never explaining why—as the ZOA described in its letter to CUNY officials—university leaders on other campuses have punished students and student groups for offensive speech directed against African Americans (for example, at the University of Oklahoma and UC San Diego) and women (e.g., at Yale).

Even though recommendations to address these and other problems would have helped, the investigators failed to make any. Nor did they examine whether SJP is funded and supported by groups or individuals with ties to terrorism, which the ZOA had specifically requested in its letter to the CUNY leadership. Had the attorneys looked into SJP's affiliations

as part of their investigation, the conclusions would have been frightening. At a congressional briefing last April, former U.S. Treasury Department terrorism analyst Jonathan Schanzer disclosed alarming connections of Hamas (a U.S.-designated terrorist group calling for the murder of Jews and for Israel's destruction) to the organizations that fund, coordinate, aid, and abet anti-Israel and Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) activities by SJP.

After the CUNY investigative report was released, the ZOA publicly criticized it, noting: "This report truly let down the many Jewish students and others who had the courage to come forward. There is nothing in this report that will diminish anti-Semitism on the CUNY campuses. In fact, the report will embolden students and student groups like SJP to continue to harass, threaten and intimidate Jewish and pro-Israel students, because they know that their actions have been justified, tolerated and defended by this CUNY report. And CUNY administrators now know that they can use the First Amendment as a convenient shield even when Jewish students feel threatened and fear for their safety."

In addition to the outside investigation, the Chancellor convened a CUNY-wide working group to assess the climate on CUNY campuses and to recommend steps to create a learning environment that is inclusive, respectful and free from discrimination. None of the working group's activities have been disclosed to date.

ZOA Fights BDS at Brooklyn's Park Slope Food Coop

The Park Slope Food Coop in Brooklyn was founded in 1973 with a worthy mission: to make healthy and affordable food available to everyone who wanted it. But unfortunately, the Coop has allowed itself to become embroiled in a complicated political situation far outside its mission.

Last April, the Coop suspended four loyal, longtime members for a year because they alleg-

The investigation confirmed that CUNY has been plagued by numerous anti-Semitic incidents, many perpetrated by SJP.



The Park Slope Food Coop, where four members were suspended for objecting to a hateful anti-Israel BDS presentation (Photo by Wally Gobetz)

The crowd chanted, “Jews out of CUNY” and “Death to Jews.” At Brooklyn College, a Jewish student who did not endorse SJP’s positions was repeatedly harassed by an SJP member who sent her alarming messages, including “I hope you don’t walk alone on campus.”

edly disrupted a Coop meeting. In reality, they were singled out from among hundreds of Coop members who vociferously objected to a hateful and bigoted anti-Israel presentation at a Coop meeting which was aimed at getting the Coop to boycott an Israeli company called SodaStream.

This wasn’t the first time that an anti-Israel boycott was proposed at the Coop; the membership had already considered and soundly rejected one in 2012. But the Israel-bashers were persistent, this time displaying inflammatory anti-Israel photos at a Coop general meeting. The photos weren’t verified, they had no context and the boycott proponents did not even establish their connection to SodaStream. Members at the meeting reported that not only was Israel viciously attacked, Jews were, too, with outrageous, absurd and incendiary comments like “Jews are aggressive toward black children.”

Hundreds of Coop members, including the four, were passionate and vocal about their objection to this anti-Israel boycott effort, with good reason: a boycott of Israeli products such as SodaStream would violate New York State law prohibiting boycotts based on national origin, and could subject the Coop to liability. In addition, singling out Israel—the only thriving democracy in the Middle East—for a boycott, while ignoring the true human rights-abusing countries

around the world, smacked of anti-Semitism.

The injustice of the situation led the ZOA to intervene. We urged the Coop to reinstate the four members immediately and to stop promoting discriminatory and potentially illegal practices targeting Israel.

Community members rallied to support our efforts. Close to 450 people signed ZOA’s online petition calling for the members’ reinstatement and an end to anti-Israel boycott initiatives at the Coop. (See <http://bit.ly/2fTBSwU>.)

Despite these efforts, the Coop has disgracefully stayed silent, keeping in place the harsh punishment that is directed against not only the four members, but also against all the members of their households—even though the household members have not been accused of any wrongdoing. Longtime, loyal members can no longer shop where they have purchased their food for over 20 years.

The ZOA has reached out to public officials for help. They should be upholding the law against anti-Israel boycotts and calling on the Coop to stop indulging a group of Israel-bashers who are seemingly obsessed with singling out and discriminating against the State of Israel. Public officials should be advising the Coop to stay out of politics and stick to its mission to make healthy and affordable food available to anyone who wants it.

HELPING DAY-SCHOOL EDUCATORS PREPARE STUDENTS FOR CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM

On November 15, 2016, Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, spoke at a two-day conference in Fort Lee, N.J., entitled “From Anti-Zionism to Anti-Semitism: A Conference for Educators.” The conference was sponsored by the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University in collaboration with the Avi Chai Foundation, to help Jewish day-school educators prepare their students for the anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment they might face at college. Over 200 educators attended, representing 85 day schools and yeshivas from the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY TO FIGHT BDS

On September 28, 2016, Ms. Tuchman spoke at a program sponsored by the Lincoln Square Synagogue in Manhattan, entitled “Exposing

BDS: How to be Proactive in the Fight Against BDS.” The evening was broken into six workshops, with participants given the option of which session to attend. At Ms. Tuchman’s workshop, on campus issues, she focused on legal matters and protections, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. [ZOA](#)

ZOA’s Morton Klein Addresses UN Anti-BDS Conference



Amb. Danny Danon, Amb. Nikki Haley, Morton Klein

On March 29, 3,200 students, diplomats and Jewish leaders attended a major UN conference on fighting the anti-Semitic Boycott, Sanctions, and Divestment (BDS) campaign against Israel.

Morton Klein joined Israel’s Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley, and Chair of the Jewish Agency Natan Sharansky in addressing the largely student audience.

Klein stressed the three lies underlying BDS. (1) Jewish settlements are preventing the possibility of peace. Yet they only comprise 3% of all of Judea/Samaria and no new settlements have been built since the Oslo Accords began in 1993, and any building has occurred within the existing borders of the communities established before 1993. (2) That Israel is an apartheid state. Another lie! Israeli Arabs have the right to vote, serve in the Knesset, are judges, professors, students and doctors in Israeli hospitals. (3) That Israel stole the land from the Arabs, initiating an occupation of Arab land and people. But Jordan illegally occupied Judea/Samaria from 1948-67 which Israel then captured in a defensive war. Israel has given away all of Gaza and 40% of Judea/Samaria where 99% of the Palestinian Arabs live. After his talk, Mort received a standing ovation.

Government Relations

There are new opportunities to limit or eliminate funding to the PA until it begins to make good on its various commitments from existing deals. The reaction to UN Resolution 2334... has sparked congressional bills to cut or reduce U.S. payments to the UN as well as new initiatives to put conditions on U.S. aid to the PA.



David Friedman at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on his nomination to be U.S. Ambassador to Israel



DAN POLLAK
Co-Director,
Government
Relations Department



JOSH LONDON
Co-Director,
Government
Relations Department

The transition to the new administration has changed everything in Washington, and ZOA is helping to steer some of those changes in the interests of pro-Israel advocacy. There is continuity in our priorities as well, since working to limit or eliminate funding to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is as important as ever. Still, an effort to forge a new consensus with a new paradigm must be considered. The erstwhile consensus that a Palestinian Arab state must be created as part of any solution to the situation in the region is already dead, though the congressional constituencies for this failed policy are in leadership roles and remain obstinate. With the accession of President Trump, ZOA is seeking to institutionalize a new view of solving the problems of the region that does not reward Arab intransigence and terrorism. The context around the so-called Iran deal also has shifted in light of President Trump's views, but the threat from Iran to the U.S. and Israel remains. Finally, new opportunities regarding fighting the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement, moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, and the appointment of the most pro-Israel ambassador ever have emerged as significant issues.

As Congress returned to work in the new year, even before President Trump's inauguration, there was a flurry of activity in response to the final betrayal of Israel at the UN Security Council by former President Obama. ZOA stood up for principle on congressional resolutions that objected to the anti-Israel actions at the UN, which were widely supported in both houses of Congress. We asked Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), the sponsors of the most popular legislation, to exclude from the resolutions any reference to establishing a Palestinian Arab state. It is anticipated that this will be an active debate in the near future within the Republican Party—split between rank-and-file conservatives and many of those in leadership roles. In the Democratic Party, the traditional dogma remains, that establishing Palestinian Arab sovereignty is a condition for any legislation. Other Jewish organizations believe that not mentioning this failed policy stance requires giving up on bipartisanship. The ZOA refuses to make an idol of bipartisanship. Members of Congress who want to support Israel—in this case against a deeply offensive anti-Israel resolution in the UN Security Council—must be willing to vote for a resolution condemning the resolution. Including the false idea that a Palestinian Arab state will be a step toward peace cannot be an acceptable concession.

The nomination of David Friedman as U.S. ambassador to Israel is a game-changer in every way. He is a personal friend of ZOA National President Morton Klein, but more importantly, he is in agreement with most of ZOA's positions on the issues. He opposes the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state. He opposes pressure from the U.S. to influence Jewish home-building in Judea and Samaria. He is opposed to J Street and its fundamentally anti-Israel policies. ZOA was actively engaged in lobbying for his confirmation against determined opposition from several Jewish organizations. We are thrilled that he was confirmed. He has stated that he will live in Jerusalem as ambassador regardless of where the embassy location turns out to be. His close relationship with President Trump means that Israel will always have a pathway to make known its views on vital issues. The vicious campaign to discredit Mr. Friedman is a testament to the great effectiveness his appointment promises.

There are also new opportunities to limit or eliminate funding to the PA until it begins to make good on its various commitments from existing deals. The reaction to UN Resolution 2334, which former President Obama allowed to pass in December of last year, has sparked congressional bills to cut or reduce U.S. payments to the UN as well as new initiatives to put conditions on U.S. aid to the PA. One of President Trump's first executive orders was to comply with existing law by disallowing U.S. contributions to any UN organization that admits the so-called state of Palestine as a member. The first attainable goal is to enforce the elimination of payments to terrorists in prison, and to the families of dead terrorists, for murdering and injuring Jews (including Americans). Perversely, the more heinous the crime, the more the terrorists get paid. Congress is expected to deduct from U.S. assistance to the PA the actual amount of any such payments. The next step is the elimination of all aid to the PA and making any future aid contingent upon it fulfilling its many interim peace accord obligations, such as ending the promotion of hatred and violence against Jews and Israel in its media, speeches, schools and children's camps. We have specifi-

cally advocated a 6-month period for the PA to begin to comply with its obligations. A related matter is the misuse of U.S. aid to UNRWA, the UN organization established solely to provide humanitarian aid to Palestinian Arab refugees. Currently, as refugees from the conflicts in Syria and Iraq are taxing the resources of countries in the region, there may be an opportunity to redirect some of the funds to humanitarian needs under the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which takes care of all refugees in the world except Palestinian Arabs.

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. Under the deal, Iran is cruising to full military nuclear capability, even without cheating, in just a few years. The JCPOA was implemented by the Obama administration in spite of the fact that no one in the U.S. government ever signed the agreement and Congress had not ratified it. Since its implementation, Iran has embarked on a series of actions that show its utter contempt for the international community, and for the U.S. in particular. This agreement must be officially terminated.

Iran has test-fired many ballistic missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads, in clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231. Incredibly, the Obama administration essentially acted as an attorney for Iran rather than the U.S., insisting that this is not a JCPOA violation. President Trump has brought these violations to the UN, but at the time of this writing it is still unclear how he will proceed. The ZOA is working hard to advocate for new sanctions. It is entirely possible that the Iranians would react quite strongly to new sanctions and possibly even withdraw from the deal. The bottom line is that the actions Iran has taken since the JCPOA went into effect should be more than enough to make every member of Congress who supported the deal repudiate it now. Even if, by their individual rationale, the original deal could somehow be said to not be a total disaster at the time, events have since clearly proven the JCPOA to be no good.

ZOA's Government Relations Department continues to focus on our other regular legisla-

The first attainable goal is to enforce the elimination of Palestinian Authority payments to terrorists in prison, and to the families of dead terrorists, for murdering and injuring Jews (including Americans). Perversely, the more heinous the crime, the more the terrorists get paid.

With the accession of President Trump, ZOA is seeking to institutionalize a new view of solving the problems of the region that does not reward Arab intransigence and terrorism.

tive priorities as well, including fighting BDS, with some activity at the federal level but notable success 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 nothing to hold Mahmoud Abbas—who is enjoying the twelfth year of his four-year term as president of the PA—accountable for his barbaric statements encouraging the violence and murders.

In addition to dealing with our elected officials, Government Relations also interacts with Jewish and Christian pro-Israel organizations in Washington, DC, and with other American Jewish groups. For example, in conjunction with ZOA's Center for Law and Justice,

we continue to pursue opportunities to team with Jewish groups to combat BDS, to ensure that Department of Education grants to Middle East Studies programs under Title VI of the Higher Education Act are not used to fuel hostility toward Israel, and to ensure that the Department of Education enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jewish students from harassment and intimidation on university campuses. We work closely with our regional directors and with Jeff Daube, ZOA's Israel director. We also participate in meetings, public forums and policy discussions with foreign policy and political professionals, and continue to engage in print and broadcast media opportunities to spread the word on ZOA's issues. ZOA's Government Relations Department co-directors also visit ZOA chapters to give talks and educate our members regarding the situation in Washington, DC. **ZOA**

ZOA Purim Mission to Israel



This year marked the 17th year that the ZOA Brooklyn Region, led by Rubin Margules, undertook to bring Purim Joy to the IDF. It also marked the first Annual ZOA National Leadership Mission led by Deputy National Executive Director Howard Katsoff that joined together to deliver a portion of the 9,000 Mishloach Manot packages that were distributed to IDF soldiers during the week before and during Purim.

It was a truly joyful experience for both the mission participants and the soldiers and Border Police units that received the packages and letters of thanks and support from school children in over 39 schools, from Australia to New York,



Ohio to Florida. A highlight of the visit included meeting many "Lone Soldiers" at their bases and at the Lone Soldier Center in Jerusalem. These soldiers were from many places across the U.S., St. Louis, MO, Miami, FL, Long Island, NY, Los Angeles, CA; all were fulfilling their personal dreams to defend our homeland on behalf of the Jewish people.

The soldiers we met at all the bases were unanimous in thanking the ZOA for thinking of them and bringing the packages and letters of thanks, and for just a little while making this a truly special Purim for themselves and us.

—Rubin Margules ZOA Brooklyn Region

ZOA Campus

ZOA Campus continued one of its main initiatives of thinking creatively to fit Zionist education into the pop culture of college campuses, with the goal of reaching new students.

ZOA Campus— Excited to Expand

CAMPUS OVERVIEW

ZOA Campus is expanding to new levels never before seen. Just two years ago, the department had four coordinators. Now the department has doubled in size and plans to expand to 10 coordinators by the summer of 2017. The hiring of more coordinators will help ZOA Campus reach more students at more universities and will allow the department to work more in-depth with each school.

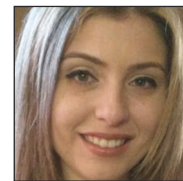
Campus coordinators traveled throughout the country to lead events about Israel and to work with students to promote Israel and fight anti-Semitism. Some of the events and topics led by coordinators on campuses included advocacy training, Krav Maga seminars, lectures and workshops on Palestinian Arab incitement, Jewish history in Israel, the wars in Gaza, Palestinian Arab terrorism and more. Coordinators also worked with student leaders to bring prominent Zionist figures to speak on campus. The speakers included Arab Zionists, Christian Zionists, advocacy trainers and others.

ZOA Campus continued one of its main initiatives of thinking creatively to fit Zionist education into the pop culture of college campuses, with the goal of reaching new students. One of these initiatives involved pro-Israel students handing out free coffee in customized ZOA clay mugs imprinted with strong Zionist messages or quotes from respected public figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The department also traveled throughout the country, handing out flavored drinks and root beer floats made with Israel's SodaStream sparkling water machines. As we made delicious drinks for students, we educated them about the negative effects of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement on both Jews and Arabs, using SodaStream—a target of the movement, even though it has been a model of fairness and peaceful Jewish-Arab coexistence—as an example.



ZACH STERN
Managing
Director and
Tri-State
Coordinator
(based in NYC)



**LEORE
BEN-DAVID**
Assoc. Director
and West Coast
Coordinator
(based in Los
Angeles, CA)



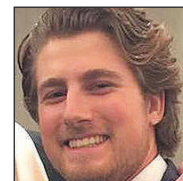
ANNIE COHEN
Southeast
Coordinator
(based in
Miami, FL)



PANDIT MAMI
Midwest
Coordinator
(based in
Detroit, MI)



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



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



LIORA LEVICH
Midwest
Coordinator
(based in
Chicago, IL)



At Cornell, ZOA Campus Coordinator Pandit Mami (center left) teaches Krav Maga and discusses the importance of Zionism and Jewish self-defense.



ZOA Campus Fellow Sarah Edery (center, standing) tables at Rutgers with ZOA mugs and other materials to educate students about the freedoms all Israelis enjoy

ZOA
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students
and a
one-stop
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campus
advocacy.*

ZOACAMPUS.ORG

ZOA Campus's new website—awarded “Best in Class” for 2016 by the International Media Awards—continues to be a key resource for Zionist students. The website is a one-stop shop for Israel advocacy on campus.

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

Fact sheet and booklet topics include BDS, Palestinian Arab terrorism and incitement, human rights in the Middle East and much more. The site also features a compilation of videos, myths and facts, and in-depth reports on many anti-Israel organizations and speakers on campus.

ZOA STUDENT LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL

The ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel is a fun and intense two weeks of education and advocacy training in Israel. Students on our Mission travel throughout the Jewish state,

including to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and many strategic border regions, such as the Western Negev, Galilee, Jordan Valley and Golan Heights. Participants also meet with Knesset members, journalists, policy experts, military experts and many others. This trip is intended for Israel activists or those planning to become Israel activists in the near future. The trip arms student leaders with the facts and unique personal experiences they need to be strong Zionist activists on campus.

The winter 2016-2017 trip was a great success. ZOA Campus took 40 student leaders from across the country to Israel. The trip consisted of Jewish and Christian Zionists who saw Israel from a perspective only seen on the ZOA Mission.

The Mission is unique and powerful. Students travel extensively in Judea and Samaria, something they are rarely able to do with other organizations. They learn about Jewish roots in the area and gain first-hand experience that can help them combat the myths spread on college campuses about Judea and Samaria.

Here are some highlights:

In Ariel, students speak with Jewish and Palestinian Arab employees who work together peacefully. They learn from the Arab workers why BDS is harmful for Palestinian Arabs and why they would rather work in Israel than in the Palestinian Authority. Students also see for themselves the reality on the ground in the



Leadership Mission students visit the Mount of Olives Cemetery in eastern Jerusalem



At Mount Herzl cemetery in Jerusalem, students honor the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the State of Israel

communities in Judea and Samaria and why “settlements” are not the obstacles to peace; rather, they are bridges to peace.

On many of our trips, we stay overnight in Samaria’s only hotel, located in Ariel. Students hear from the hotel owner, who has endured two terrorist attacks since the beginning of the Second Intifada. They hear his heroic story of saving IDF soldiers from a terrorist wearing a suicide belt.

Trip participants spend Shabbat and stay overnight with host families in Kfar Adumim, a small community east of Jerusalem in the Judean Hills. Here, students interact with community members and experience firsthand how “settlers” are nothing like how they are portrayed in the media; they are normal and good people. Students also see the strategic importance of keeping these communities and the surrounding areas under Israeli control.

While in the Jordan Valley, students hear from members of the local communities who describe co-existence in the Jordan Valley with their Arab neighbors. They also learn why Israel must maintain control of this important strip of land. Local community members describe the hypocrisy of the European Union boycott of their products and how it harms Palestinian Arab employees more than anyone else.

ZOA Israel Director Jeff Daube takes stu-

dents on an in-depth tour of Jerusalem’s so-called Green Line to show them that dividing Jerusalem is both unethical and impossible. Students see that everyone is better off when all of Jerusalem is under Israeli control.

Yoav Yaron, a young Israeli from Gush Katif, tells his emotional story of living through the Gaza disengagement when he was 14 years old. He also discusses the catastrophic consequences of Israel’s decision to withdraw from Gaza and what one should learn from this when discussing Judea and Samaria.

Students meet with various Arab leaders in northern Israel to learn about the freedoms and opportunities that Israel’s minorities enjoy. This arms students with facts and personal stories that can help them combat myths about the mistreatment of Israeli Arabs, which are spread by J Street and SJP.

The students visit a kindergarten in Sderot and interact with the children there who have grown up living and going to school in bomb shelters. Despite the harsh realities of the region, the children speak about how they do not hate all Arabs. Students find this especially powerful, as they see first-hand the sharp contrast between the Israeli education system and the Palestinian-Arab education system. After visiting with the kindergarteners, the ZOA students donate toys to the children.

***ZOA’s
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Student
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Mission to
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on campus.***

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

The students learn about the strategic and historical importance of maintaining the Golan Heights. They also discuss the security situation in Syria and Lebanon and how that affects Israel's decision-making in the area.


The students experience the social media War Room at the IDC in Herzliya, where they build their own social media campaigns from scratch. This exercise teaches them the most effective ways to build outreach campaigns to engage social media users in Israel activism.

The ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel gives participants the skills, experiences and personal stories they need to stand up for Israel and respond effectively to anti-Israel sentiment on campus. ZOA Campus looks forward to continuing to educate and empower future Zionist leaders on our next Mission, which will take place during the summer of 2017. We are grateful to National Vice President Myron Zimmerman for his generous support of our Student Leadership Missions to Israel.

ZOA CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The department has successfully expanded the Fellowship Program during the 2016-2017 academic year. After signing on 20 Fellows during the 2015-2016 year, campus coordinators now oversee 30 Fellows across the country and are excited to expand the program to 40 for next year.

Campus Fellows act as paid ZOA interns on campus. They are responsible for guaranteeing strong Zionist programming and ensuring that ZOA's message is heard on college campuses. They also are responsible for making sure the ZOA name is associated with these programs, helping ZOA expand its reach and enhance its brand.

Each Fellow is responsible for planning four ZOA events throughout the year and tabling six times with ZOA materials. Each Fellow must also write twice for the ZOA Campus blog. Because the department now has 30 Fellows, ZOA Campus is guaranteed at least 120 events on key campuses across the country. This does not include the 100 to 200 events with non-Fellows the department expects to see as well. 



Campus Coordinator Jonathan Ginsburg (right) and Israel trip alumni table at Brandeis University to promote Israel and combat anti-Israel sentiment on campus

Students see for themselves the reality on the ground in the communities in Judea and Samaria, and why “settlements” are not obstacles to peace; rather, they are bridges to peace.

Israel Office

ZOA Israel, working in tandem with the International Committee for the Preservation of Har Hazeitim, continues to make its mark in Jerusalem's eastern areas.

Working Cooperatively in the Face of Betrayals

After eight years of relentless undermining of Israel, even by self-proclaimed friendly nations and advocacy groups, hope is building that the new U.S. administration will back up strong words with stronger action to help stem the anti-Israel tide. Doing its part, ZOA Israel has enlisted the cooperation of growing numbers of government and community leaders, veteran and newly minted activists, scholars and students. Key recent accomplishments in our three decisive venues show that we are definitely achieving more by means of this force-multiplier approach.

JERUSALEM

ZOA Israel, working in tandem with the International Committee for the Preservation of Har Hazeitim, continues to make its mark in Jerusalem's eastern areas. On the Mount of Olives, rock-throwing assaults have been reduced to a minimum. Not one grave has been desecrated since October 2015, and, not unrelatedly, the tally of average daily visitors has swelled, from 300 in 2015 to 1,500 last year.

Two years of intense lobbying, moreover, has generated the 4 million shekels needed to ring the massive Jewish cemetery with a steel fence and state-of-the-art surveillance equipment. The added protection also should benefit our other current project, restoring the rest of the 23,000 graves (left neglected after government funds had run out) of the 45,000 destroyed by the Jordanians from 1948 to 1967.

Members of Knesset Michael Malkieli (Shas) and Sharren Haskel (Likud) are the latest in a parade of Israeli leaders brought to the Mount of Olives, both to survey the physical improvements and to envision our master plan for improving historical and geostrategic awareness. We also have recently briefed many foreign diplomatic, philanthropic and media figures at the site, including U.S. Consul General Donald Blome and his senior staff.

ZOA Israel again conducted its Jerusalem Seam Line tour for 40 ZOA student leaders, accompanied by Campus Director Zach Stern and his team. In addition to attending talks at the Knesset by MK Amir Ohana (Likud) and Rachel Gur, chief of staff for Minister Zev Elkin,



JEFF DAUBE
Director,
ZOA Israel



ZOA Fellow Carmel Siman-tov with MK Avraham Neguise at the Knesset, where she testified before his Aliyah, Absorption and Diaspora Committee

ZOA Israel has been working with Sen. Rubio, Sen. Cruz and others on US defunding of the UN until anti-Israel Resolution 2334 is rescinded.

ZOA student leaders Hadar Farkash and Yael Zoken testified at a Knesset hearing on campus anti-Semitism chaired by MK Avraham Neguise (Likud). Taking advantage of an extended stay, ZOA Fellow Carmel Siman-tov addressed Neguise's other concern—how Diaspora Jews relate to Jerusalem's diversity challenges—at a second Knesset hearing. We also brought Carmel to a Jerusalem forum on U.S.-Israel strategic ties and to a get-together with the president of Poland at the King David Hotel.

With UNESCO producing yet another vile resolution erasing Jewish connectedness to Jerusalem—a prior one cited “Jewish fake graves” planted in the Mount of Olives Muslim (sic) cemetery—and the U.S., under Obama, betraying Israel by choosing not to veto UN Security Council Resolution 2334, ZOA Israel entered the fray. Shooting a video response on the Mount of Olives, amid the more than 150,000 virtual “settlers” of its burial grounds, we recalled the infamous 1975 UN General Assembly “Zionism is Racism” vote by way of comparison. In a synchronized action alert, viewers (now numbering well over 43,000) were asked to insist on government defunding of the UN until Resolution 2334 is rescinded. ZOA Israel has been working directly on this with various offices on Capitol Hill, in particular those of Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX).

YEHUDA-SHOMRON

This year marks a quarter century since the Begin and Shamir governments regularly enunciated Israel's superior legal-historical claims for all the world to hear. In the face of the enormous damage inflicted on Israel's legitimacy by an adversarial Obama administration, the EU and the UN, and by the likes of J Street, Yesh Din, B'Tselem and Peace Now, ZOA Israel has been networking ceaselessly for years with like-minded leaders and activists to revitalize the Begin-Shamir theme from within.

A new Legal Grounds Campaign channel on YouTube, for example, features clips of Tzipi Hotovely (Likud), Oded Forer (Yisrael Beteinu), Yoav Ben-Tzur (Shas), Yoav Kisch (Likud) and Bezalel Smotrich (HaBayit HaYehudi) speaking forcefully before the Knesset. We also floated a letter addressed to President Trump, which we expect will be signed by one member each from the Knesset and Congress, expressing the hope that he, too, will pursue Judea-Samaria-friendly policies based on irrefutable facts and precedents.

Legal Grounds additionally has begun pushing for implementation of one of the Levy Report recommendations: to open Judea-Samaria's tabu (land registry) to public scrutiny. This could be a means to avoid future uprooting, such as befell the Jewish residents of Migron, Bet El's Ulpana and now Amona.

Moreover, we asked that land disputes be adjudicated in civil rather than military courts and that compensation to alleged landowners be considered in lieu of expulsions when Israelis build unknowingly on Arab plots.

ZOA Israel followed up its October visit to the beleaguered Amona community, in the company of several MKs and Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely, with in-depth briefings in January. The briefings had been catalyzed by a remarkable article about ZOA Israel/Legal Grounds in Israel's highly regarded synagogue weekly magazine, *Shevi'i*. Upon hearing out the Amona residents concerning the alternative site, first offered and then withdrawn after specious legal objections from Yesh Din once again, we took this up for them at the Knesset—separate undisclosed proposals by the prime minister and select ministers notwithstanding.

Accompanied by Knesset colleagues Yoav Kisch and Bezalel Smotrich, we visited another manifestation of the illegal Arab and Bedouin land grabs proliferating throughout Israel: the usually deserted, phony village of Khirbet Susiya whose pretend residents actually live in nearby Yatta. After an unfriendly journalist leaked news of our arrival, a nose-to-nose confrontation with Jewish leftists and Palestinian Arabs erupted. Of course, J Street made this a cause célèbre while ignoring the area's true legal status: Israel-administered under the category of *admot seker* (survey land), it cannot be considered privately owned by anyone.

ZOA Israel has been coordinating with Dan Diker, senior fellow at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, to expose and tackle the peace-averse, anti-normalization policies of the Palestinian Authority, which only serve to inflame passions, as in the above example, and sabotage opportunities for cooperation via punishment and intimidation. In the meantime, Cong. Dave Brat (R-VA) and Cong. Scott Taylor (R-VA) and EU parliamentarians Roger Hellmer and Bill Etheridge were shown a different evolving Judea-Samaria reality: coexistence in action at the Barkan Industrial Park, where they heard from Yehuda HaCohen's plastics factory foreman, Rasheed, about the 3,000 Arabs working side by side with 3,000 Jews.



Jeff Daube addresses Sovereignty Movement activists about the Legal Grounds Campaign at Gush Etzion's Oz v'Gaon facility



MK Michael Malkieli surveys newly installed fencing in a vandalism-plagued section of Mount of Olives Jewish cemetery

Continuing and new ZOA Israel collaborations to advance Israel heartland advocacy included, among others, several efforts alongside law experts, such as Prof. Eugene Kontorovich and Dr. Alan Baker; our seminar for Sovereignty Movement activists in Judea's Oz v'Gaon; and the "Jewish Rights and the UN" session, which we moderated for Israel Forever at its inaugural conference.

WASHINGTON

Attorney Yifa Segal, the International Legal Forum's articulate director with whom we have previously cooperated on position papers, a Knesset hearing and more, has been enlightening ZOA Israel about the nuances of recent legal issues—for instance, regarding U.S. and EU demands that Israel label products from Judea-Samaria.

ZOA Israel, in turn, has been educating Yifa about Israel's reliable friends in Washington. Our joint behind-the-scenes initiatives were further enhanced by a multi-day fall visit, aided by ZOA intern Meira Jacobs, to Capitol Hill

Cong. Dave Brat, Cong. Scott Taylor, and EU parliamentarians Roger Hellmer and Bill Etheridge were shown the Judea-Samaria reality: coexistence in action at the Barkan Industrial Park, where they saw 3,000 Arabs working side by side with 3,000 Jews.



ZOA Israel Director Jeff Daube, ILF head Yifa Segal and ZOA intern Meira Jacobs pay a farewell visit to departing Sen. Mark Kirk (seated)



During a video shoot on the Mount of Olives, Jeff Daube highlights the absurdity of UN resolutions implying that Jews buried in its cemetery are occupying settlers

*After
a journalist
leaked news
of our arrival
at the site of
the deserted
Susiya, a
nose-to-nose
confrontation
erupted with
Jewish leftists
and
Palestinian
Arabs.*

and the Justice Department. The outing resulted in significant pushback by congressional members against the last U.S. administration. Helpful feedback from ZOA's Dan Pollak and Josh London confirmed that we had made a number of dents we can be proud of.

Another team effort, relating to the September bipartisan "Sense of Congress" letter warning Obama not to take unilateral steps vis-à-vis Israel—in itself a good thing—brought MK Bezael Smotrich aboard. The letter, signed by 88 senators, unfortunately also included "two-state" language, even though the Republican platform committee had expunged the term in its own Israel plank. As chair of the 18-member Land of Israel Knesset caucus, Smotrich responded with a "Dear Congress" letter for us to shop around. In it, he asked Republican members to refrain from signing onto any similarly worded bill, resolution or letter thereafter.

Remembering to thank great friends of Israel, we made a point of meeting with Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL), despite his election loss the week before. Kirk has been a staunch ally and valued adviser on so many of our issues, including with

regard to recovering funds for American terror victims, such as the *Sokolow v. PLO* plaintiffs and others who are counting on us in their quest to attain closure and a sense of justice.

We also strongly urged select congressional leaders to promote the Senate's Taylor Force Act, named after the U.S. army officer-turned-college student who was stabbed to death while visiting Israel. The bill means to cut off funding to the PA/PLO in amounts commensurate with the salaries/pensions paid respectively to Israel-incarcerated Arab terrorists and their families. We asked for a version from the House side, too, and two days later Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO) came up with just that.

Of particular poignance, one of the two U.S. citizens killed in a truck ramming attack in Jerusalem this past January, 18 year old Erez Orbach, turned out to be the nephew of Iris Zangi, who had been seriously injured in a bus attack in 1989, then traumatized in a car shooting in 2002. ZOA Israel already had been working closely with still suffering Iris when the news broke about Erez. Now we are also working with Erez's immediate family, making sure everyone receives the services and compensation that U.S. law requires. **ZOA**

ZOA Around the Country



Speaking under ZOA auspices, Professor Eugene Kontorovich refuted claims that Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria are illegal

NEW YORK

ZOA New York kicked off 2017 with a conversation with Professor Eugene Kontorovich at the Edmond J. Safra Synagogue on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Professor Kontorovich, who teaches at Northwestern University School of Law, is one of the world's preeminent legal scholars on public international law. In his talk, he refuted the fictitious claim that the Jewish communities of Judea and Samaria—the so-called settlements—are illegal. This was an especially timely presentation, considering that just days before, the UN Security Council had passed a resolution making this exact false claim.

We are extremely pleased that the Zionist book and film club sponsored by our young professionals group—the Zionist Culture Club of New York—will continue to meet in 2017. Our first discussion will focus on the book “Tough Jews” by Rich Cohen. Rich will be joining the group via Skype to lead our conversation and share his thoughts on the book. The club typically meets every six weeks or so and examines a number of themes through books and films centered on Zionism and Jewish identity. These get-togethers are very much salon-style meetings and virtually always lead to fascinating and free-flowing conversations. If you're interested in joining us, please send us an email at nyc@zoa.org.

FIGHTING BDS AT BROOKLYN'S PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP AND ON CAMPUS

On the activism front, ZOA New York has been working with four members of the Park Slope Food Coop who were suspended from the Coop for a year for speaking out against an anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) event. The event, which took place in April 2015, included inflammatory photos that demonized Israel and was meant to inspire Coop members to vote to boycott products from Israeli company SodaStream. In addition to reaching out to the Coop, ZOA New York has been in touch with local lawmakers, has initiated a petition in support of the Coop members and has spoken about the incident at events around the New York area.

On January 29, Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, and Zach Stern, director of ZOA Campus, spoke about BDS on campus and in general at Central Synagogue—Beth Emeth in Rockville Centre, NY. They presented a similar program at the Brotherhood Synagogue in Gramercy Park on February 1.

For upcoming events in 2017, local news and more, check out our website, nyc.zoa.org, and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ZOA.NYC>.

Interested in organizing a ZOA event in your synagogue or community? Email us at nyc@zoa.org.

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen wrote: “The ZOA is an incredible force for Israel, and this program will undoubtedly equip high school students with the tools they need to become leaders and activists in their communities... I am happy to join with the ZOA and our South Florida Jewish community in celebrating the start of this remarkable fellowship program.”



Sharona Whisler speaking at anti-BDS rally



Left to right, ZOA High School Fellows with teacher Yehudis Benhamou and ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler

FLORIDA

ZOA HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP LAUNCHES IN FLORIDA

ZOA Florida’s season started with the launch of the ZOA High School Fellowship. Designed by ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler, who partnered with the Scheck Hillel Community School and Hebrew Academy, the ZOA High School Fellowship aims to prepare students for what they will encounter in college, arming them with the facts to combat anti-Zionism and to serve as leaders in this fight.

Six students comprised the first class of fellows: Avi Bryan, Abigail Winograd and Jordana Zackon from the Scheck Hillel Community School, and Aliza Posner, Malka Suster and Gabriel A. from Hebrew Academy. Some of the fellows attended ZOA’s Brandeis Awards Gala in November and were recognized by name from the podium. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) also recognized them by name when she sent a congratulatory letter to ZOA on the launch of the program. She wrote: “The ZOA is an incredible force for Israel, and this program will undoubtedly equip high school students with the tools they need to become leaders and activists in their communities...Your hard work is fundamental in making our community better for years to come. I am happy to join with the ZOA and our

South Florida Jewish community in celebrating the start of this remarkable fellowship program.”

ANTI-BDS ACTIVITIES

Despite threats of stormy weather, hundreds gathered at a rally in southwest Miami at summer’s end to protest the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. The rally was organized by local activist Joe Zevuloni with the help of ZOA and other co-sponsors. Carrying Israeli flags, the Rolling Thunder and Florida Lubavich motorcycle clubs, plus an auto motorcade, kicked off the high-energy rally, which featured YouTube sensation, rapper Ari Lesser. Rally-goers sported T-shirts reading “BDS is Hate” and held signs with such slogans as “U.S. and Israel, United Against Hate” and “BDS = anti-Semitism.” The rally’s message was clear: if you support BDS, you are supporting hate. Ms. Whisler spoke at the rally about the BDS movement’s hidden motive—the destruction of the State of Israel. She drew a parallel to the anti-Semitic boycott of Jewish businesses instituted by Hitler, saying: “Anti-Semitism hasn’t changed; only its masks and excuses have changed.” She then introduced Bal Harbour Mayor Gabriel Groisman, who spoke about his victory in getting legislation passed that prevents any corporation supporting BDS from doing business with the city of Bal Harbour. Florida State Senator Frank Artiles, who helped push through Florida’s anti-



Protesters rallied against the anti-Israel BDS movement

BDS legislation, discussed the importance of the U.S.–Israel relationship, emphasizing the necessity of countering supporters of BDS. The diverse lineup of speakers included pro-Zionist, non-Jewish LGBT community leader Vincent Foster, who spoke about the hypocritical nature of the BDS movement.

In late 2016, hundreds of BDS graffiti were discovered defacing public property in Miami's Wynwood area, home to several Israeli-owned businesses and doorways with mezuzot. A local South Florida resident reported the vandalism to the Miami Police Department, where it was classified as a hate crime. ZOA Florida prepared a letter commending the police department for taking the incident seriously and for identifying and investigating it as a hate crime. Several local elected officials joined ZOA in signing the letter, including Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado, Bal Harbour Mayor Gabriel Groisman, Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine and Rep. Mario Díaz-Balart (R-FL). The story was covered by *The Tower* and *The Algemeiner*.

PRE-ELECTION MEETINGS WITH CLINTON AND TRUMP CAMPAIGNS

Leading up to the presidential elections, Sharona Whisler was invited to meet with representatives of the Clinton and Trump campaigns. The meetings were an opportunity for Jewish leaders to question the candidates'

surrogates and discuss with them the issues of greatest importance to the Jewish community. During the meeting with the Trump representative, Ms. Whisler raised the issue of campus anti-Semitism and enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. During the meeting with the Clinton representative, Ms. Whisler raised concern over the possibility of President Obama abstaining from the upcoming vote on UN Security Council Resolution 2334 (which in fact later occurred). She also brought up Ms. Clinton's troublingly close relationship with anti-Zionist Sidney Blumenthal and her praise for his son, anti-Semitic blogger Max Blumenthal.

ZOA ACTIVITIES BEGIN IN JACKSONVILLE

ZOA Florida is proud to be starting activities in Jacksonville, where new members Sam and Randi Rogozinski hosted a parlor meeting in their home. A follow-up program is planned at the Jacksonville Jewish Center, with the help of new Jacksonville ZOA members, on the topic, "The BDS Movement Against Israel and the Reality of Anti-Semitism," featuring Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice.

SPEAKER EVENTS

In September, Sharona Whisler conducted a discussion about Zionism at Congregation B'nai Israel in Boca Raton. The discussion was followed by an exercise for students to create their own Zionist mission statements expressing why they are committed and connected to Israel and Zionism.

In November, ZOA Florida featured acclaimed author Edwin Black, who addressed students at Scheck Hillel Community School on the topic of "Israel and International Law: A Complete History," regarding Jewish legal claims to the land of Israel. Mr. Black also spoke at Congregation Torah Ohr in Boca Raton, about the little-known tragedy of the Farhud, the subject of one of his books. Finally, Mr. Black gave an analysis of "The Next 66 Days, the Next 66 Weeks,"

The ZOA High School Fellowship aims to prepare students for what they will encounter in college, arming them with the facts to combat anti-Zionism and to serve as leaders in this fight.

The message of the rally was clear: if you support BDS, you are supporting hate.

The focus of Mr. Klein's presentation was "The Anti-Semitic UN Resolution: What Happened? Why? What Now?"

regarding America and the Middle East, at Nova Southeastern University, as part of the State Department's International Education Week. All of the events were well attended.

In December, ZOA National President Morton Klein visited the Palm Beach Synagogue as scholar-in-residence immediately after UN Security Council Resolution 2334 was adopted, and was the featured speaker at the ZOA and Temple Menorah Shabbaton in Miami Beach. The focus of Mr. Klein's presentation was "The Anti-Semitic UN Resolution: What Happened? Why? What Now?" Audiences learned about how this resolution came to be adopted and about its serious potential ramifications. All of Mr. Klein's presentations were well received, with standing ovations, thanks to the honesty of his explanations.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ZOA Florida welcomes incoming board member Deedee Bitran. Ms. Bitran grew up in North Miami Beach and studied at the Alexander Muss High School program in Israel. She obtained a B.S. from the University of Florida, graduating summa cum laude. Deedee received her law degree magna cum laude from Florida International University (FIU) College of Law, graduating in the top 6 percent of her class. In law school, Deedee was a member of the Jewish Law Students Association, president of the Labor and Employment Law Society, a member of the FIU Law moot court team, and an articles and comments editor of the FIU Law Review. While in law school, she won six national writing competitions and secured publication agreements for her articles in five legal journals: the FIU Law Review, the Women's Rights Law Reporter at the Rutgers School of Law, the Elon Law Review, the National Law Review, and the St. Thomas Law Review.

Her most recent legal article, "Anti-Israel, a Camouflage Platform for 'Anti-Semitism,'" supports the constitutionality of Florida's recent anti-BDS legislation. The legislation prohibits contracting with and providing Florida state funds for government projects to entities engaging in BDS. Her article asserts that Florida has a constitutional right to decide which entities



Author Edwin Black with students after his talk at Scheck Hillel Community School

receive Florida funds, that Florida is under no obligation to provide funds to entities engaging in discriminatory behavior such as BDS and that the refusal to provide such funds to those entities is not a violation of the First Amendment. Deedee's article was published in the National Law Review and the FIU Law Review. She is an attorney at Shutts & Bowen LLP and plans to continue her efforts to help Israel.

ZOA Florida also welcomes new board members Lisa Falic-Groisman and Dr. Mark Fleisher.

To get involved with ZOA Florida, please contact florida@zoa.org.

PHILADELPHIA

GREATER PHILADELPHIA ZOA: SPEAKING OUT BOLDLY IN DEFENSE OF ISRAEL, JEWS

The Zionist Organization of America was the only local Jewish group to speak out against a January week-long "Black Lives Matter Action Week" in the Philadelphia public schools. The initiative by a group of teachers introduced Black Lives Matter (BLM) materials in classrooms and after-school activities. Teachers also wore BLM T-shirts and buttons in the classroom. ZOA objected and called for the cancellation of the action week because the BLM materials had not been evaluated and approved by the

school board, in violation of Philadelphia School District policies. In addition, BLM is an affiliate of the Movement 4 Black Lives, which includes lie-filled attacks against Israel in its online manifesto, and students might be exposed to this Jew-hatred either in the classroom or on their own when looking for more information about BLM.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA worked together with ZOA's Center for Law and Justice on a letter that was sent to local and state officials, urging them to ensure that political entities such as BLM be kept out of classrooms, as required by district policies. Greater Philadelphia ZOA Executive Director Steve Feldman was interviewed about ZOA's objections in the *Jewish Exponent* newspaper. Marc also wrote about the situation for *American Thinker*, an online magazine, and was interviewed about it on the "Dom Giordano Show," a local radio talk show.

PURIM CARDS POUR IN

Greater Philadelphia ZOA invited 18 schools and congregations, as well as individuals, to participate in our project to amass Purim thank-you cards and letters for IDF soldiers. Participants in the ZOA's Purim Mission to Israel deliver the cards and letters while visiting IDF bases to distribute *mishloach manot*. This year, schools from the far reaches of our region also participated, in addition to those in Philadelphia and the nearby suburbs. We received beautiful and touching cards and letters from students in Scranton, York, Bethlehem, Reading, Cherry Hill, Harrisburg and throughout the Philadelphia vicinity.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA GALA, EVENTS AND ACTIVISM

In September, Greater Philadelphia ZOA hosted our annual Gala. More than 280 lovers of Israel turned out for this warm and festive evening of patriotism and Zionism. We honored Andrew C. McCarthy, who was also our keynote speaker, with our Ben Hecht Award for Outstanding Journalism, and former Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick with our Friend of Zion Award. We also hon-

ored Rabbi Steve Saks of Wilmington with our Guardian of Israel Award, and Cherry Hill communal leaders Amy and Eric Clayman with our Pillars of the Community Award. In addition to our honorees, speakers included ZOA National President Morton Klein and local community leader Allen L. Rothenberg. Talk-radio host Dom Giordano was master of ceremonies.

In December, we presented another installment in our "An Evening With" series, this time featuring veteran IDF Sgt. Benjamin Anthony of Our Soldiers Speak. About 130 people attended Sgt. Anthony's talk. The audience was rapt throughout his remarks as he conveyed his feelings regarding "The Two-State Solution As-Is: A Concession of Land, Hope and the Israeli Future."

Following the November elections, we have three new members of Congress from our area. Accordingly, Philadelphia ZOA leaders and members traveled to meet them, introduce the ZOA and offer our help regarding issues related to Israel, the Middle East, the peace process and Iran. We met with Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) in his Lancaster office; Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) in his Langhorne office; and Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA) in his Philadelphia office. Morton Klein joined us for the meeting with Rep. Evans.

The theme at our quarterly meeting in November was "Accentuating the Positive: Israel: Bringing Light, Life and So Much More to the Nations." Mark Cohen, founder and president of Israel Ideas, discussed his work on campuses to introduce students to Israel's many technological breakthroughs. He gave a PowerPoint presentation on some of those innovations. We witnessed a demonstration by a disabled user of ReWalk, a wearable robotic exoskeleton that enables spinal injury patients to walk, and a presentation on OrCam, which helps the blind to "see" by photographing everyday items and even faces, and then reading aloud or identifying objects and people.

ZOA Philadelphia co-President Lee Bender, media committee chairman Jerry Verlin and Executive Director Steve Feldman have been speaking regularly throughout the region before congregations and organizations, to Jews and Christians alike. Bender and Verlin were also invited to speak at a synagogue on Long Island. They focus on anti-Israel media bias as well

Philadelphia ZOA worked together with ZOA's Center for Law and Justice on a letter that was sent to local and state officials, urging them to ensure that political entities such as anti-Israel Black Lives Matter be kept out of classrooms.

Keynote speaker Avi Goldwasser detailed the growing trend of anti-Israel activities, anti-Semitism, hatred and violence on U.S. college campuses today. An accomplished documentary producer, Avi showed a clip of his new film, “Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance on Campus.” The presentation was riveting and chilling.



Dan Webb, using ReWalk, and his therapist, John Feeley, demonstrate the life-changing Israeli device at a recent meeting

as terminology that supporters of Israel should not be using. Feldman concentrates on history, the peace process and pro-Israel advocacy.

Bender and Feldman have also been prolific in their writing, and their articles have been published in the *Jerusalem Post*, *Times of Israel* and *American Thinker*. Our leadership also had a letter published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in response to a one-sided article against the relocation of the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. The article failed to note that U.S. law mandates that the embassy be in Jerusalem. It also neglected to include comments from anyone who supported the relo-

cation. Bender and Feldman have been interviewed by *Jewish Exponent* reporters, and Feldman has been a guest on the “Dom Giordano Show” several times in the past few months.

In July, when the Democratic National Convention was held in Philadelphia, Greater Philadelphia ZOA members wrote to Mayor Jim Kenney expressing our concern because an Israeli flag was set on fire outside of the convention by protesters. We called on the mayor to condemn the attack. Kenney refused, and one of his deputy mayors contacted us to question whether the flag-burning actually took place, even though there were video and photos of the incident.



Executive Director Stuart Pavilack (third from left) with Joe and Andrea Chester, Maggie and Jan Levinson, and Chaya and Dr. Dean Pollack at the Pittsburgh Gala.

More than 30 of our members attended the National ZOA Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner in November. More than 60 of our members participated in the ZOA's May 2016 Advocacy Mission to Washington, D.C. Nine ZOA members from our area participated in the ZOA Purim Mission to Israel in March.

PITTSBURGH

ZOA Pittsburgh held its Gala Awards Dinner on Nov. 2, 2016. The event, which featured speakers and a sit-down dinner, paid tribute to outstanding individuals with a record of service to ZOA and the community.

CHAYA AND DR. DEAN POLLACK, LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Pittsburgh's Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes exceptional leadership and is given to individuals who, guided by principle and purpose, have demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication in service to Israel, the Jewish people and the community. Our 2016 honorees were Chaya and Dr. Dean Pollack.

The Pollacks are modest yet tireless community volunteers who have been an integral part of the Pittsburgh Jewish community since moving here in 1986. They have been active in many organizations, educational institutions, at the Kollel and their synagogue, Congregation Poale Zedeck.

Chaya was born in Petach Tikvah, Israel. Dean was 16 years old and on a visit to Israel when he met Chaya. It soon became clear to him that he had met his *bashert*. Their friendship blossomed just as Chaya was about to begin serving in the Israel Defense Forces. Assigned to the Air Force, she rose to the rank of sergeant and served as a medic during the Yom Kippur War.

When she finished her military service, Chaya was reunited with Dean when she came to New York and enrolled in City College; Dean was already there in a pre-med program. One year later they married. Dean went on to attend New York Medical College and did his residency at Brookdale Hospital. Chaya earned her bachelor's degree in nursing and worked as a nurse in a home for developmentally disabled people. After living in New York for 10 years and starting their family, Dean decided he wanted to leave the city. A visit to Pittsburgh convinced the two that Pittsburgh would be the right home for them. They have four sons; Noam (Yehudit),

Gala honorees Chaya and Dr. Dean Pollack are happy to help support the ZOA: "It is significant to have a unifying Zionist organization for people of different backgrounds."

**Honoree
Andrea
Chester
exemplifies
the spirit
of the award.
She has been
active in
a plethora of
organizations,
getting things
done in an
unassuming
manner.**

two that Pittsburgh would be the right home for them. They have four sons; Noam (Yehudit), Edo (Rena), Coby (Jessica) and Ben (Rebecca). The Pollacks are blessed with 12 grandchildren.

Over the years, Chaya has been involved with myriad organizations and institutions, including Poale Zedeck, Hillel Academy, the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, Chevra Kadisha, and the ZOA. She presently serves on the ZOA board. In recent years, she has managed to squeeze in another activity that brings joy to many others, too—her art. Like Chaya, Dean, who has been a solo private practitioner in obstetrics and gynecology since moving to Pittsburgh, is an active and giving volunteer. He has served on the Poale Zedeck board and as president of the synagogue. He has also been a member of the board and executive board of Hillel Academy.

The Pollacks always answer the call for service, but they shun recognition. They are happy to help support the ZOA through this event because they believe that “it is significant to have a unifying Zionist organization for people of different backgrounds.”

ANDREA CHESTER, NOVICK COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

ZOA Pittsburgh established the Ivan and Natalie Novick Community Leadership Award in memory of the couple’s lifetime of leadership and service to the many, varied organizations of the Pittsburgh Jewish community. Ivan Novick was national president of the ZOA and president of ZOA Pittsburgh. Honoree Andrea Chester exemplifies the spirit of the award. She has been active in a plethora of organizations, getting things done in her unassuming manner.

Andrea received a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Pittsburgh, did graduate work in Comparative Literature at Indiana University in Bloomington and earned a master’s in education from Pitt. She has been teaching writing at Duquesne University and Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) for 15 years. Previously, she taught preschool and third grade at Yeshiva School, where she currently teaches

poetry workshops. At Duquesne, she designed a core course entitled “Literature and the Immigrant Experience.” Andrea gives presentations on Israel as part of the CCAC Speakers Bureau.

Andrea currently serves as ZOA Pittsburgh board treasurer. She has been involved in many ZOA committees and has travelled to Washington and Philadelphia representing ZOA Pittsburgh. She also has been involved with Hadassah, Chabad House on Campus, Chabad of Carnegie Mellon University, Lubavitch Center, Na’amat, AIPAC and the March of Dimes.

Andrea and her husband Joe have four children; Jeremy, Ari (May), Shoshana (Josh) and Hallie (Yehoshua), and nine grandchildren. Andrea has been to Israel many times, is a member of two book clubs, loves to read and cook and especially loves to babysit for her grandchildren.

JAN LEVINSON, ISRAEL SERVICE AWARD

ZOA Pittsburgh’s Israel Service Award is given to individuals with strong ethics, leadership and results-driven qualities who have a passion for the Jewish homeland. They demonstrate their love and support for the State of Israel time and time again.

In 1975, Jan Levinson volunteered to work on Kibbutz Alonim. He learned Hebrew and spent six months on a ladder picking fruit and another six months helping raise 50,000 chickens. Most important, Jan met his future wife—a Swedish volunteer named Maggie—on her first day on the kibbutz. In 1979, Maggie and Jan returned to Israel to volunteer on Kibbutz Hazorea. Maggie worked in the hothouses, and Jan milked 250 cows per day.

Jan, an attorney and real estate entrepreneur, is president of Union Real Estate Company. He and Maggie have three children: David (Elian), Hannah and Jonathan, and a grandson. Jan is an ex-marathon runner, a member of the JCC Masters Swim Team and a novice golfer.

His volunteer work is extensive. He served as vice president of Community Day School—where he coordinated the transformation of the former St. Bede’s School building into the Community Day School—and as president of

Congratulations to my fellow honorees!

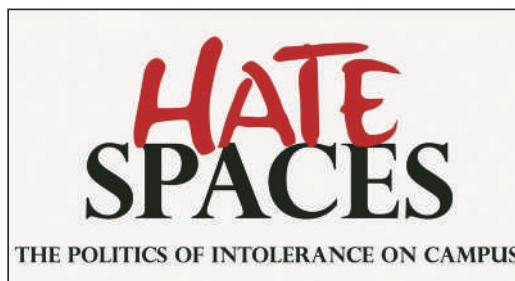


Jan Levinson - Kibbutz Alonim 1975

Jan Levinson's flashback Gala journal ad honored fellow awardees.



Keynote speaker Avi Goldwasser



Poster for new Avi Goldwasser documentary

the Jewish Education Institute and the Agency for Jewish Learning. He has also served on the boards of JNF and Beth Shalom. Jan has taken on many challenges at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. He co-chaired the Partnership2Gether program and chaired the Israel Programs Committee and Jewish Education Task Force. He currently serves on its board of directors, campaign board and several committees.

In 2016, Jan co-founded the American Friends of Moona—A Space for Change, a center for space, science and technology in the Galilee. Moona creates a better socio-economic reality in the northern periphery of Israel by bringing together mixed communities around advanced technologies.

The keynote speaker for the evening was

Avi Goldwasser. He co-founded Americans for Peace and Tolerance, an advocacy group focused on educating the public about the radical threats to academic integrity at American universities. Avi detailed the growing trend of Israel-bashing, anti-Israel activities, anti-Semitism, hatred and violence on college campuses today. An accomplished documentary producer, Avi showed a clip of his new film, "Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance on Campus," which premiered in November. His presentation was chilling and riveting.

ZOA Pittsburgh is developing its spring and summer calendar, which will include its Israel Scholarship Program, ZOA Pittsburgh Tolerance Education Program, the Kandy Ehrenwerth Memorial Lecture and more.



Israel Education Workshop participants may apply for scholarships toward summer or year-long programs in Israel

DETROIT

"HATE SPACES" FILM TO SCREEN ON CAMPUS

On March 15, ZOA Michigan will screen "Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance on Campus." The documentary demonstrates how many Jewish students on American campuses today—who have grown up with expectations of equality, inclusion and a nurturing learning environment—are saddened to discover a harsh and ugly reality that is mostly ignored by college officials: intolerance toward Jews and Israel. The hostility that Jewish students face on campus is part of a larger change within an academia that has embraced radical social activism, ideological indoctrination and coerced conformity.

"Hate Spaces," which was produced, written and directed by Avi Goldwasser, illustrates how anti-Semitism is being made fashionable at many American universities through the ongoing academic delegitimization of Israel, the normalization of hatred in the name of social justice and massive donations of Arab oil money to universities. Susan Tuchman, director of

ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, is featured in the film. Dr. Charles Jacobs, who heads the Boston-based Americans for Peace and Tolerance, will be our guest speaker at the screening.

ZOA AND J STREET DEBATE

On March 20, ZOA Michigan Director Kobi Erez will debate University of Michigan's J Street representative before an audience of college students at Wayne State University. Erez will represent ZOA's views on the Arab-Israeli conflict and expose J Street's efforts to pressure Israel into one-sided concessions without taking into account Israeli security needs. Students will learn about the anti-Israel actions that J Street has taken over the years, including the organization's support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

ISRAEL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

On March 26, high school students from both public and Jewish day schools around Metro Detroit will participate in our Israel advocacy workshop. The purpose of the program is to



Balfour Celebration honorees (from left) Jesse Arm, Dr. David Rabens, former Rep. Pete Hoekstra, Dr. Eugene Greenstein and Ed Kohl

educate, train and motivate students to become passionate, dedicated and effective pro-Israel advocates and to provide scholarship assistance to students participating in various organized educational trips to Israel. Students will learn from fantastic and knowledgeable guest speakers about Israel's history, Jewish heritage and advocating for Israel.

ZOA Michigan encourages students to become Israel advocacy leaders in high school and college by teaching students about Israel's political history and the Arab-Israeli conflict. We help students experience Israel firsthand by offering merit-based scholarships, and we prepare them for their Israel experience by offering information about Israel's history and culture in an engaging manner. ZOA Michigan coaches students on ways to advocate for Israel and stand up to Israel-bashing and assists them in organizing pro-Israel events and initiatives for other teens.

ZOA Michigan instills a sense of pride in Jewish identity among Metro Detroit's Jewish teens by giving students a clear picture of Jewish history over the past 3,000 years and offering meaningful lectures on Jewish thought and values. We create a space where Jewish teens from different streams of Judaism can find

commonalities through their love for Israel.

Participants in ZOA Michigan's Israel Education Workshop are eligible to apply for scholarships toward the cost of summer or year-long educational programs in Israel. ZOA Michigan is happy to educate these future Jewish leaders and help support their travels to Israel.

ZOA MICHIGAN HOLDS 82ND ANNUAL BALFOUR CELEBRATION

Approximately 250 people attended ZOA Michigan's annual Balfour Celebration on December 4, at Congregation Adat Shalom. Chapter Director Kobi Erez kicked off the celebration by discussing ZOA's important role as the major U.S. advocacy organization for Israel. Charles Greenberg, ZOA Michigan vice president, served as master of ceremonies.

Dr. Eugene Greenstein and Dr. David Rabens were presented with Israel Lifetime Achievement Awards. Andre Douville presented the award to Dr. Greenstein, who served as ZOA Michigan's president for six years and who continues to lead the charge for Israel every day. Rabbi Chaim Bergstein presented the award

The term “two-state solution” is a misnomer, implying that Israel has something to gain from this arrangement, as if it were not already an independent, sovereign state.

to Dr. Rabens, an ardent Zionist who serves on the ZOA Michigan board.

Former ZOA Michigan treasurer Ed Kohl was honored with the Justice Louis Brandeis Award, ZOA Michigan's highest citation of merit. Irving Ginsberg presented the award to Ed, who is a loyal supporter of Israel and a tireless community activist. Student activist Jesse Arm was presented with the Student Zionist of the Year Award for his brave actions in defending Israel on the University of Michigan campus. Jesse, who serves on the University of Michigan Student Governing Board, was unjustly investigated for alleged ethics violations, putting his position in the student government in jeopardy, simply because he challenged the timing and appropriateness of an anti-Israel demonstration that took place on the same day as two deadly terrorist attacks in Israel. Justice ultimately prevailed; the frivolous ethics charges were dismissed against Jesse and he retained his student government position. In his acceptance speech, Jesse particularly thanked ZOA for supporting him during his ordeal.

Former Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-MI) served as the keynote speaker and was awarded the Defender of Freedom Award, which was presented by Dr. Leora Bar-Levav. Rep. Hoekstra spoke about the reality of the American dream and his work to nurture the strong relationship between Israel and the U.S. ZOA Michigan congratulates our wonderful honorees and their families and thanks everyone who supported us.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC THROUGH OP-EDS

ZOA Michigan staff and members have written opinion pieces regarding the Iran deal, the Arab-Israeli conflict, anti-Semitism, and BDS. These have been published in local and national media, including the *Detroit Jewish News* and *Times of Israel*, reaching thousands of people and educating them on current events.

WEST COAST

The ZOA West Coast chapter grew steadily in 2016, both in membership and visibility. The chapter hosted over 40 programs throughout California last year, split evenly between campus and community outreach. ZOA hired Netta Ben-Hashal as Pacific Northwest campus coordinator. Netta will be working with college students in northern California, Oregon and Washington, enabling West Coast Executive Director David Kadosh to focus his efforts entirely on community programming and activism. The chapter's website, www.zoawestcoast.com, has been fully remodeled to be a more effective resource for local members and activists.

In the fall, ZOA West Coast organized two successful speaking tours, with the goal of engaging new communities with educational content. These speaking tours moved beyond the San Francisco Bay Area to share important narratives with new groups throughout northern California. The first tour, in September, featured Israeli Ambassador Yoram Ettinger for five events and meetings throughout the region. Ambassador Ettinger spoke about the benefits and complexities of the U.S.-Israel relationship, drawing on decades of foreign policy experience, having represented Israel as consul general in Houston, Texas, and as director of congressional affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The tour opened with a presentation at the Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Los Gatos and included programs at UC Berkeley, the Rossmore adult community in Walnut Creek, Chabad of Santa Rosa and a VIP reception for active ZOA members at a private residence in Menlo Park. Ambassador Ettinger offered insight into the security-assistance-to-Israel Memorandum of Understanding between Israel and the Obama administration. He also framed the annual American defense cooperation with Israel as an investment



ZOA National President Morton Klein addresses gathering of ZOA members in Palo Alto, CA

ZOA took on the anti-Israel organization J Street in a public debate between ZOA National President Morton Klein and J Street's Jeremy Ben-Ami at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. The well-attended, live-streamed and professionally recorded event gave ZOA the opportunity to attack J Street's positions and credibility, including its claim to be a pro-Israel organization.

rather than an aid package, and explained the dangers of creating a Palestinian state from a U.S. national security perspective.

The second major speaking tour featured Marc Provisor, an Israeli security expert working for One Israel Fund in Judea and Samaria, for a discussion on domestic terrorism threats. One of the goals of the tour was to demonstrate the positive impact the security cooperation between the U.S. and Israel has on local law enforcement. Marc's talks highlighted the use of Palestinian terror tactics by other radical Islamic terrorists in attacks conducted against America and Europe. Each talk focused on what the local community can learn from Israeli security's best practices in order to mitigate the threat from terrorism. Marc presented this information to the Jewish communities in Palo Alto, Walnut Creek and Fresno and to the pro-Israel Christian community and California state legislators in Sacramento. The speaking tour attracted law enforcement officers and terrorism liaisons for the Sacramento Sheriff's Department, Santa Clara Fire Department and BART transportation system. Marc also was hosted on the radio shows of former Sacramento Sheriff John McGuinness and Pastor Jim Franklin. These tours helped expand ZOA's outreach beyond traditional venues and rallied new members behind ZOA's mission.

ZOA took on the anti-Israel organization J Street in a public debate between ZOA National President Morton Klein and J Street's Jeremy Ben-Ami at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. The well-attended, live-streamed and professionally recorded event gave ZOA the opportunity to attack J Street's positions and credibility, including its claim to be a pro-Israel organization. J Street consistently lobbies for policies that undermine Israel's national security, legitimacy and international relations. Its efforts provided diplomatic cover for the Obama administration's antagonistic policies towards Israel by representing the administration's policies as rooted in Jewish values. The ZOA has been clear that J Street does not represent the majority of American Jews and has effectively exposed its true nature.

With presidential election fervor in full swing, many of our members asked for programming to address the transfer of power from Obama to the Trump administration, and how that transition would affect U.S.-Israel relations. ZOA West Coast organized three programs to address this issue. In San Diego, ZOA lay leaders hosted Avi Bell, professor at the University of San Diego School of Law and at Bar-Ilan University's Faculty of Law. In northern California, ZOA hosted two events in Palo Alto: one with Professor Abraham Sofaer of the Hoover Institution and another with ZOA National



Zionist high school students prepare to fight BDS activities at the annual Club Z retreat

The attendees were impressed with ZOA's understanding of the threat to student Israel supporters and the effective actions taken to counter the threat.


President Morton Klein. All the events highlighted the failed and dangerous policies of the Obama administration towards Israel and the Middle East region in general. The speakers shared the speculative hope, based on positive indications from the Trump transition team, that the new administration will have a more productive relationship with Israel.

The local Jewish newspaper for northern California, *JWeekly*, interviewed David Kadosh on "the viability of the two-state solution under the Trump administration." He explained the ZOA position that the term "two-state solution" is a misnomer, implying that Israel has something to gain from this arrangement, as if it were not already an independent, sovereign state. He went on to explain how the Palestinian Arabs have rejected seven opportunities to develop an independent state and how their state-sponsored, violent actions of murder and incitement against Jews is the central reason for a lack of peace.

Mr. Kadosh also led a program for the ORT group at the Rossmoor community in Walnut Creek regarding ZOA's response to campus

anti-Semitism. The talk explored contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism, especially those that arise from anti-Israel activity and rhetoric. The attendees were impressed with ZOA's understanding of the threat to student Israel supporters and the effective actions being taken to counter the threat.

ZOA West Coast also worked to engage with and empower Jewish youth in the fall of 2016. David brought his program on the importance of Jewish self-defense, with an introductory Krav Maga component, to the Club Noar youth group at the Addison-Penzak JCC in Los Gatos. He also spoke on a panel about BDS and participated in a mock BDS hearing at the annual Club Z retreat for Zionist high school students. Both programs serve to educate and empower Jewish youth and prepare them to defend Israel.

ZOA West Coast has a full and exciting lineup of programming throughout 2017. With regional headquarters in Berkeley, CA, and two campus coordinators operating on the ground, ZOA is in a powerful position to build strong and effective advocates for Israel in the Western region. 

ZOA IN NUMBERS

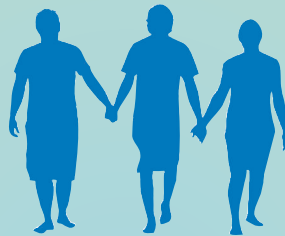


115,000+ likes on Facebook

Over **100** events in regional chapters around the country in the past year featuring journalists, policy makers, activists, academics, and many other figures.



250 activists participated in ZOA's annual lobbying mission to Capitol Hill to educate elected officials on key issues, including holding the Palestinian Authority accountable for terrorism against Jews.

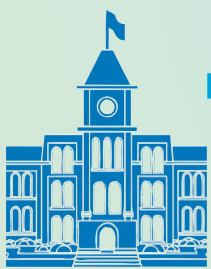


7 seats in the World Zionist Congress

120 years of activism (since 1897)

ZOA Campus fought for Israel on **120** campuses across the country and organized **300** events in 2016 alone.

ZOA's Student Leadership Missions to Israel brought **70** Zionist student leaders to Israel, including to Judea and Samaria (we are one of the only organizations to go there) in the past year.



6 campus regions and **8** regional chapters nationwide

ZOA's Center for Law and Justice provided legal support to students faced with anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation on nearly **20** campuses across the country.



30,000+ national members (and counting!)

ZOA Israel has helped shape numerous laws and policies relating to sovereignty in Jerusalem and Jewish rights in Judea and Samaria.



Zionist Organization of America
633 Third Avenue, Suite 31-B
New York, NY 10017

Remember ZOA in Your Will. Ensure ZOA's Future.

Many people include some of their favorite charitable causes and organizations in their wills.

The ZOA leadership is planning for a future of activism, commitment and devotion to Zionist ideals. By remembering the ZOA in your list of bequests, you can help plan for that future. For more information on the procedure for including the ZOA in your will, call the ZOA National Office at 212-481-1500.



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

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