

ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

SPRING 2018

ZOA SUPERSTAR GALA 2017

Grand Hyatt Hotel, NYC



Cong. Ron DeSantis and Sen. Tom Cotton, recipient of the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson Defender of Israel Award



Prof. Alan Dershowitz and Christopher Ruddy



ZOA Campus staff, Heather Alper, recipient of the Myron Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Campus Activism, and ZOA Board member Myron Zimmerman



Rabbi Kenneth Hain, Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award recipients Iris and Shalom Maidenbaum, and Morton Klein



Amb. David Friedman and Dr. Bob Shillman



Sen. Joe Lieberman, recipient of ZOA's Dr. Woo Kai-Sheng Lifetime Achievement Award, and Dr. Bruno Wu



Founded 1897
Gala Emcee Rita Cosby



SEN. COTTON, AMB. FRIEDMAN, ALAN DERSHOWITZ, SEN. LIEBERMAN, MAIDENBAUMS, CHRIS RUDDY, CONG. DESANTIS, CONG. ZELDIN, BANNON, SPEAK AT SUPERSTAR ZOA GALA

COMING UP: PRO-ISRAEL CAPITOL HILL MISSION | MAY 9, 2018 | REGISTER @ ZOA.ORG OR 212.481.1500

TABLE OF CONTENTS



| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 3 | President's Message |
| 6 | ZOA Gala |
| 11 | ZOA Gala Pictorial |
| 16 | ZOA People |
| 18 | Government Relations |
| 21 | Center for Law & Justice |
| 24 | ZOA's Fuel for Truth |
| 26 | ZOA Campus |
| 29 | ZOA Israel |
| 32 | Around the Country |
| 47 | Honor Roll |

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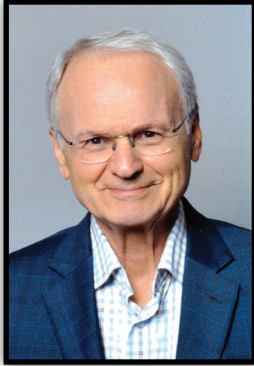
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MORTON A. KLEIN
National President,
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Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas's rambling, venomous speech to the Palestinian Central Council on January 14, 2018, was full of curses, threats and lies. His diatribe demonstrated what the ZOA has been pointing out for years – that Abbas, who is in his 13th year of his four-year presidential term – is a hateful terrorist and a bloodthirsty opponent of Israel's very existence, the Jewish people, and the West. Only someone full of irrational hatred and genocidal ambitions would spew curses at America, Israel, the US President and his family, and members of the Trump administration the way that Abbas did.

Abbas's recent rant is also a reminder that for over half a century, he has promoted Israel's destruction and the murder of Jews. Abbas co-founded the Fatah terrorist party with Yasser Arafat. His PhD thesis denied the Holocaust. In 1972, he financed and masterminded the massacre of the Israeli Olympics team in Munich. And, he still pays terrorists to murder Jews today.

Abbas has repeatedly honored Dalal Mughrabi, the terrorist who murdered 39 Jews (including 13 children) and wounded dozens more in the Tel Aviv coastal road massacre, airing television specials and naming schools and clubs after her. He honors other Palestinian Arab terrorists who have Jewish and American blood on their hands, naming schools, streets, sports tournaments and children's camps after them. Abbas uses textbooks, math problems, television, sermons and social media to indoctrinate Palestinian Arab children to believe that their highest calling is to become "martyrs" by knifing Jewish children sleeping in their beds.

Abbas obliterates Israel's existence on the "Palestine" official emblem, as well as on maps, stationery, and other documents. To him, all of Israel is an "occupation" that must end. He has always refused to accept Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people. And, he has always proclaimed that no Jew will be allowed in a future Palestinian state.

It is long past time to stop pretending that Abbas is a peace partner, as past administrations did – and as too many Jewish groups have foolishly and absurdly done for decades, despite all evidence to the contrary.

So, what really prompted Abbas's latest stream of falsehoods and invective?

Abbas appears to have become unglued because America finally has a president who has squarely faced and appropriately responded to Abbas's lies, threats and instigation of terror.

President Trump initially met with Abbas and gave him repeated opportunities to come clean and end the PA's payments to Palestinian Arabs who murder Jews. Yet, Abbas lied to President Trump and refused to take even this most basic step towards peaceful co-existence. At that point, President Trump said, in essence, "enough is enough." He began taking reasonable steps to limit US funding to the PA – to curb the PA's ability to pay Arab terrorists to murder Jews and Americans.

Abbas has also become frantic because President Trump has been unafraid to take steps towards *real* peace – which is the last thing that Abbas wants. He wants the destruction of the Jewish state.

President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital was sensible, just, and in conformity with the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act. Peace can only move forward if we narrow the issues. Peace cannot be advanced if Abbas continues to maintain his fantasy of carving up Israel's capital.

And, there can be no real peace if US policy is held hostage to Islamic terror threats.

Abbas is attempting to use President Trump's eminently reasonable actions as a pretext for continuing his decades-long rejection of peace with Israel and instigation of the murder of Jews.

During his January 14th tirade, Abbas uttered numerous abominations and historical inventions, including these:

- Abbas lied about refusing to negotiate with Israel, while cursing President Trump and the president's family: "[Trump] said in a tweet: 'We won't give money to the Palestinians because they rejected the negotiations' – May your [Trump's] house be destroyed. . . Shame on you [Trump]. When did we reject the talks? Where is the negotiation that we rejected?"

In fact, Abbas and the PA have refused to negotiate with Israel for the past nine years, with the exception of two meetings in a single week, despite Israel having observed a de facto building freeze for years.

The Arabic curse "may your house be

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

destroyed” means, “may your family be destroyed.” It is a vile epithet to direct at anyone, much less the president of the United States, who simply tells the truth about Abbas’s avoidance of peace negotiations.

- Abbas reiterated that he “completely rejects” President Trump’s call to cease paying salaries to jailed Palestinian Arab terrorists and stipends to the families of dead terrorists. Labeling US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley and US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman a “disgrace,” Abbas stated, “These two personalities are an insult for a self-respecting administration.”

The real disgrace is Abbas’s insults of devoted American officials when the US has given Abbas’s regime almost six billion dollars.

- Abbas lied that Israel is a centuries-old European colonial project that has no connection to Jews. He claimed that Europeans “wanted to bring the Jews here [to the Land of Israel] from Europe in order to protect European interests in the region.” Abbas quoted an anti-Semitic Egyptian writer who claimed that Israel is “a colonial project that has nothing to do with Judaism.”

In fact, Zion (Israel) is central to Judaism. Jewish scripture mentions Jerusalem nearly 700 times. Return to an Israeli sovereign state has been the aspiration of the Jewish people since the Book of Psalms.

- Abbas falsely claimed that Theodor Herzl, the founder of political Zionism, sought the genocide of the local Arab population, using the slogan: “A land without a people for a people without a land.”

In fact, Herzl made no calls for genocide and envisioned peacefully co-existing with the small number of Arabs then living on Israel’s barren soil. The slogan that Abbas quoted was originally coined by British Christians, not Jewish Zionists, in the nineteenth century. Furthermore, population censuses demonstrate that Jews were already the majority religious group in Jerusalem in the 1800s, with Christians second and Muslims a distant third.

- Abbas obscenely claimed that European Jews during the Holocaust chose to subject themselves to “murder and slaughter” instead of emigrating from Europe to British-held Palestine: “The Jews did not want to emigrate even with murder and slaughter. Even during the Holocaust, they did not emigrate.”

In fact, Jews desperately tried everything possible to leave Europe and go to Israel. However, Britain (which had been granted the Mandate over the area that is now Israel and Jordan as a “sacred trust” to enable “close Jewish settlement” and the reestablishment of the Jewish homeland) illegally prevented most Jewish immigration to Palestine during 1939-45, and even in the years after World War II, from 1945-1948. Britain blockaded and sank boats with Jews headed to Israel, and detained surviving Jews in Cyprus.

- Abbas absurdly alleged that the State of Israel’s first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, brought Jews to Israel from Arab countries against their will and against his own will: “Ben-Gurion did not want Middle Eastern Jews to come [to Israel] . . . but when he saw the vast land, he was forced to bring Middle Eastern Jews . . . that didn’t want to come.” Abbas also outrageously asserted that Israel made deals with Iraqi leaders “to take away the citizenship of Jews and force them to emigrate. They did not suffice with this and gathered all the Jews in Arab countries, from Morocco to Algeria and Tunis, Libya, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.”

In fact, Arab mob violence and murderous pogroms against Jews, expulsions, repression, and seizures of Jewish property across the Middle East in the 1940s to early 1950s, caused most Jews, who had been living in Arab nations for millennia, to flee to Israel. Israel welcomed the Jews from Arab lands, and assisted their flight to prevent them from being slaughtered.

- Abbas threatened to “slap” America, and rejected US peacemaking efforts: “We won’t take orders from anyone. We told Trump we will never accept his [peace] plan. His deal of the century is the slap in the face of the cen-

tury, and we will not accept it. But we will slap back. . . . We will not accept America as a sole mediator between us and Israel, after what they have done.” He insultingly refused to meet Vice President Pence when Pence visited the region, refused to meet with the Trump administration’s senior negotiator, Jason Greenblatt, and refused to meet with Ambassador David Friedman, just as he has refused to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu for years.

Abbas’s avoidance of peace is nothing new. Abbas and the PA refused to accept peace proposals of any US administration, no matter how favorable the proposals were to the Palestinian Arabs.

- Abbas falsely claimed that Jerusalem is as important to Muslims as Mecca is, stating, “Trump took Jerusalem off the table with a tweet. . . . “The status of Jerusalem is like Mecca. Nothing is more important than Jerusalem.”

In fact, Muslims pray towards Mecca five times a day, not towards Jerusalem. The Koran never mentions Jerusalem. Throughout most of Islamic history, Jerusalem was of little interest. During Jordan’s illegal occupation of the eastern half of Jerusalem (1948-67), the city fell into disrepair, often lacking decent sewerage and running water. Amman remained Jordan’s capital, and no Arab leaders other than Jordanian officials even visited the Muslim shrines in Jerusalem.

- Abbas falsely claimed that Israel destroyed the Oslo peace process.

In fact, Israel carried out all of its Oslo obligations, including transferring territory, assets and even arms to the PA. In contrast, the PA has never honored its Oslo commitments to arrest terrorists, confiscate illegal weaponry, cooperate with Israel economically, disband and outlaw terrorist groups, and end incitement to hatred and murder against Jews in the PA-controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps. Instead, the PA has done precisely the opposite – fomenting terror and economic warfare against Israel, paying Palestinian Arab terrorists to murder and maim thousands of Jews, Americans and

bystanders, and allying itself with the terrorist group Hamas.

Abbas’s obscene speech on January 14th should be a wake-up call to those who have ignored the reality of exactly who he is for far too long.


But, to paraphrase the famous line from the movie *A Few Good Men*, much of the world – including too many Jewish organizations – “can’t handle the truth.”

The world remained silent and even supported Abbas during his Nazi-like behavior. Most Jewish leaders ignored reality, and supported Abbas during all of his heinous actions. These same leaders criticized Netanyahu and Israel more than they ever criticized Abbas and Arafat for masterminding and promoting the murder of Jews.

Jewish organizations supported funding Abbas, supported the creation of a Palestinian Arab state under Abbas, and ran to meet with Abbas. They were all too happy to condemn Jews living in Judea and Samaria as the problem. Some, like the leaders of the Reform movement, even condemned President Trump for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. The American Jewish Committee condemned the “occupation” and “settlements” as an obstacle to peace and proudly supported a Palestinian state – as did too many other Jewish organizations.

AIPAC has always refused to support the right of Jews to live anywhere in Judea and Samaria, and refused to support the stronger version of the Taylor Force Act (to stop payments to the PA as long as it continues paying terrorists to murder Jews). But, AIPAC has supported a Palestinian Arab state and financial aid to the PA, and never criticized any president for refusing to fulfill US law to move the US embassy to Jerusalem.

Certain Israeli leaders still maintain the false nonsense that peace is possible with promoters of anti-Jewish violence such as Abbas.

It’s long past time to face the truth. 



Morton A. Klein
National President

Follow Mort on Twitter @MortonAKlein7

Abbas’s obscene speech on January 14th should be a wake-up call to those who have ignored the reality of exactly who he is for far too long.

GALA

1,200 ATTEND ZOA GALA, HEADLINED BY SEN. TOM COTTON, AMB. DAVID FRIEDMAN, ALAN DERSHOWITZ, CHRIS RUDDY, DR. BRUNO WU, SEN. JOE LIEBERMAN, STEVE BANNON

Awards

Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award

Iris & Shalom Maidenbaum

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson Defender of Israel Award

Senator Tom Cotton

Dr. Bob Shillman Award for Outstanding Pro-Israel Diplomacy

Ambassador David Friedman

Mort Zuckerman Award for Outstanding Journalism

Christopher Ruddy

Dr. Woo Kai-Sheng Lifetime Achievement Award

Senator Joe Lieberman

Myron Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Campus Activism

Nathan Benchimol & Heather Alper

Twelve hundred people attended the ZOA's 119th Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner on Sunday, November 12, at Manhattan's elegant Grand Hyatt Hotel. The evening's extraordinary list of VIPs and honorees included the US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman; Senator Tom Cotton (R-AK); former Democratic senator and vice-presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman; Harvard Law School professor emeritus Alan Dershowitz; CEO of Newsmax Christopher Ruddy; Congressman Ron DeSantis (R-FL); Congressman Lee Zeldin (R-NY); and former chief strategist for President Trump, Steve Bannon. Over 150 college student activists from around the country also attended. Rita Cosby – a television news anchor and correspondent, radio host, bestselling author, and currently a Special Correspondent for the CBS syndicated program "Inside Edition" – memorably served as the dinner's emcee.

Guests watched footage from the previous week's hearing on Capitol Hill regarding moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. ZOA National President Morton A. Klein, former US Ambassador to the UN John Bolton, former Israeli Prime Ministerial Adviser and former UN Ambassador Dore Gold, and Northwestern University law professor Eugene Kontorovich testified in support of moving the embassy.

Senator Tom Cotton

In presenting Senator Tom Cotton with the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson Defender of Israel Award, Cong. Ron DeSantis quipped that, "although he graduated from Harvard, he has a lot of good sense." DeSantis noted that Cotton has taken the lead on opposing the Iran nuclear deal, observing that Iran was also responsible for the deaths of hundreds of American service members in Iraq.

Cotton said he was "proud to share this platform with the one and only Mort Klein," and was humbled to receive an award named for the Adelsons, with their extraordinary record of philanthropy and support for Israel. Speaking of the US/Israel relationship, Cotton said, "This friendship is no mere accident of history, or merely the result of common interests, which we share with others. It also stems from the Puritan tradition, from our reverence for the Bible. That is why there has been a special bond between the US and the Jews even before there was an Israel. . . . While we have much to celebrate about the Balfour Declaration, it did not create the Jewish state. G-d promised that land to the Jewish people and that land includes Judea and Samaria. Jews are called Jews because they are from Judea. . . ." Turning to his opposition to

the Iran nuclear deal, Cotton said, “There must never be a nuclear-armed Iran, which is willing to lose millions of lives to wipe out Israel, which they declare with slogans on their missiles to be their aim. That’s why I wrote a letter to the Ayatollah saying a future president will not support this foolhardy deal. It’s why I also exposed the secret side deals with the International Atomic Energy Agency and am working with the President to change this deal. . . . Who can look at the history of our two nations [the US and Israel] and not see the hand of providence guiding our hand? Zion will prevail and freedom will not perish from this earth.”

Dr. Bob Shillman

Dr. Bob Shillman, founder and chairman of Cognex Corporation, the world’s leading supplier of machine vision systems, presented David Friedman, the US Ambassador to Israel, with the Dr. Bob Shillman Award for Outstanding Diplomacy. Dr. Bob praised the ambassador as someone who always “speaks forthrightly and honestly about complex events, someone who speaks plainly and truthfully of obstacles that must be overcome for peace.”

Ambassador David Friedman

Ambassador David Friedman said he was “truly honored to be part of ZOA’s star line-up,” adding that “being appointed US Ambassador to Israel is the greatest honor of my life. . . . Support for Israel is a quintessential American value. . . . Having the mandate from the President to strengthen the relationship of the US and Israel is the opportunity of a lifetime. We came into office on the heels of perhaps the greatest betrayal of Israel by a sitting president in American history – the failure of the US to veto United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334. Imagine a resolution stating that the Western Wall is illegally occupied territory. Unthinkably, the US abstained and allowed that resolution to pass. A day later, the Secretary of State’s attempts to justify this outrage only compounded the problem. It was a stunning rejection of America’s most important Middle Eastern ally. We have turned a page since the dark days of last December.



“Gone are the days when the UN bashes Israel with impunity. When UNESCO denied the Jewish connection to Jerusalem and Hebron, the result this time was different from the past – the US withdrew from UNESCO. With Nikki Haley, there is truly a new sheriff down the block in Turtle Bay. . . . President Trump became the first sitting president in history to visit the Western Wall, a visit that resonated throughout the Middle East. And I was the first US ambassador to attend Yom Yerushalayim celebrations of Jerusalem’s reunification. I think we’re making progress.”


In preventing Iran from developing a nuclear capability and spreading its power across the Middle East, Friedman said, “There is no daylight between the US and Israel on ending the development of Iran’s arsenal and ending its sponsorship of rogue regimes. We are committed to a peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, but never in a way that would jeopardize the security of Israel. Judea/Samaria must never become another failed experiment, like what we saw in the Gaza Strip. . . . You will never hear the President make the case, as his predecessor did, that there is some symmetrical relationship between building a house in the town of Halamish and the murder of a Jewish family in Halamish at a Shabbat table. There is no equivalence whatsoever. The President has also made clear that he intends to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It is not a question of if, but of when.”




Superstar Line-up





GRAND HYATT HOTEL, NYC
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017













“When I think of ZOA, I think of an organization that refuses to compromise on the truth regardless of prevailing fashion... ZOA is a bulwark of defense for Israel...I urge you to support ZOA.”

Israeli Prime Minister
Benjamin Netanyahu

A display banner of the evening's featured speakers

Alan Dershowitz

Harvard Law professor emeritus Alan Dershowitz, a past recipient of the ZOA's Mort Zuckerman Award for Outstanding Journalism, introduced Newsmax CEO Christopher Ruddy. Dershowitz described extremism on the left and the right as detrimental to Jewish communities everywhere, and emphasized that "we must remain bipartisan in defense of Israel, difficult as it might be, and Israel must remain a bipartisan issue."

Dershowitz described Ruddy as an example to others: "He can talk to centrist liberals and conservatives, and understands both sides. He is brilliant, an influential adviser, businessman and speaker, who loves the nation state of the Jewish people. There could be no more appropriate recipient of the Zuckerman Award. . . . The one quality that shines above all others is that Chris is the personification of a mensch."

Christopher Ruddy

Christopher Ruddy praised the ZOA, which "works hard for a strong Israel and a strong America." Describing himself as "a Christian Zionist," he said, "We need a media that is genuinely fair and balanced, that gives Israel's side of the story. . . . My mission as a journalist has always been to give the public the facts and information they're not getting elsewhere. We know that Israel is under threat for its very survival from Iran and we must be united in supporting our president to protect Israel."

Dr. Bruno Wu

Mort Klein introduced Dr. Bruno Wu who, together with his wife, founded Seven Stars Media Group, one of the leading entertainment media investment companies in Asia, with a presence in ten major cities. Dr. Wu has generously endowed the Dr. Woo Kai-Sheng Lifetime Achievement Award, named after his grandfather, an extraordinary humanitarian giant and friend of the Jewish people who, before and during World War II, helped Jews to flee Europe and reach safe haven in Shanghai. As the most famous lawyer in Shanghai, Dr. Woo Kai-Sheng used his extensive contacts with government officials and diplomats to obtain residence permits and other papers. He gave Jewish refugees free legal advice, and even used his own money to help them. When the Japanese occupied Shanghai

during their 1937 invasion of China, he helped Jews obtain visas to come to the US.

Senator Joseph Lieberman

Mort Klein introduced former Democratic senator and vice-presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman, the first recipient of the ZOA's Dr. Woo Kai-Sheng Lifetime Achievement Award, based on Lieberman's record of fighting for Israel and the Jewish people. Klein described Lieberman, a former Connecticut Attorney General and a US Senator for 24 years, as an "unrelenting friend of Israel and a voice of sanity." He reminded the audience of how Lieberman, facing opposition from within his own party, stood firm in support of President George W. Bush's surge in Iraq, understanding that we could not allow the country to be handed over to America's enemies. Klein also recounted that at a meeting he himself attended with other Jewish leaders, Lieberman powerfully refuted then-Secretary of State John Kerry's disingenuous argument in support of the Iran nuclear deal.

Lieberman commenced by saying, "I observe about Mort Klein that, the older he gets in years, the younger he gets in energy and passion. May you live to at least the age of the ZOA – 120." Thanking ZOA for the honor of receiving its lifetime achievement award, Lieberman noted that the ZOA understood from its inception that, without involvement and influence in American politics, "they would never be able to re-establish a Jewish state." Lieberman cautioned, "There is no guarantee that the Jewish state will continue to exist. It will only do so if people like those in this room and around the world work together to support and protect Israel. It is in that spirit of continuing responsibility that I accept this award. Am Yisrael Chai. The Nation of Israel lives, and will live, with our help and G-d's help forever."

Iris and Shalom Maidenbaum, Recipients of the ZOA's Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award

Rabbi Kenneth Hain of Congregation Beth Sholom in Lawrence, New York introduced Iris and Shalom Maidenbaum, this year's recipients of the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award, based on

their lifelong service to the welfare of Israel and its security. Rabbi Hain described the Maidenbaums as having “the imprint of Zionism in their DNA.” Both award recipients spoke movingly of the familial influences on their lives in the service of Zionism.

Congressman Ron DeSantis

Mort Klein introduced Congressman Ron DeSantis, “one of the very greatest friends of Israel in the entire Congress.” He reminded the audience that it was DeSantis who chaired the House hearing at which Klein had testified the previous week regarding moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

DeSantis, who is running for governor of Florida in 2018, commenced by saying, “We need to make good on our promises to move the US embassy to Jerusalem. . . . We need to make this official: There should be no taxpayer money going to a Palestinian entity that funds terrorism. To this end, we have to pass the Taylor Force Act.” DeSantis noted the UN’s obsession with condemning Israel and called for the repeal of Security Council Resolution 2334, emphasizing that the US should not fund the UN until the resolution is repealed. He also condemned the BDS movement, saying, “We have to snuff out BDS, here and around the world. . . . Don’t let the State Department discriminate against Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria; it’s not occupied territory.” DeSantis also called on the Trump administration to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization.

Congressman Lee Zeldin

Congressman Lee Zeldin (R-NY) introduced former Trump chief strategist Steve Bannon, recounting how Bannon responded to the query of whether he would be at the White House when PA president Mahmoud Abbas visited. Bannon said, “I refuse to be there, refuse to breathe the same air as that Jew-hating terrorist.” Zeldin described Bannon as “a friend of Israel and a friend of Judaism.”

Steve Bannon

Bannon recounted how, in the first 10 months of the Trump presidency, core promises had been kept or acted upon: destroying the Islamic State (IS) caliphate, convening the Arab/Muslim summit

to unite the region against IS and also to stop the game of financing radical Islamic terror, and working to moderate and modernize Islam. Addressing Mort Klein, Bannon added, “I don’t think we’ve had a more dangerous time. . . . You are unapologetic about the defense of the State of Israel. There are so many games being played by the establishment – that’s how we ended up with the Iran deal, that’s how we ended up with the government financing those who have Jewish blood on their hands. . . . I believe the only way to act is to fight. I’m a fighter, proud to stand with the State of Israel, proud to be a Christian Zionist and proud to be a supporter of the Judeo-Christian West.”

Nathan Benchimol and Heather Alper, Recipients of the Myron Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Campus Activism

Mort Klein introduced Myron Zimmerman whom he described as a behind-the-scenes visionary. Zimmerman, together with Leore Ben-David, Managing Director of ZOA Campus, presented the Myron Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Campus Activism to two inspiring warriors for Israel: Former IDF soldier Nathan Benchimol, who mobilized dozens of students to become advocates for Israel at Santa Monica College, and Heather Alper, a student at Brooklyn College, who waged a campaign – which went viral – to dispel the falsehood that Zionists cannot also be feminists.

Morton A. Klein

Kenneth Bialkin, Esq., former chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, introduced Morton Klein, noting that Louis Brandeis would have been proud of the vigor and force with which Klein has led the ZOA. Taking the podium, Klein noted that this might be the “greatest superstar dinner of any Jewish organization in history. You’re all part of history. Welcome to the Academy Awards of the Jewish world.” He also observed that Jewish history might look very different if such Jewish activism had existed in the 1930s.

Klein noted that the dinner marked the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the 50th an-

“We are committed to a peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, but never in a way that would jeopardize the security of Israel. Judea/Samaria must never become another failed experiment, like what we saw in the Gaza Strip.”
- Amb. David Friedman

niversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, and the 120th anniversary of the ZOA. He described ZOA's long history of Zionist activism. ZOA has made its voice known often and in contrast to other Jewish organizations that feared the charge of dual loyalty made against many Jewish Americans. For example, Justice Brandeis pioneered a little-known but vital and successful effort to obtain President Woodrow Wilson's support for the Balfour Declaration. Also, as ZOA president, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver helped lead the fight at the United Nations for the re-establishment of the Jewish homeland.

The ZOA continues to lead the fight for Israel and the Jewish people, Klein reminded his audience. ZOA singularly opposes a Palestinian state under current conditions and brings college students to visit Jewish communities in Israel beyond the Green Line. Klein also recounted ZOA's many successes over the years, including the legal protections that the US Department of Education now affords to Jewish students under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Klein also reminded his audience that the ZOA had successfully opposed the appointment of virulently anti-Israel individuals to high offices, including Chas Freeman, who, but for ZOA action, would have headed the National Intelligence Council; John Roth, who would have been appointed head of research at the US Holocaust Museum; and Salam Al-Marayati, who would have been appointed to the National Commission on Terrorism. Joseph Zogby, appointed adviser to then-National Security Council Middle East Adviser Martin Indyk, resigned after three weeks, after the ZOA highlighted his anti-Israel record.


Klein debunked the pervasive myths that bedevil discussions about Israel, including the alleged holiness of Jerusalem in Islam. Klein pointed out how Jerusalem is never mentioned in the Quran, in contrast to the 700-odd references to Zion and Jerusalem in the Hebrew Bible; and that Muslims pray towards Mecca, not Jerusalem, and never made Jerusalem their capital at any time during the centuries following the Muslim conquest. In fact,

Jerusalem degenerated into a slum under Jordan's illegal occupation of the eastern part of the city from 1948-67. Klein also discredited the notion that Judea/Samaria are "occupied" by Israel, noting that these territories belonged to no previous sovereign power, and were earmarked for Jewish settlement after World War I. He also noted that 98% of Palestinian Arabs today live in the nearly half of Judea/Samaria and all of Gaza ceded to Palestinian Authority (PA) control and live under their own regimes, with their own legislatures, police and military forces, schools and institutions.

Klein recounted the miracle of modern Israel's rise and its astonishing achievements in the face of hostility and war, including its tremendous contributions to science and medicine, its high rate of economic growth, and its remarkable production of more patents than Russia, India and China combined. Klein concluded by quoting the Book of Joshua: "Be strong and of good courage." With the help of Jews worldwide, Christian Zionists, and above all, the help of Almighty G-d, we will prevail over our enemies."

Final Notes

Michael Lington, the internationally recognized Danish American saxophonist, gave a brilliant rendition of the US national anthem. He then accompanied the Ariel Singers – from the largest 22,000-strong Jewish community in Judea/Samaria – in their inspirational rendition of Hatikvah.

Wrapping up the dinner, ZOA screened a moving video of ZOA activists bringing Mishloach Manot to soldiers in Israel. Board Member Dr. Alan Mazurek delivered an inspiring Dvar Torah. Sheldon Adelson, Las Vegas Sands Corporation Chairman and CEO, and his wife Dr. Miriam Adelson, are passionate supporters of Israel and Jewish causes. They delivered a message of regret that they could not attend this year's Brandeis Dinner, and spoke of their pride in the work of Mort Klein and the ZOA. Mort Klein thanked the ZOA staff who had worked tirelessly, under Howard Katzoff's leadership, to make the dinner such a success. 

GALA PICTORIAL



- 1 Hadassah Lieberman, Sen. Joe Lieberman and National Board member Mark Levenson, Esq.
- 2 National Board member Jay Knopf, MK Oded Forer, Amb. David Friedman, Steve Bannon, Knesset Member Avraham Neguise, and National Board members Mark Levenson, Esq., and Leonard Getz
- 3 Elyse Siegel and National Board member Ed Siegel, Esq.
- 4 Professor Alan Dershowitz and Rita Cosby
- 5 Tammy Friedman, Amb. David Friedman, and Ben Brafman, Esq.
- 6 ZOA student activists
- 7 Ariel Singers



GALA PICTORIAL



1 Eliot Lauer, Esq. and his wife



2 Heather Alper receives the Myron Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Student Activism from National Vice President Myron Zimmerman and ZOA Campus Managing Director Leore Ben-David, surrounded by ZOA Campus Coordinators



3 Award for Outstanding Diplomacy presented to Ambassador David Friedman by Dr. Bob Shillman and Morton Klein



4 National Vice President Kevin Ross, Amb. David Friedman and Rita Klein



5 ZOA Pittsburgh Exec. Director Stuart Pavilack, ZOA Gov't Relations Co-Director Dan Pollak, Dr. Sebastian Gorka and Heather Alper

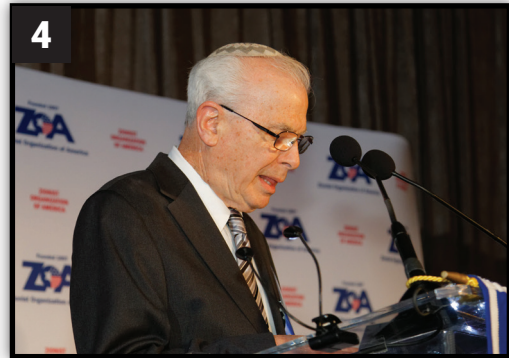


6 Ariel Singers performing a dance routine

GALA PICTORIAL



1 ZOA Pittsburgh Exec. Director Stuart Pavilack (second from left) with National Board members Jim Pollack, Mark Levenson, Esq., Dr. Arthur Kook, Eli Hertz and Dr. Judith Rosen



2 Ariel Singers
3 Steve Bannon and National Vice President Michael Orbach
4 Chairman Dr. Michael Goldblatt
5 National Board member Cliff Rieders, Esq., and MK Avraham Neguise



6 Vice Chair Dr. Alan Mazurek delivering Dvar Torah
7 Journalist interviewing Sen. Joe Lieberman and Hadassah Lieberman
8 Joe Frager, Steve Bannon and Ed Cox



GALA PICTORIAL



- 1 Sean Spicer, Prof. Alan Dershowitz, Sen. Tom Cotton, Morton Klein, Cong. Ron DeSantis, National Treasurer Henry Schwartz, Pari Schwartz, Steve Bannon, National Secretary Mark Levenson, Esq. and Chairman Dr. Michael Goldblatt
- 2 Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award recipients Shalom & Iris Maidenbaum and Amb. David Friedman
- 3 Cong. Lee Zeldin
- 4 Filmmaker Gui Cohen interviewing Dr. Ben Chouake
- 5 Sen. Tom Cotton and Cong. Ron DeSantis
- 6 Michael Lington
- 7 Sean Spicer, Steve Bannon and Arthur Schwartz

GALA PICTORIAL



1 Kenneth Bialkin, Esq.

2 Ariel Singers member and Michael Lington

3 National Vice President Eli Hertz, Hadassah Lieberman, Sen. Joe Lieberman and National Secretary Mark Levenson, Esq.

4 Sean Spicer, Sen. Tom Cotton, Morton Klein, Dr. Michael Goldblatt, Henry Schwartz and Pari Schwartz

5 National President Morton Klein and National Secretary Mark Levenson, Esq.

6 Rabbi Kennth Hain, Deputy Director Howard Katzoff and Gala emcee Rita Cosby



ZOA PEOPLE



PROFILE: **STEVE FELDMAN**

**Exec. Director,
ZOA Greater Philadelphia**

Steve Feldman is the sort of person who comes alive when talking about something dear to his heart. Out of idealism, he takes on a role and stays with it. Thus, he has had only two roles in his working life, spending the first 20 years of his professional career in journalism, and the next nearly 16 years as the executive director of the ZOA's Greater Philadelphia chapter. In both roles, Feldman followed a calling, seeking to do something genuinely worthwhile and of service to a cause in which he strongly believes.

The Making of a Zionist

None of his Zionist-centered idealism stems from his home life or upbringing. And though Feldman read the newspaper delivered to his home every morning, that was not why he entered the field of journalism.

Feldman's initial interest in Zionism arose when he was an intern at Philadelphia's *Jewish Exponent* in his senior year at Temple University. One day, he was assigned to interview a sculptress whose arresting works in plexiglass were characterized by very dark themes. Feldman queried her about these themes in her work. She replied by rolling up her sleeve and revealing the tattooed number that marked her as a survivor of one of the Nazi concentration camps. From that day on, says Feldman, "I was changed. Originally, I had wanted to become a sports writer. I didn't even have any specific attachment to Jewish journalism. But I was now determined in my mind that, whatever I did, I would work to ensure that something like this never happened to my people again."

The Making of a Journalist

Feldman's involvement in journalism encompassed two decades of working simultane-

ously as a reporter, editor and columnist, covering areas as diverse as rock music, politics and investigative reporting. During his career as a journalist, he ended up working in virtually all sections of the newspaper.

Feldman's work has won him eight awards from the American Jewish Press Association, but the most dramatic recollection of his time in journalism occurred in 1991, when Iraq's Saddam Hussein fired Scud missiles at Israel. Feldman was in Israel at the time, reporting for the *Exponent*, and was also delivering live news reports on KYW News Radio and the "Sounds of Jerusalem" show on WKDU Radio.

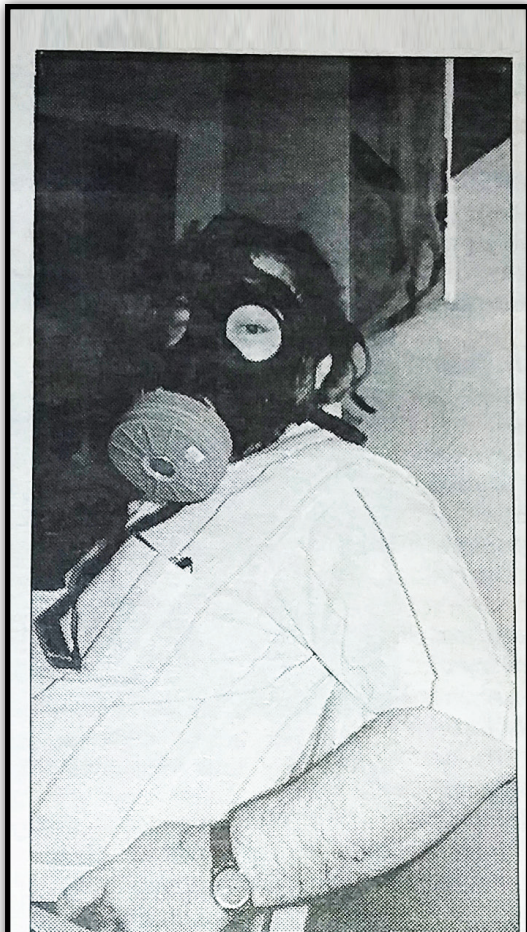
How Everything Came Together

At a time when Israel was inundated with foreign journalists and hotels were double-booking to cope with them, Feldman found himself sharing a room with a Russian journalist who spoke no English. Looking out his hotel window at two o'clock one morning, Feldman faintly heard the sounds of sirens. He learned from the hotel's phone operator that Scud missiles were being fired and that most of the hotel's occupants had already sought refuge in the hotel basement. Feldman made himself understood to the Russian journalist before running from room to room on the floor of his hotel, informing hotel guests who had also not heard the alarm that they needed to seek shelter below.

"On the way down," says Feldman, "the whole hotel shook as a Scud exploded less than a mile away. Upon arrival at the basement, we had gas masks thrust into our hands before we were shoved into a room and kept there for eight hours. During all this time, we had no idea what missiles had land-

ed where, or whether they had chemical warheads. We didn't know what was happening on the streets above. We didn't know what the casualties were. It was a very frightening time."

Speaking of his switch from journalism to Zionist activism, Feldman explained, "After 20 years in journalism, I was not feeling the fulfillment I needed, the sense that I was accomplishing what I wanted to accomplish. I wanted to help Jews and Israel, but this was being minimized in my work. I wanted a change of focus and direction and that's what I set out to get." For most of his career at the *Exponent*, his office was two floors below ZOA's Philadelphia office, which was then headed by the legendary Albert Liss. One day Feldman would serve in the very same position.



Gas mask in place, reporter Steve Feldman waits out a missile attack on Tel Aviv.

When asked what motivated him to work for the ZOA, Feldman replied, "I had known Mort, I knew how passionate he was and his focus. I knew that he and ZOA pulled no punches, spared no efforts to help Israel. ZOA, then as now, was raising the issues that other Jewish organizations would not raise. The ZOA is an organization unlike any other and there's really no one like Mort Klein and the way he fights for Israel. We fight the fight that needs to be fought. Everything we stand for is the truth.

"The ZOA was facing uncomfortable realities about Israel's Palestinian Arab negotiating partners. We were — and are — the salmon swimming upstream. The ZOA was really unique in this way. I didn't want to be like the other 'fish.' I knew that this was something I wanted to be a part of, so in the summer of 2002, at the height of Arafat's so-called second intifada, I was hired as the Philadelphia executive director."

For the past 15 years, Feldman has been out there, working in the community and using the media and social media to educate and energize people. "We work with an array of individuals and organizations who are committed to Israel, committed to fighting the good fight, who don't shirk from the task which is, frankly, at times a very difficult one."

It has been an absorbing job, with moments of success as well as the frustrations that come with any career involving advocacy. But Feldman takes satisfaction in the fact that the ZOA over the years has proved itself in the political arena and elsewhere, showing that its analysis has been right where so many others were proved wrong. "That's why we're respected and taken seriously today."

Feldman is not only a passionate Zionist, but also a passionate American. He is proud of the fact that he has visited all fifty states. He reads widely about American history and is fascinated with the role that both the United States and Israel play in world history. His interests include music — for many years, he ran the fan club for the rock band Chicago — and other aspects of popular culture. But at the center of his life is the American/Israeli relationship and working to inform the government, media and public of the truth regarding the Arab war against Israel. He has no plans to stop. "I'm doing what I should be doing and I'm grateful to be part of the team." ZOA

For the past 15 years, Feldman has been out there, working in the community and using the media and social media to educate and energize people.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



DAN POLLAK (LEFT) AND JOSH LONDON,
Co-Directors, Government Relations Department

In January, President Trump extended the nuclear sanctions waivers on Iran, while warning that he would not do so again.

President Trump's first year in office brought some dramatic political and policy shifts, adding considerable stress to the ever-widening partisan divide. In addition to the divide along traditional party lines, there is also a divide between those who remain ardent supporters of the president, and those who simply cannot abide him.

Despite various pressing domestic policy issues, there have already been some measured foreign policy successes in terms of Iran policy, the US standing proud at the UN, fighting radical Islamism, the ever-troubling issue of US aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA), and, perhaps most dramatically, POTUS's formal recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the commencing of the process for relocating the US embassy there.

Since the last report, the Taylor Force Act has made some substantive headway, though not without some discouraging changes. Alas, these changes are emblematic of the problems we continue to face at the political as well as policy level. Delving into the details of this legislation offers a clear glimpse into some of the political realities.

Taylor Force was a US citizen, Army veteran and West Point graduate who was killed by Palestinian Arab terrorists while on a graduate school trip to Israel in 2016. The Taylor Force Act (TFA) is a federal legislative bill that seeks to stop US financial aid to the PA until the PA stops paying salaries, pensions and stipends to those who commit acts of terrorism, or to their families. This PA policy is often referred to in Congress as "pay-to-slay." These PA payments, given on a sliding scale de-

pending on how heinous the original crimes were, are equivalent to a significant portion of the aid the US gives annually to the PA. The ZOA enthusiastically championed the original version of the TFA, and we strongly endorsed its passage in both the House and Senate.

The TFA's legislative future looks positive as of this writing. A version of the bill was unanimously passed out of the House, and a slightly different version was already passed out of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee. The TFA has broadly received White House support and a commitment to sign the bill into law. In an effort to attract and maintain bi-partisan support, however, the Senate and House leadership sought to amend the TFA so that the PA will still be subject to some form of congressional sanction but added so-called "humanitarian exceptions" so all US aid will not end when the PA—as entirely expected—fails to comport itself to US demands to stop its pay-to-slay policies. Due to these changes, the ZOA is reluctantly, rather than enthusiastically, supporting the current versions of the TFA.

ZOA's Government Relations Department was consulted by both Republican and Democratic staffers in the course of the behind-the-scenes deliberations that led to this last round of TFA revisions. Only a handful of our concerns and recommendations were substantively addressed, though all were taken seriously.

At the policy level, ZOA obviously remains firmly opposed to longstanding US policy towards funding the PA, while congressional leadership in both chambers remain determined to provide US

funding levels that can still facilitate and enable that longstanding US policy.

One change was to the “rule of construction.” First included in the Senate version of the TFA at the State Department’s request, this rule states: “Amounts withheld pursuant to this section shall be deemed to satisfy any similar withholding or reduction required under any other provision of law.” The supposed intent was to simplify, for State Department functionaries, the various overlapping congressional protections and enforcement procedures and allow for cleaner accounting procedures. This actual wording, however, essentially nullifies every other related statutory provision currently in place to safeguard US taxpayer dollars appropriated to the benefit of the Palestinian Arabs.

For example, this wording could allow the State Department to view the limited TFA provisions as “deemed to satisfy” the statutory language that already prevents US aid flowing to a “ Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority” or to a unity government in which any “ministry, agency, or instrumentality of the Palestinian Authority is effectively controlled by Hamas.”

ZOA has a profound distrust of the State Department’s motives in suggesting this “rule of construction,” and House Foreign Affairs Committee staff ultimately recognized the potential unintended consequences of this language, and how it could be used to undermine the intent of Congress. The new wording ensures that, at least officially, the larger reduction in aid would prevail where related and overlapping laws seek to reduce aid to the PA.

Many of the other changes are small, but constructive. For example, the House version, unlike the Senate version, is not limited to demanding that the PA end pay-to-slay. Instead, the House also stipulates that the TFA applies to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and “any successor or affiliated organizations.” This change addresses the potentiality that the PA will simply make the PLO or some other entity technically responsible for making the pay-to-slay payments.

The TFA falls far short of eliminating all US aid to the PA until they at least begin to fulfill their many interim peace accord obligations—such as ending the promotion of hatred and violence against Jews and Israel in their schools, media, speeches and children’s camps—but it is a refresh-

ing, if limited, step in the right direction.

A related matter is the misuse of US aid to UNRWA, the UN organization established to provide “humanitarian aid” only to Palestinian Arab “refugees.” Right now, when true refugees from the conflicts in Syria and Iraq are taxing the resources of countries in the region, there may be an opportunity to redirect some of the wasted funds to true humanitarian needs under the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which takes care of all refugees in the world except Palestinian Arabs. The Trump administration seems broadly aligned with some of ZOA’s thinking in this regard. In January, the US made only half of the expected payment to UNRWA. The US Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, also seems strongly in agreement with ZOA on this issue.

Another ZOA objective coming closer to achievement due to changes in attitude by the Trump administration is the almost mindless inclusion of language in official documents calling for the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state. The president’s new National Security Strategy, released in December 2017, was refreshing in that it omitted such references entirely. ZOA is attempting to spread this new thinking to congressional resolutions and proposed bills as well.

The disastrous 2015 “Iran deal,” the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), looms large as President Trump decides how best to mitigate and reverse the damage caused by this catastrophic blunder. So far the administration has moved cautiously—after twice certifying that Iran was observing the letter of the agreement while violating its spirit, the administration then refused to provide such certification for a third time, but stopped short of killing the deal altogether. In refusing to provide certification, President Trump called on Congress and international partners to “address the deal’s many serious flaws so that the Iranian regime can never threaten the world with nuclear weapons.”

Two distinct statutory deadlines compel the president to decide whether or not to kill the deal. One has to do with the “certification requirement” (i.e., endorsing the deal again every 90 days), while the other, and arguably more important deadline, is to issue the deal-related statutory sanctions waiver extensions that fall due every 120 and 180 days. In


The Taylor Force Act falls far short of eliminating all US aid to the PA until they at least begin to fulfill their many interim peace accord obligations... but it is a refreshing, if limited, step in the right direction.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

January, President Trump extended the nuclear sanctions waivers on Iran, while warning that he would not do so again.

This is, again, a step in the right direction. As ZOA has pointed out at every turn, there have been numerous violations by Iran of the agreement's actual terms, and we look forward to the administration making the case to our allies that the agreement is not aiding the cause of keeping Iran constrained. Unless something changes, Iran is on track under the deal to achieve a full military nuclear capability, even without cheating, in just a few years. Since its implementation, Iran has embarked on a series of actions which show utter contempt for the international community and for the US in particular. This agreement must be officially terminated.

ZOA is pleased the House Committee on Education and the Workforce included new language in Title VI of the PROSPER Act, which passed the committee on December 13, 2017. This is the new name for the Higher Education Act (HEA), last reauthorized in 2008. Our department, working with ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, has teamed with a coalition of groups to change the existing HEA, which inadvertently provided government subsidies for anti-Israel programs at universities.

The Government Relations Department also continues to focus on our other regular legislative priorities, including fighting BDS. We continue to be vigilant in educating Congress, the media and the public about the ongoing Arab war against Israel, and communicating ZOA's insights and reactions to the news of the day. 

ZOA PRO-ISRAEL CAPITOL HILL MISSION

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

For Information: 212.481.1500 | dcmission@zoa.org | zoa.org/washington-mission-2018

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CENTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE



SUSAN TUCHMAN, ESQ.,
Director, Center for Law & Justice

Last August, UCI finally sanctioned SJP for violating university policy, placing SJP on disciplinary probation for two academic years ending June 16, 2019.

UC Irvine Finally Sanctions SJP

The last ZOA Report described the ZOA's continuing efforts to protect Jewish students' right to a safe and welcoming learning environment at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. UCI now acknowledges the fear and feelings of ostracism experienced by some Jewish students.

The anti-Israel hate group that calls itself Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) is largely responsible for the problems. Last May, SJP orchestrated the disruption of a program featuring Israel Defense Forces veterans. After the incident, the ZOA wrote to UCI Chancellor Howard Gillman, identifying several university rules breached by SJP, and urging severe punishment for this "serial violator of university rules and policies."

In the letter, the ZOA noted that the day after the disruption, a speaker at SJP's "Anti-Zionism Week" publicly bragged about it, admitted that SJP had disrupted a pro-Israel event the year before (which the ZOA also complained about), and expressed the intention to disrupt future events. The ZOA argued that SJP "is not entitled to preferential treatment and must comply with the same rules and policies that apply to everyone else. This group has no right to decide who is entitled to express their views, [or] what views may be expressed."

Last August, UCI finally sanctioned SJP for violating university policy, placing SJP on disciplinary probation for two academic years ending June 16, 2019. The group must meet with the Dean of Students six times per year to discuss free speech issues. It must also consult with a representative of the dean's office before hosting or cohosting any

campus event. Furthermore, if SJP violates university policy again, it may be suspended or have its registered status revoked.

The ZOA publicly praised the university's decision, stating, "UCI is sending a crucial message – that it will not tolerate SJP's violation of university rules or this hate group's repeated efforts to shut down the free speech of others."

ZOA Combats Anti-Semitism in California Public Schools

For years, the ZOA has been helping Jewish students across the country who have been harassed and threatened on their college campuses. Frighteningly, this ugly problem is seeping into elementary and secondary schools.

Last spring, Jessica Lindsey and Mel Waldorf contacted the ZOA after school officials failed to respond appropriately to the anti-Semitic threats their daughter Natasha endured as a freshman at California's Alameda High School. One student texted Natasha an image of "Mr. Clean" in a Nazi uniform with the words "Mr. Ethnic Cleansing"; images of swastikas; and frightening messages such as "get the gas." When Natasha expressed her alarm to a second student – a friend, she thought, who had, in fact, instigated the texts – he coldly advised Natasha to "deal with it" and "quit Judaism if you are bothered." He even blamed Natasha for inciting the hatred, texting that it is "because you are so eager to get your little country back" – meaning Israel.

Students joked about the Holocaust, once threatening Natasha and another Jewish student that "Hitler should have finished the job." Swastikas defaced desks and walls. In school hallways,

UCI is sending a crucial message – that it will not tolerate SJP's violation of university rules or this hate group's repeated efforts to shut down the free speech of others.

Chikindas called Judaism “the most racist religion in pockets” and described “orthodox Judaism” and

Officials failed to alert families to the anti-Semitism, failed to express a commitment to eradicate anti-Semitism, and failed to impose serious consequences on Natasha’s bullies, never even requiring them to apologize to her.

students called each other “kike” and admonished, “Don’t be such a Jew” – as if being Jewish is something horrible. Teachers were present when students made these comments. Even though California law requires teachers to intervene immediately when they witness an act of discrimination, they did not intercede.

Natasha’s family was proactive, not only reporting the anti-Semitic incidents to school officials, but also suggesting constructive solutions, none of which school officials implemented. Officials failed to alert families to the anti-Semitism, failed to express a commitment to eradicate anti-Semitism, and failed to impose serious consequences on Natasha’s bullies, never even requiring them to apologize to her. No thought was given to Natasha’s physical and emotional well-being. Instead, school officials added to her trauma by leaving the bullies in her classes for the rest of the school year, where she had to face them day after day.

The ZOA contacted district officials about the anti-Semitism not only plaguing Alameda High School, but other schools in the district, too, and recommended several remedial actions. Under pressure from the Waldorf family and the ZOA, the district has finally taken some small steps. District officials eventually admitted that anti-Semitism is a problem and that they made mistakes in their response to it. The district updated its anti-bullying policies; it will host community meetings to address systemic bias in Alameda; and it created a Jewish Community Roundtable to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the Jewish community.

These steps are not enough. The district’s mantra is “everyone belongs here,” but it must be clear, through the district’s strong and unequivocal words and actions, that “everyone” includes Jews.

ZOA Continues Fighting Anti-Semitism at Rutgers

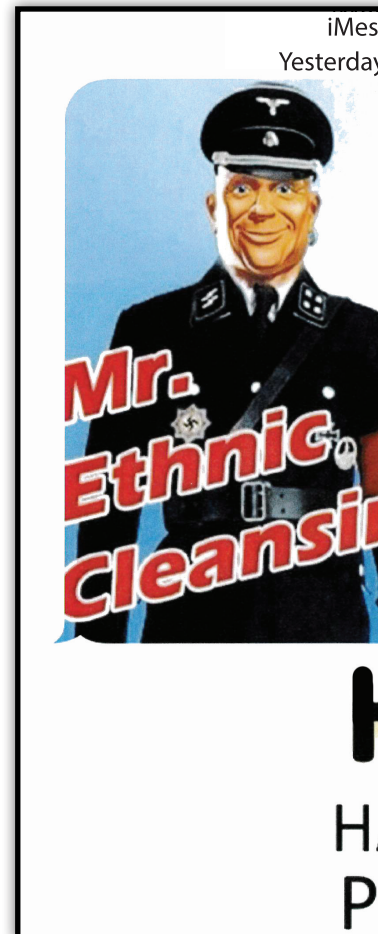
New Jersey’s Rutgers University – with its large Jewish student population, beautiful new Hillel building, and outstanding Hillel director – nevertheless continues to suffer from serious an-

ti-Semitism problems, which the ZOA continues to help battle.

Last fall, the *Algemeiner* newspaper revealed the anti-Semitism of three Rutgers professors. One, Michael Chikindas, published and shared dozens of deplorable anti-Semitic posts on social media. He called Judaism “the most racist religion in the world.” He referred to “international fat Jewish pockets” and described “orthodox Judaism” and Zionism as “the best of two forms of racism.” He shared a caricature of a hook-nosed man wearing a kippah, suggesting that Jews control the Federal Reserve and Wall Street, Hollywood, the “cancer industry,” “pornography,” and “sex trafficking,” among other things. Some of Chikindas’s posts demeaned gays and women.

The second professor, Jasbir Puar, recently wrote a book entitled “The Right to Maim,” in which Puar outrageously contends that the Israeli military shoots Palestinian Arabs to harm rather than kill them, in order to keep them “perpetually debilitated” and “to control them.” When she spoke at Vassar in 2016, Puar promoted the vicious lie that Israel had “mined for organs for scientific research” from dead Palestinian Arabs.

The third professor, Mazen Adi, teaches international criminal law at Rutgers. Prior to joining the faculty, Adi was Syria’s delegate and legal advisor at the United Nations, where he spoke for a



the world.” He referred to “international fat Jewish Zionism as “the best of two forms of racism.”

murderous regime responsible for chemical attacks and other atrocities on hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. Like Puar, Adi promoted the vicious lie that Israelis were trafficking children’s organs.

The ZOA expressed deep concern about the ongoing anti-Semitism to Rutgers President Robert Barchi, and urged the university to terminate Chikindas immediately based on the evidence that he

created a hostile learning environment for Jewish students. Barchi responded that Chikindas’s actions were under review, but he justified the professors’ anti-Semitism as free speech and academic freedom.

In an op-ed published in the *Jewish Standard*, the ZOA alerted the community to Rutgers’ appalling tolerance of anti-Semitism, and urged them to contact Barchi and express their outrage. Weeks later, Rutgers removed Chikindas from his post as director of the Center for Digestive Health at the Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health. He cannot teach required courses. He must undergo cultural sensitivity training. And if he returns to the classroom, he will be subject to ongoing monitoring.

AZM National Conference


Morton Klein and Susan Tuchman were featured speakers at the American Zionist Move-

ment’s National Conference in November 2017, in Washington, DC. The conference’s theme was “In the Spirit of Balfour, Zionism Forward,” celebrating the 100th year anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Through a series of informative sessions, participants explored topics related to Zionism, and the challenges facing Israel and the Jewish people.

At a session entitled “Law, Justice and the Rights of Israel and the Jewish People,” Susan Tuchman described the serious challenges that Jewish students are facing on their college campuses both in and out of the classroom, including harassment, physical threats, and physical assaults. She also described the intimidation tactics of hate groups such as SJP, which disrupt Jewish and pro-Israel events, and seek to marginalize Jewish students. Susan explained how Title VI of the Civil Rights Act – a potentially effective legal tool to protect Jewish students – is not being vigorously enforced by the US Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Susan also advocated for the passage of the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act, because it will help OCR understand when an incident of harassment is motivated by anti-Semitism.

Brotherhood Synagogue

On October 15, 2017, Susan Tuchman and Seth Greenwald, the ZOA’s Tri-State Campus Coordinator, were the featured speakers at Gramercy Park’s Brotherhood Synagogue in Manhattan. This was the second time the synagogue hosted the ZOA to educate the community about anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism in schools and on college campuses.

The synagogue screened the powerful documentary, “Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance on Campus,” which shows how anti-Semitism is normalized at many American universities. Susan and Seth described current campus problems and administrative responses. Seth shared what he himself encountered as a student at Clark University, and how ZOA Campus is building strong and effective student leaders. A spirited question-and-answer session followed the screening of the film. 

At a session entitled “Law, Justice and the Rights of Israel and the Jewish People,” Susan Tuchman described the serious challenges that Jewish students are facing on their college campuses both in and out of the classroom, including harassment, physical threats, and physical assaults.

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One of the anti-Semitic images sent to Jewish high school student Natasha Waldorf.

HERE
AVE SOME
OTATOES



This is Israel advocacy training for the 21st century.



JUSTIN ELLIS,
Director, ZOA's Fuel For Truth



Newest class of ZOA's FFT Boot Camp
graduates as of Feb. 2018

A Certain Program for Uncertain Times

An exciting new initiative has been launched to counter the wave of Israel misinformation targeting the next generation. Fuel For Truth, a non-profit which equips young professionals in their 20s and 30s with the facts and skills to effectively advocate for Israel in any environment, is now formally an integral part of the Zionist Organization of America. Fuel For Truth is now ZOA's Fuel For Truth (FFT) and it is expanding its congressionally recognized Israel advocacy Boot Camp program to urban hubs with significant Jewish populations across the country.

Established following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, a group of young, secular Jewish men under the age of 30 saw the connection between 9/11 and repeated terror attacks on Israel, and felt compelled to respond to the dangers at hand. To combat this threat against both Americans and the Jewish people, they dedicated their time, skills and financial resources to promote the truth about Israel's fight for peace and security, as well as to dispel dangerous lies fueling the hate and animosity toward the Jewish state.

ZOA's FFT trains and empowers diverse groups of young professionals to effectively influence their social and professional networks on Israel's behalf, by arming participants with the facts, tools and confidence to articulate their opinions about Israel. This is Israel advocacy training for the 21st century. The program utilizes proven communication and persuasion techniques, while simultaneously building active and close-knit communities of young professionals, which extend to lifelong relationships.

Bringing Jews of All Backgrounds Together For a Common Purpose

ZOA's FFT Boot Camp is an intensive, multi-week program currently operating in New York City, Washington, DC, Miami and Boston. It features a combination of lectures, speakers and interactive sessions that raises participants' Israel IQ and teaches them how to go on the offense in their discussions. This is done in a fun and unique way that balances educational and social components, while building future leaders and active Zionist communities.

There is no such thing as a typical Boot Camper. Each cohort features 25-30 select candidates who come from all walks of life and have varying prior experience in the Jewish and pro-Israel world. Boot Camp alumni are secular and Modern Orthodox, American and Israeli, and public school and Yeshiva educated. All are committed to becoming pro-Israel advocates, part of a community and something bigger than themselves. No matter the participants' background or knowledge level, Boot Camp makes all of them more informed and better skilled advocates for Israel.

Following each Boot Camp class, ZOA's FFT throws its signature event, the Party For Truth, which attracts 250-300 young professionals. This event celebrates the most recent cohort's induction into the membership, promotes the organization and Israel issues, encourages attendees to apply to Boot Camp, and shows the majority young and secular demographic that there's a fun, meaningful and engaging way to be part of a Jewish and pro-Israel community. [ZOA](#)

BOOT CAMP BREAKDOWN:

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS: Our trained volunteer-experts provide deep historical knowledge and context about the Middle East leading up to the establishment of the State of Israel, major events that shaped the Jewish state over the past seven decades, as well as information about the current political climate.

WORLD-CLASS SPEAKERS: In an intimate setting, Boot Camp participants hear from key individuals who provide exclusive insights relating to Israel. Past speakers include "The Case for Israel" author and Harvard Law professor Alan Dershowitz, Israeli Ambassadors Ron Prosor and Ido Aharoni, former US Ambassador to Morocco Marc Ginsberg, *New York Times* columnist and former *Jerusalem Post* editor Bret Stephens, Combined Jewish Philanthropies Strategic Israel Engagement Director Aviva Klompas, StandWithUs Northeast Executive Director Shahar Azani, AIPAC Northeast Deputy Director Dr. Sharon Goldman, and The Israel Project Managing Director Omri Ceren.

PROVEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS: Participants are taught how to have impactful conversations with different audience personas and in multiple environments, using the principles of game theory and experiential memory.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: One of the most vital aspects of this program is developing the sense of community between alumni. Through weekly social gatherings at a local bar following each Boot Camp session, to summer retreats and other events, participants create long-lasting connections with the ZOA's FFT community. Alumni are consistently engaged and provided with ways to stay involved in the Jewish and pro-Israel world, including classes, speaker series, parties, Shabbat dinners, rallies and conferences.

MOCK SIMULATIONS: Participants engage in social scenarios replicating real-world environments, allowing them to practice and build upon the methodologies taught in class.



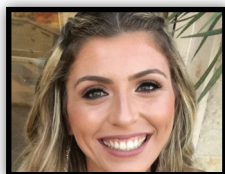
Boot Campers actively listening to guest lecturer



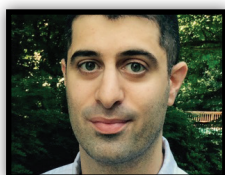
FFT members & guests enjoying Party For Truth



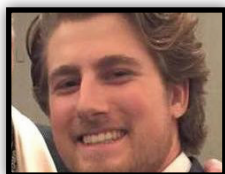
ZOA CAMPUS



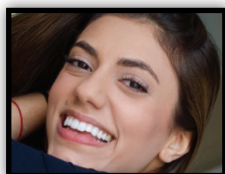
LEORE BEN-DAVID
Managing Director,
ZOA Campus, West
Coast Campus
Coordinator



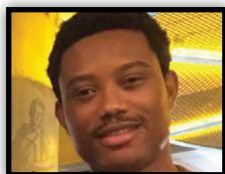
**JONATHAN
GINSBURG**
Associate Direc-
tor, ZOA Campus,
Northeast Campus
Coordinator



OR TAYLOR
Mid-Atlantic
Campus
Coordinator



ANNIE COHEN
Southeast Campus
Coordinator



PANDIT MAMI
Ohio & Michigan
Campus
Coordinator



SETH GREENWALD
Tri-State Campus
Coordinator



LIORA LEVICH
Midwest Campus
Coordinator



RACHEL TREISMAN
Pacific Northwest
Campus
Coordinator

INSPIRING AND ENGAGING THE FUTURE LEADERS OF AMERICA TO BE STRONG AND DEVOTED ISRAEL ADVOCATES ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND

ZOA Campus continues to serve as the only unapologetic Zionist voice on college campuses throughout the US. During the fall semester of 2017, ZOA Campus Coordinators planned, executed, and/or co-sponsored 210 Zionist events at 103 campuses with over 140 pro-Israel student clubs.

Impacting US Campuses

On the West Coast, ZOA Campus hosted many new events in the fall semester, including co-sponsoring Mizrahi Jewish Commemoration Day with the Consulate General of Israel and JIMENA: Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa. November 30th is the official day to honor Mizrahi Jews who were forcibly exiled from hostile Arab lands throughout the early twentieth century. Under the leadership of Managing Director Leore Ben-David, ZOA Campus hosted Manny Dahari, an alumnus of our Student Leadership Mission to Israel, at UCLA to speak about his experience growing up Jewish under a harsh, anti-Semitic regime in Yemen.

In the Mid-Atlantic region, ZOA Campus continued to promote Zionist ideals on campuses from Pennsylvania to North Carolina. We led two tours in North Carolina featuring African Zionist Pandit Mami and Manny Dahari, expanding our reach to two new universities in the state. Campus Coordinator Or Taylor recruited nine student leaders from his region to participate in our Student Leadership Mission to Israel, one of whom led the effort to defeat BDS at the University of Maryland.

In the Southeast region, Campus Coordinator Annie Cohen continued to educate students about Israel. ZOA Campus sponsored SodaStream tablings at which hundreds of students engaged in conversations about SodaStream as a model of peaceful co-existence between Arabs and Jews, and about the failures of the BDS movement. Additionally, we hosted numerous esteemed speakers including photojournalist Noam Bedein, Holocaust survivor Irving Roth, and former IDF lone soldier and Krav Maga instructor Leibel Mangel.

In Ohio and Michigan, Campus Coordinator Pandit Mami continued to educate students and young professionals about the importance of fighting anti-Semitism and championing Zionism. ZOA helped organize and co-sponsored Hillel of Metro-Detroit's first-ever Israel Week! This weeklong extravaganza showcased the diversity and achievements of the Middle East's only democracy to five universities in Michigan. We also brought Kasim Hafeez to Ohio State University, a former rabid anti-Israel activist who is now a powerful advocate for Israel.

In the Midwest, led by Campus Coordinator Liora Levich, ZOA Campus

continued to uphold the spirit of Zionism and was honored to host internationally-acclaimed speaker Neil Lazarus at Northwestern and Indiana universities. We were also proud to co-sponsor a campus tour with MyTruth and Students Supporting Israel (SSI) at Minnesota University and the University of Illinois.

In New England, under Associate Director and Campus Coordinator Jonathan Ginsburg, ZOA Campus continued to educate and empower students to support Israel, through a series of interactive initiatives such as advocacy seminars, as well as educational tabling events on campus. ZOA hosted expert guest speakers including journalist Gil Cohen-Magen who delivered powerful presentations at Harvard University, Dartmouth College, Northeastern University, and more.

ZOA Campus in the Tri-State Region hit the ground running with our new Campus Coordinator, Seth Greenwald. We were especially proud to host a Kumzitz – a celebration of Zionism through song and dance – in the middle of Times Square with students from Yeshiva University. Hundreds of students and local community members participated and celebrated Zionism.

Two Trips, Twice the Zionist Warriors

This past winter, and for the first time in ZOA Campus history, we hosted two overlapping Student Leadership Missions to Israel. 58 students, from 42 universities across the country, came together in Israel for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. ZOA Campus helped students break down what they learned on each trip and devise meaningful ways to apply the information on their college campuses. These missions were successful because they created a network of student activists who shared an experience that strengthened them as Zionists and leaders.

In the midst of continued outcry about Jewish visitation to the Temple Mount, students on the ZOA mission visited the site, many for the first time. There, they experienced the reality on the ground – a religious apartheid where Jews, unlike Muslims, cannot practice their religion freely and pray at the site. Many students found this troubling, and educated others about this reality on the Temple Mount, through social media posts and calls to action.



ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel visiting the Temple Mount

Students also met members of the newly formed Israeli Christian Aramaic Association, led by Shadi Khalloul. Khalloul spoke about his people's desire to revive their ancient Aramaic language and establish a village in Israel as a safe haven for Christians escaping persecution in the Middle East.

Khalloul, a devout Zionist and IDF veteran, also spoke about how the term "Christian Arab" does not apply to him and his people. He explained that many Christians in Israel no longer feel comfortable identifying as Arabs because their existence and roots predate the arrival of Islam in the region. Students learned that the Jewish State is the only place in the Middle East where minority communities can freely build and maintain their heritage and culture – particularly moving information for students who are members of the Christian faith.

Students also met with members of YATAR, an elite volunteer police unit that utilizes specially-equipped ATV's to locate and capture wanted terrorists. Operating mainly in Jerusalem, the unit also patrols the border with Gaza. It was precisely on the border, in areas like Nahal Oz, that students saw first-hand what it is like to discover a terror tunnel coming from Gaza into heavily-populated southern Israeli villages.

In the Negev, students visited the SodaStream factory near Rahat. Many had spent the previous fall semester tabling on their campuses with ZOA-purchased SodaStream machines. It was truly transformative for students to visit the very factory that had played a role in their Israel advocacy on campus, and to meet Palestinian Arabs and Israelis working together. Students spoke candidly with SodaStream's employees and managers, and saw first-hand the factory's incredible working conditions and the opportunities afforded to both Palestinian Arabs and Israelis.

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ZOA Campus Managing Director Leore Ben-David (center) with Myron Zimmerman Award recipients Heather Alper and Natan Benchimol at the 2017 ZOA Gala



ZOA's Pandit Mami (left) teaching students the importance of Jewish self-defense during an on-campus Krav Maga lesson

Media expert and I24 news correspondent Eylon Aslan Levy trained students to handle media interviews that are biased against Israel. Students learned how to tackle tough questions and pledged to work with ZOA Campus on a campaign to hold campus press and other media channels accountable for their anti-Israel reporting.

We thank the MZ Foundation for so generously supporting our student missions to Israel.

Honoring Strong Zionist Students

At the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner in November, ZOA Campus bestowed the prestigious Myron Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Student Activism on two strong and unapologetic pro-Israel activists: Heather Alper, a Brooklyn College student, and Natan Benchimol, a student at Santa Monica College.

Alper called out the hypocrisy of the “progressive” feminist movement for singling out Zionists as “incongruent” with modern feminist ideals. She created a social media and video campaign to dispel the absurd falsehood that Zionists cannot be feminists. The campaign went viral.

Benchimol revived a sleeping pro-Israel community at the largest college feeder to UCLA. By sharing his moving personal story of aliyah – having lived in Maale Adumim during the Second Intifada, and serving as a lone soldier in the IDF – Natan came back to the US where he witnessed hostility toward Israel and the IDF on his campus. He mobilized dozens of students to create one of today's largest and most active SSI chapters in the nation.

Representing Zionist Activism at Conferences

ZOA Campus participated in various pro-Israel conferences in the fall and winter of 2017. At the international Alpha Epsilon Pi Convention in Las Vegas, we engaged with over 1,000 brothers from one of the oldest Jewish fraternities in the country. ZOA Campus tabled with SodaStream root beer floats, and engaged students about BDS. Managing Director Leore Ben-David and Associate Director Jonathan Ginsburg spoke on two panels about activism and anti-Semitic trends on campus.

For the second consecutive year, ZOA Campus tabled at the Israeli-American Council Conference in Washington, DC. This event increased ZOA's visibility among over 4,000 Israeli-Americans, many of whom see it as their responsibility (and the responsibility of their American-born children) to advocate for Israel.

ZOA Campus also tabled at the Hillel International Global Assembly in Denver, Colorado, and participated in two Turning Point USA conferences. The first was the Women's Conference where we taught students about the right and need for Jewish self-defense. ZOA's executive director for the western region, David Kadosh, gave an introductory Krav Maga lesson to over 100 students, which increased ZOA Campus's reach to new schools in southern states like Texas and Louisiana.

ZOA Campus's success at the women's conference sparked demand to replicate and expand programming at Turning Point USA's National Summit in December 2017. There, ZOA Campus engaged over 4,000 students about Zionism, BDS, and the history of the Jewish people's struggle for self-determination. We look forward to continuing to promote Zionism on and off campus to those partner organizations, Jewish and secular, that understand the natural affinity among Zionism, democracy, and free-market cooperation. [ZOA](#)

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ISRAEL OFFICE

ENTERING OUR SECOND DECADE OF ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM

With reminders from US Vice President Pence, on his recent visit to Israel, that the US/Israel relationship is moving in a profoundly better direction, ZOA Israel completed its first decade of high-impact, pro-Israel advocacy and activism, and smoothly transitioned into the next one with concrete plans for more of the same and hopeful new beginnings.

Largest Knesset Caucus Ever

ZOA Israel and the International Committee for Har Hazeitim began collaborating in 2010. With many Jerusalem security achievements to its credit over the years, this collaboration has resulted in the formation of the largest-ever Knesset caucus in Israel history.

Established in concert with MK Yoav Ben Tzur (Shas), and blessed by Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein (Likud), the Knesset Caucus for the Protection of the Mount of Olives is more than three times the size of the next largest caucus. Its unprecedented 67 MK joiners from across the political spectrum (including Meretz, but not the Arab Joint List) have committed to guarding and developing this site counted among Israel's most holy and strategically significant.

After a six-month herculean effort, the Caucus was launched with a great bang in December as part of an international VIP solidarity mission. The mission consisted of meetings with PM Netanyahu, President Rivlin, Israel's two chief rabbis, various ministers led by Yoav Galant (Kulanu), Knesset members, and local leaders. It was capped by an on-site briefing conducted by Jerusalem's top



Exploratory excavations at site of eagerly anticipated Mount of Olives Visitor Education Center

brass, including Chief of Police Yoram Halevy and Minister David Azoulay (Shas).

The Caucus currently is working to consolidate the dramatic gains attained by us to date, helping Israel to reassert its presence, control, and sovereignty in threatened eastern Jerusalem. It also will be facilitating our newer initiatives toward this end, for example, the restoration of the remaining 23,000 Mount of Olives graves out of the 45,000 destroyed from 1948 to 1967 by Jordan.

The tailwind building from the Caucus's formation already is being felt, with ZOA Israel's deep involvement. Onsite improvements include the addition of Egged bus line #84 to provide regular access, and the organization of an armed ultra-Orthodox civilian patrol alongside other new security measures. A major archaeology-history conference was held in January, with spring events expected to attract thousands more. Phase II is about to begin on constructing the Visitor Education Center.

Robust New Conversations

Even as ZOA Israel's Legal Grounds Campaign is largely Knesset-centric, we have been working to catalyze robust new conversations in other venues as well. In particular, we are introducing the uninitiated to viable alternatives to the moribund two-state approach. For reasons familiar to followers of recent PA news—e.g., Abbas's virulently anti-Semitic January 14 speech — attentiveness to more realistic approaches has noticeably broadened.

Resistance to changing the paradigm still is in evidence on hyper-partisan-divided Capitol Hill. Yet interest definitely has grown in Congress since

The Mount of Olives Knesset Caucus is more than three times the size of the next largest caucus, its unprecedented 67 MKs having committed to guarding and developing this site counted among Israel's most holy and strategically significant."

The nearly 620,000 views on Facebook and YouTube alone, along with the accompanying reactions, show that our video hit a nerve, especially among the Israeli public.

we began sharing the Dear Colleague letters and alternatives plans secured by us from five members of Knesset: Yoav Kisch (Bayit Yehudi), Miki Zohar (Likud), Yehuda Glick (Likud), Shuli Muallem for Naftali Bennett (Bayit Yehudi), and Bezalel Smotrich (Bayit Yehudi).

As has been our recent practice, we brought another student along on our latest Washington round. Yonatan Rubin learned much about US advocacy from our two-state alternatives promotion among the dozens of congressional offices we visited. He also helped push ZOA Israel's Sense of Congress draft letter, which asks President Trump to authorize State Department registration of "Jerusalem, Israel" as the birthplace of Americans born in Jerusalem hospitals.

We have been working especially closely with Congressmen Ron DeSantis (R-FL) and Doug Lamborn (R-CO) on this long-contested provision of US law, and on other interim Jerusalem-strengthening steps that we have been proposing as we await the promised US embassy move. DeSantis has publicized the steps outlined in our talking points in his own hearings, while staying laser-focused on embassy move logistics and timing despite the tremendous European Union and Arab pushback.

Our day on the Hill with Kurdish friends of Israel—the Kurds are fighting the same Shia Iran and Iraqi enemies—topped off by a confidential, highly informative briefing with Kurdish officials at their Washington mission, also exemplifies the benefits of cross-continental conversation. Return-

ing to Israel, we made a beeline for the Knesset to participate in an Israel-Kurdistan Caucus meeting, chaired by MK Ksenia Svetlova (Labor), with another Kurdish delegation in attendance.

Important as these Jerusalem-Washington connections may be, one of the more intriguing—you might say revolutionary — Legal Grounds projects has been actively proceeding inside the Knesset, where we are seeking to amend Israeli laws that apply only in pre-1967 Israel to also include Judea and Samaria. Israel's adversaries have termed this "creeping annexation." We call it "equality under the law."

Most recently, at our request, MK Sharren Haskel (Likud) petitioned the Knesset agency — equivalent to the Congressional Research Service — to report on discriminatory laws that, for instance, affect access for the disabled, environmental protection, early childhood education, animal rights, and even the ten-agorot-plastic-bag supermarket law.

As much as the facts of international law support such new directions for Israel, pointing this out to the unschooled remains an uphill battle. Hoping to stimulate discussion about the growing phenomenon of facts avoidance, Legal Grounds produced a musical parody utilizing the comedic talents of Latma, the group founded by pundit and ZOA gala awardee Caroline Glick. The nearly 620,000 views on Facebook and YouTube alone, along with the accompanying reactions, show that our video hit a nerve, especially among the Israeli public we are targeting.

ZOA Israel Director Jeff Daube at DC mission of Israel-friendly Kurds, after day on Capitol Hill with their delegation



Yonatan Rubin (left) and Jeff Daube (right) with two-stater Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL) pushing bipartisan openness to alternatives

Still from Legal Grounds “All About the Facts” video ridiculing gullible acceptance of Palestinian lies



Rights for Terror Victims

ZOA Israel is newly focused on providing victims of Palestinian Arab terror in Judea and Samaria with the same rights as victims of terror in pre-1967 borders; the former’s attackers are typically tried by the Israeli military courts rather than in civilian courts. This double standard limits the rights of victims to participate in the justice sought. The proposition to eliminate this double standard falls neatly within the ambit of the Legal Grounds Equality Under the Law initiative. Thus, we have been helping with International Legal Forum efforts to promote a Knesset bill that would afford all terror victims rights such as procuring testimony from twice-victimised families denied advance notification of trial dates, disclosure of plea bargains, and a chance to make statements to the court pre-verdict.

Much of ZOA Israel’s other work on behalf of terror victims this past year could not have progressed without the support of ZOA National Board member Cliff Rieders, Esq., ZOA Center for Law and Justice director Susan Tuchman, Esq., and Dan Pollak and Josh London, co-directors of the ZOA Government Relations Department, who provided valuable assistance to American terror victims in *Sokolow v. PLO*, a legal action to hold accountable the PLO and the PA for carrying out the terror attacks. The plaintiffs won a \$655.5 million judgment in the trial court. On appeal, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit dismissed their case, a decision that in effect eviscerates the right of many American victims of overseas terrorism to obtain justice under federal law. Presently, our team is looking to persuade Solicitor General Noel Francisco to support the victims’

petition for Supreme Court review, as we regularly interact with the aggrieved Israel-based plaintiffs to keep them apprised.

ZOA Israel also offered assistance to David Ramati, a 70-year-old Vietnam War veteran and long-time IDF officer who was seriously injured in a Gush Etzion car ramming attack just months ago. Despite suffering from head wounds, cracked vertebrae, and a gangrenous foot, he graciously accepted our request to speak to students on the ZOA’s Student Leadership Mission to Israel last December.

After attending a Jerusalem azkara (memorial) service for American Israelis Binyamin and Talia Kahane, murdered in a December 2000 drive-by shooting that also injured five of their six children, the family reached out to ZOA Israel to explore available legal options. Susan and Cliff once again were at the ready with suggestions about how to circumvent obstacles such as statutes of limitation when the victims are minors.

The extradition from Jordan of Ahlam Tamimi, a lead player in the 2001 Sbarro pizza shop massacre, remains a primary focus at our meetings with the Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism (OJVOT). At a meeting with OJVOT’s chief legal counsel in Israel last January, he assured us that the US Justice and State Departments are still working on the case.

Meanwhile, our outreach to the US Embassy has resulted in a commitment from Ambassador David Friedman’s chief advisor, Aryeh Lightstone, to personally assume the portfolio responsible for American terror victims. Recently, the US Jerusalem Consulate—perhaps because of vociferous complaints about its sole interest in the Arab population—has become somewhat more responsive to our requests to support terror victims residing within Judea-Samaria.

It is helpful to hear from terror victims and their families that they feel grateful for the ZOA’s multi-layered involvement, as others forget or neglect them. Yet we continue to hope there will never again be a need to pursue services and support under these circumstances. [ZOA](#)

AROUND THE COUNTRY

MEET ZOA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



DAVID KADOSH
West Coast



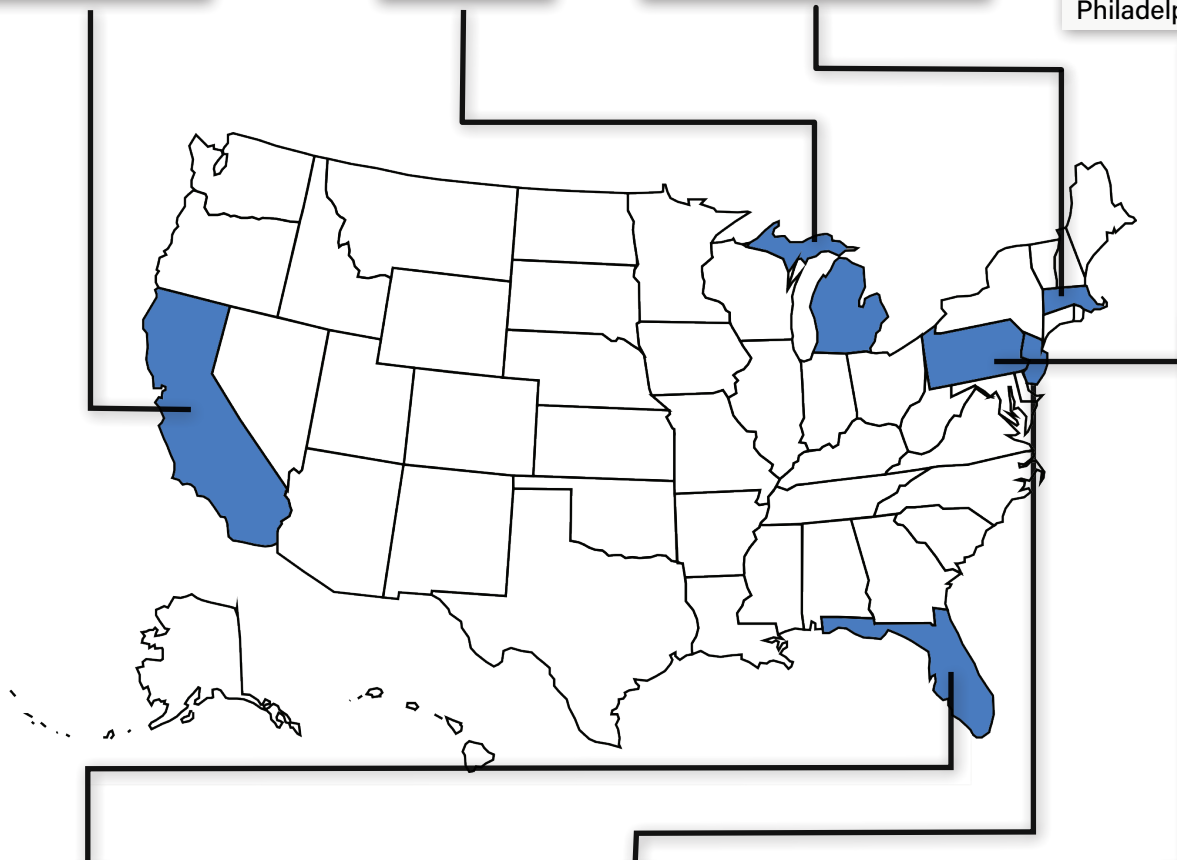
KOBI EREZ
Michigan



RABBI JONINA PRITZKER
Boston



STEVE FELDMAN
Greater
Philadelphia



SHARONA WHISLER
Florida



ALAN JAY
New Jersey



STUART PAVILACK
Pittsburgh

Sharona Whisler in the Sun Sentinel: "We strongly commend the city of Bal Harbour Village and its mayor, Gabriel Groisman, for leading the way with this unprecedented ordinance codifying the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism."

FLORIDA ZOA Florida in the News

After President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and announced plans to move the US embassy to Jerusalem, the *Sun Sentinel* published ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler's response to the exciting news: "The Zionist Organization of America praises President Trump for following through on his campaign promise to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and announcing his plans to start the process of moving the United States Embassy there. President Trump correctly described this recognition as the 'right thing to do.' Jerusalem has been the capital of one nation, the Jewish Nation, and has been so since King David established it over 3,000 years ago."

On December 13, Ms. Whisler attended a meeting of the Bal Harbour Village Council at which the Council unanimously passed an ordinance providing a definition of anti-Semitism for law enforcement. Commending the Council's action, Ms. Whisler stated at the meeting, "We all have a role in fighting against bigotry and Jew hatred. How outstanding, and I think we can say historic, that you've chosen to take this proactive stand. You are definitely playing a role that will benefit the future of Bal Harbour and I hope serve as an example to other cities across the country."

Ms. Whisler was interviewed by all the local TV news stations that covered the Council's action and was quoted in the *Sun Sentinel*: "We at the Zionist Organization of America work every day to fight anti-Semitism. We do this on college campuses through our Center for Law and Justice, on Capitol Hill through our Government Relations Depart-

ment, and in the communities our regional leaders work in across the country. We strongly commend the city of Bal Harbour Village and its mayor, Gabriel Groisman, for leading the way with this unprecedented ordinance codifying the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism. This definition recognizes the reality that anti-Semitism today takes many forms and that sometimes criticism of Israel crosses the line into anti-Semitism. Bal Harbour Village plainly understands that in order to effectively combat anti-Semitism, a clear definition of anti-Semitism is essential."



Gabriel Groisman,
Mayor of Bal Harbour Village

Synagogue Events

ZOA Florida continued to expand its presence in Jacksonville by bringing Israel's Deputy Consul General Guy Giladi to the city, to speak at one of Florida's oldest synagogues, Ahavat Chesed. Mr. Giladi gave an informative presentation about Israel's biggest security threats and technological advancements.

At the third ZOA Shabbat at Miami Beach's Temple Menorah, ZOA Florida featured Lawrence Muscant of the think tank, Foundation for Defense of Democracies. On Friday evening, Mr. Muscant spoke about "A Look at the Middle East, A Year Into Trump's Presidency." The following morning, he discussed, "Homegrown Terror in Our Backyard," followed by a question-and-answer session. Both presentations were well-attended by current

ZOA Florida continued to expand its presence in Jacksonville by bringing Deputy Consul General Guy Giladi to the city, to speak at one of Florida's oldest synagogues, Ahavat Chesed.

ZOA High School Fellow Shani Kravetz described her experience at the ZOA dinner, writing, "I was extremely honored to attend this prestigious dinner, getting to see and meet these world leaders all supporting the Jewish State of Israel."



ZOA High School Fellows with ZOA Florida's Sharona Whisler and Florida Congressman Ron DeSantis at ZOA's Brandeis Award Dinner

and prospective ZOA members. Rabbi Pearlson of Temple Menorah said, "Cooperating with ZOA has had a most positive effect on our community. We have been able to host Shabbat weekends and hear presenters share perspectives and insights not generally known."

ZOA Florida co-sponsored a reception at the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center in honor of the 40th anniversary of the founding of Ariel. The event included a performance by the Ariel Teen Dance Troup, showcasing dances of the many cultures that are represented in the city of Ariel.

ZOA Florida was a proud co-sponsor of the Downtown Jewish Center's mega Chanukah celebration. The festival attracts thousands from South Florida. ZOA signed up new members at its booth and collected notes for Israeli soldiers which will be personally delivered during ZOA's next Purim Mission to Israel.

ZOA Florida was the sole sponsor of a well-attended event hosted by the Young Israel of Hollywood, featuring the founder of Shurat Hadin, Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, who spoke about her new book, "Harpoon." The book delves into the financial resources of terror and the methods used to cut off that funding.

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Balfour Declaration

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration in November, ZOA Florida featured acclaimed journalist and best-selling author, Edwin Black, at the Hebrew Academy in Miami, where ZOA runs a fellowship program. After Mr. Black spoke about the Balfour Declaration, students spontaneously sang Hatikva, Israel's na-



Jump for Israel participants

tional anthem. Mr. Black also spoke to middle and high school students at Boca Raton's Donna Klein Jewish Academy and at the West Boca Chabad.

Working With Students

ZOA Florida welcomed its new class of High School Fellows from Hebrew Academy – Shani Kravetz, Almama Ichak, Yosef Nahon, and Ron Ben Hayoun – and from the Scheck Hillel Community School – Lily Schmutter, Nathalie Fuhrman, and Simi Serfati. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida's 27th District praised the program, stating, "The ZOA is an incredible force for Israel activism and this program will equip students with the tools they need to become leaders and activists in their communities. I'm thrilled to see students engaging and educating their fellow classmates on the importance of maintaining and strengthening the bond we share with Israel and the Jewish people."

Rabbi Avi Greene, the Upper School Director of Judaic Studies and Hebrew Language at the Scheck Hillel Community School, said, "We are pleased to partner with ZOA in educating our students about the critical role that Israel plays in our lives as Jews and defenders of democracy. Our students become leaders on their college campuses and beyond; ZOA helps us prepare them not only to face the challenges ahead but to lead their peers in facing these challenges as well."

The High School Fellows from Hebrew Academy attended the ZOA's Brandeis Award Dinner in Manhattan last November, with the generous support of ZOA Florida board members, Dr. Craig Deligdish and Allen Hamaoui. In a blog post, ZOA High School Fellow Shani Kravetz described her experience at the dinner, writing, "I was extremely

honored to attend this prestigious dinner, getting to see and meet these world leaders all supporting the Jewish State of Israel.”

Jump for Israel

Back by popular demand, ZOA Florida gathered its daredevil members for its fundraising skydive event, Jump for Israel. The enthusiastic participants jumped out of an airplane in support of Israel and ZOA on October 22. “It was really an honor to be a part of this with ZOA. It’s a great organization that does important work, and to be able to combine it with skydiving, which I’m also passionate about, was fun and different,” said Jump for Israel committee member Asher Levy.

New Israel Action Committee

ZOA Florida launched an Israel Action Committee, chaired by ZOA member Melinda Ribner, to help fulfill the ZOA’s goals and agenda on the ground in South Florida. The committee chose to focus on supporting the Taylor Force Act to maximize our impact. When the committee learned that the legislation had been diluted, it still recommended supporting the Act, and educated the public about the problems with the US funding the Palestinian Authority.

ZOA Florida Welcomes New Board Members

Steven M. Alembik, the founder of SMA Communications, is originally from Manhattan. He worked in the White House under President Ronald Reagan for over seven years and has been politically active since the days of John F. Kennedy. His long and colorful history in Washington enabled his firm to establish long-lasting relationships and provide geo-targeted data to the largest advocacy and online political firms in the country. Steven’s passions are his three children, his country, and Israel.

Eytan Laor was born in Israel and moved with his family to New York state when he was eight years old. He completed his undergraduate studies at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, and after four years with an international public accounting firm, he became a CPA. After working in real estate finance and investment banking, Eytan relocated to Miami and

in late 2006, took the opportunity to become involved in pro-Israel politics and policy. Unexpectedly, he was quickly “hooked” and immersed himself in the political arena in the nation’s capital. Eytan is the founder and chairman of American Principles, the country’s only conservative, national security, and pro-Israel-candidate PAC. Eytan is the proud father of two boys, ages 11 and 16, both of whom are following in their father’s politically-engaged footsteps.

Keith Wasserstrom graduated from the Wharton School of Business and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He spent 15 years heading mergers and acquisitions and securities practices for some of the world’s largest and most prestigious law firms. He was also managing partner of his own law firm. He continues to advise clients of all industries and sizes. Keith also served as a Hollywood City Commissioner from 2000-2006, and is an Orthodox rabbi. Keith is married for over 25 years to his Penn cheerleading partner, Jessica, who serves as general counsel to a Miami real estate development firm, Lionheart Capital. They have four children and one grandson and have lived in Hollywood for more than 25 years.

For more information about ZOA Florida or to get involved, contact florida@zoa.org.

PHILADELPHIA

Greater Philadelphia ZOA Finishes 2017 with a “Phlurry”

The ZOA’s Greater Philadelphia chapter had a busy second half of 2017 that was filled with accomplishments and looks toward a promising 2018.

“Meet the Press”

As we all know, what is in the news matters, and it is vital that the media reports the news accurately. When it comes to Israel, the Arab war against Israel, and the Middle East in general, most of the media gets it wrong most of the time. Philadelphia Media Networks, which publishes the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Daily News* – the region’s two largest dailies – and philly.com – likely the most popular website in the area – have been notoriously anti-Israel in every category. The media group’s coverage has been particularly poor as of late.

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With that in mind, three representatives from Greater Philadelphia ZOA met three of the top newsroom officials for the news group. Co-President Lee Bender, Media Committee Chairman Jerry Verlin and Executive Director Steve Feldman met with the executive editor/senior vice president, the editor/vice president, and the managing editor for opinion of Philadelphia Media Networks. It was a productive meeting at which we raised such issues as the lopsided concentration on Israel; the media's tendency to place Israel under a microscope; the mostly negative coverage; the clear bias in both the overall coverage and within each individual article, whether locally generated or from a wire service; the lack of historical and contemporary context in articles; and the use of politically charged terminology. We gave numerous examples of offending articles in each of these categories, and stressed that overall, coverage of the Jewish state is bound to inflame Jew-hatred.

We were both candid and firm in expressing our concerns. Based on the newsroom officials' reactions, our points were well-taken. We will see in a follow-up report whether our meeting made a difference.

Balfour on Balfour

In December, Greater Philadelphia ZOA sponsored an event that won us universal accolades from the more than 100 people who attended: We commemorated and celebrated both the

100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration and the 70th anniversary of the United Nations partition vote. The highlight of the event was an appearance – by video – of Lord Roderick Balfour, the great-great nephew of Lord Arthur James Balfour who authored the Balfour Declaration. Lord Roderick Balfour discussed his famous ancestor and the role he played in the re-establishment of the Jewish State.

Our in-person event highlights included presentations by Ambassador Reuven Azar, Deputy Head of Mission at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC; Oliver Franklin, British Honorary Consul in Philadelphia; and Dr. Daniel Mandel, director of ZOA's Center for Middle East Policy, who was the keynote speaker. It was an upbeat event and all the presentations were engaging.

We held the event in conjunction with Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El's Israel Advocacy Committee. The event is available to watch on YouTube.

Gala Good Time

In September, we held our annual Gala, a festive gathering that included stirring speeches in what was a truly inspirational night. We presented our Pillar of the Community Award to attorney, philanthropist and communal leader Allen L. Rothenberg, Esq.; our Ben Hecht Award for Outstanding Journalism to Jonathan Tobin, editor-in-chief of Jewish News Service (jns.org); our Guardian of Israel Award to Rabbi Yaacov Orim-

100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration & 70th anniversary of UN partition vote



(from left): ZOA Philly Board Chairman Gene Shusman; Oliver Franklin, British Honorary Consul in Philly; Dr. Daniel Mandel, director of ZOA's Center for Middle East Policy; Reuven Azar, Deputy Head of Mission at the Israeli embassy in Washington, DC; Greater Philadelphia ZOA co-presidents Kevin Ross and Lee Bender; and Executive Director Steve Feldman. (Photo by Aaron Benau)

2017 Greater Philadelphia ZOA Gala



(from left): Howard Katzoff, Gala chairman; Lee Bender, co-president; Moriah Tobin, honoree's daughter; Jonathan Tobin, JNS editor-in-chief and recipient of the Ben Hecht Award for Outstanding Journalism; and Executive Director Steve Feldman. (Photo by Aaron Benau)



In appreciation of the vital role our volunteers play in the successful execution of our Gala, many of our 2017 Gala volunteers gathered for our annual “thank you” dinner. (Photo by Steve Feldman)



Gala (from left): Co-President Lee Bender; Allen L. Rothenberg, recipient of Greater Philadelphia ZOA's Pillar of the Community Award; Executive Director Steve Feldman; and Gala Chairman Howard Katzoff. (Photo by Richard Chaitt)

land, religious leader of Young Israel of Margate; and our Friends of Zion Award to Christian Zionists Jim and Diane Showers, who lead the Friends of Israel organization. Each of our honorees took a turn at the podium, both educating the audience and issuing calls to action on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people.

The evening also included the American and Israeli national anthems along with “G-d Bless America” and “Yerushalayim Shel Zahav,” by Cantor Adam Gilbert and honoree Allen L. Rothenberg, and heartfelt invocations and benedictions by Naphtali Perlberger and Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch, respectively. We’re now working on our 2018 Gala!

Thanking Israel's Defenders

ZOA Philly is expecting Purim-themed “thank you” cards and letters for IDF soldiers and border police from approximately 20 schools and congregations in eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware, to be delivered by Brooklyn ZOA President Rubin Margules and friends during the annual ZOA Purim Mission to Israel. This year in particular we have gotten wonderful feedback from teachers, rabbis and others whose students have participated in this fun project.

Standing up for Israel

The local director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) presented a program at a suburban Philadelphia library recently, and local ZOA leaders were present to refute both anti-Israel and anti-Jewish content in both his remarks and the “documentary” he screened. Sure enough, the film

– made by the CAIR official and heavily funded by Qatar – accused Israel and particularly Orthodox Jews of persecuting Palestinian Arabs, and blamed Israel for the lack of peace. We are in discussion with library officials about having a pro-Israel film and speaker at that same library later this year.

As part of our ongoing “Buy Israel” project, Greater Philadelphia ZOA has teamed up with the website “From Israel to You” to promote sales of jewelry and Judaica crafted by Israeli artisans. See what is available at fromisraeltoyou.com – and if you use the code ZOAPhilly at checkout, we receive a donation from the website.

Out & About

Our leadership continues to have both frequent public speaking engagements as well as appearances in a variety of print, broadcast and online media.

We have had articles and/or letters to the editor published, on behalf of ZOA or individually, in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Algemeiner*, the *Jewish Exponent*, *jns.org* and elsewhere. We have been guests on “The Dom Giordano Show,” “Remnant Road,” “Stand in the Gap” and “Backlash” radio shows.

We have been speakers and made presentations at synagogues and Jewish community centers. We have tabled at community events.

More than 30 members from our region attended the National ZOA Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner last November.

Co-President Lee Bender and his wife, Jane, were honored by American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Board member Dr. Ronald Werrin and his wife, Dr. Marguerite Werrin, were honored by Aish HaTorah Philadelphia.

As part of our ongoing “Buy Israel” project, Greater Philadelphia ZOA has teamed up with the website “From Israel to You” to promote sales of jewelry and Judaica crafted by Israeli artisans.

ZOA Pittsburgh held its annual Awards Dinner on November 1, 2017. Three incredible Zionists, each unique, were honored that evening.

PITTSBURGH

ZOA Pittsburgh's Annual Award Dinner

ZOA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

ZOA Pittsburgh held its annual Awards Dinner on November 1, 2017. It was the culmination of a very active year. Three incredible Zionists, each unique, were honored that evening.

Funny man Lou Weiss was presented with the ZOA Lifetime Achievement Award. This 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.

In 1991, Lou and his wife, Amy, chaired a mission to Israel which had over 300 people scheduled to participate. Then the Gulf War broke out and scuttled the trip. Not one to stay at home, Lou went to Israel anyway, volunteered with the IDF, and washed jeeps for three weeks.

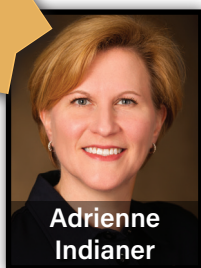
Lou is a lifelong Pittsburgher. A graduate of John Minadeo Elementary School and Taylor Allderdice High School, Lou graduated from Kenyon College in Ohio where he was a drama major. Realizing that he could not act, Lou instead embarked on a career in carpet sales, and is currently feigning help for his fabulous wife, Amy, in her flooring sales agency, Weisslines.

A bleeding-heart conservative, Lou has worked with many agencies and nonprofit groups, among them the ZOA, the Jewish Federation, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, and AIPAC. He is a member of the Wexner Heritage Foundation and, with Amy, has led several Federation missions to Israel. He is a former chair of the Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation and, with Amy, chaired Federation Fund Fest, the Unity Rally held at the Community Day field after 9/11, and I-Connect, the Israel literacy and experience coalition. He is the current and past head of AIPAC in Pittsburgh.

Lou and Amy have four gifted, beautiful, strong, and Zionist daughters ranging in age from 22 to 33. Piggybacking on one of his children who has a career in journalism, Lou has been writing op-eds lately for the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



Lou Weiss



Adrienne Indianer



Ira Frank

ZOA ISRAEL SERVICE AWARD

The ZOA Israel Service Award is given to those individuals with strong leadership, ethics, and results-driven qualities, who have a passion for the Jewish homeland. These award recipients demonstrate their love and support for the State of Israel time and time again. This year the Israel Service Award was presented to Adrienne Indianer for her dedication and work as a volunteer and professional working in support of Israel.

Adrienne is known in Pittsburgh for her dedication as a professional in the Jewish community. Prior to coming to Pittsburgh, Adrienne spent 12 years in corporate finance with Neiman Marcus at its headquarters in Dallas, Texas, as the director of collections and profit and loss.

Upon her relocation to Pennsylvania in 2002, she earned her Project Management Certificate from the Katz School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh, while working as the manager of corporate projects at Leed's in New Kensington. She then moved to the nonprofit world, spending several years as the director of customer service and sales at the JCC of Greater Pittsburgh, and then at the Jewish National Fund where she was the western Pennsylvania regional director. Since 2012, Adrienne has been a registered representative with Israel Bonds.

Currently, Adrienne serves as a board member of the Hillel JUC, on the Youth Commission of Congregation Beth Shalom, on the Volunteer Center Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, on the Steering Committee for JPro Pittsburgh, and is a mentor at the Center for Women. She previously served on the boards of Beth Shalom, the JCC, the Federation, and as YAD Campaign Chair.

Adrienne holds a Bachelor of Science in advertising from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Master of Liberal Arts, with a concentration in art history, from Southern Methodist University. She and her husband, Evan, are deeply involved in the Jewish community, having met as members of the National Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America. They have two sons, Adam and Noah.

IVAN AND NATALIE NOVICK COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

ZOA Pittsburgh established the Ivan and Natalie Novick Community Leadership Award in

memory of the Novicks' lifetime of service and leadership in many and varied organizations of the Pittsburgh Jewish community. Ivan was a past national president of the ZOA and this award is given in his name to deserving individuals who display the spirit of community leadership in Jewish and humanitarian causes. Ira Frank fits this description to a T. He holds the distinction of being president of two synagogues simultaneously!

Ira Frank is well known in the community for his dedication to all things Jewish. He takes an active role in the organizations he serves and generates enthusiasm, which motivates others.

Two areas of special interest to Ira, to which he demonstrates his dedication, time and again, are the State of Israel and the Jewish youth of Pittsburgh. His attraction to ZOA Pittsburgh began when he learned the ZOA was taking Pittsburgh public high school students to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and chaperones were needed. That involvement led Ira to serve on ZOA's board, and then to three two-year terms as president of the chapter. During his tenure, the chapter grew in membership and visibility.

Ira is a lifetime member of Congregation Beth Shalom where he has been an active volunteer, serving in many positions, including president and Men's Club vice president. Ira is currently president of Beth Hamedrash Hagodol-Beth Jacob Congregation. He is on the board of ZOA Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Israel Bonds Advisory Board, and the board of the Jewish National Fund where he served as treasurer.

Ira is a graduate of the University of Michigan with an economics and political science degree, and he is the owner of National Fabrics in downtown Pittsburgh. He is very close with his sister Emily, in New York, her husband Alan, and their three wonderful children.

STUDENT AWARDS

A special part of the Awards Dinner was the participation of two high school students who were beneficiaries of ZOA programs.

Jada Woods won first place in the student essay contest in ZOA's Tolerance Education Program, which culminates in a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. Students are asked to write on the topic, "My impressions on visiting the Holocaust Museum: How it has affected my

own attitudes."

Jason Levy was one of three Jewish students awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to visit Israel on a structured, summer youth program. He spoke about his experience visiting Israel for the first time, and what it meant to him.

The students spoke with ease, were passionate, and very well received.

Student Programs that Build Connection to Israel and Understanding of the Holocaust

Following the awards dinner, ZOA Pittsburgh began working on two long-standing programs. The first is the Israel Scholarship Program, which was started in 1962. ZOA program donors and members believe it is an investment in the children of our region. These trips are important – complementing what is taught in the home and synagogue – because they reinforce students' commitment to Judaism and give them an appreciation of the centrality of Israel to Jewish life. Applications to the program are accepted from January 1 through February 18. The scholarship committee reviews every application, evaluates each student's educational and volunteer accomplishments, and each one's essay, "What the State of Israel and Zionism mean to me."

Planning is well underway for the 2018 edition of the ZOA Tolerance Education Program. Eleven motor coaches, filled with 525 Pittsburgh public high school students and 75 teacher/chaperones, will make the journey to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC over March 6, 7 and 8. The program focuses on the events of the Holocaust to teach young people, during their most impressionable years (directed primarily at 10th grade students), about the horrific consequences of hatred and bigotry. Concentrating on the examples of man's inhumanity to man, the program teaches students to reject intolerance and those who foment it, and to understand and respect those whose beliefs may differ from their own. Since the program's inception, the ZOA has taken over 6,000 students to the Holocaust Museum. David May-Stein, Assistant Superintendent of Pittsburgh Public Schools, said, "The ZOA is directly impacting the lives of PPS students in life-changing ways."

The ZOA Tolerance Education Program focuses on the events of the Holocaust to teach young people, during their most impressionable years (directed primarily at 10th grade students), about the horrific consequences of hatred and bigotry.

MICHIGAN

Israel Scholarship Program and Israel Education Workshops for Young Adults

The purpose of the Israel Scholarship Program is to provide scholarship assistance to students who are planning to participate in various organized educational trips to Israel. ZOA Michigan's Israel Education Workshops educate, train and motivate students to become passionate, dedicated and effective pro-Israel advocates.

The workshops we held recently were successful. Students learned about the Arab-Israeli conflict, Jewish history and heritage, Zionism and what it is like to serve in the IDF. We also discussed how to answer tough questions about Israel that students might encounter on their college campuses. Some of the students are planning pro-Israel events with ZOA on their campuses as part of the program. ZOA Michigan is also proud to help fund Israel-themed events and initiatives created by the students for their peers and for the larger Jewish community.

Our education workshops and scholarship program are open to all Jews in Metro Detroit where we connect participants through their common love of Israel. Both the workshops and the scholarship program promote Jewish identity and encourage students to take on leadership roles and become active pro-Israel advocates.

Over the past few years, ZOA Michigan has provided approximately \$50,000 in scholarships to students to help fund their trips to Israel.

Fighting BDS & Exposing Campus Anti-Semitism at our Annual Dinner

ZOA Michigan's 83rd Annual Balfour Celebration was a huge success. We had the privilege of honoring Hazzan (Cantor) David and Karen Propis and Allen and Karen Amber, all committed and dedicated Zionists.

The event demonstrated ZOA Michigan's broad reach in the Jewish community, where our important messages resonate. Over 220 people attended this successful celebration.



ZOA program at the Univ. of Michigan

The Ambers are long-time members of the area's largest Reform Temple and are very vocal in their support of the ZOA. Hazzan Propis is the cantor at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, in Southfield, Michigan, the area's largest Conservative synagogue, with a worldwide reputation. He was trained in the traditional cantorial style (Hazzanut) and has sung in prestigious concert halls ranging from the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv to Carnegie Hall. Both Hazzan and Karen Propis's speeches in support of the ZOA and our work were inspirational. The evening's highlight was Hazzan Propis's musical tribute to Israel which can be viewed on YouTube.

To support the Jewish state and in defiance of the pro-BDS vote at the University of Michigan that same week, we made a strong statement against the BDS movement by serving only Israeli wine at our annual dinner. Our guests enjoyed fine wine made in the Golan Heights and in Judea and Samaria. We also showed a film about campus anti-Semitism and violence against pro-Israel students, and discussed ways to combat these problems.

Speaking in Schools

ZOA Michigan Executive Director Kobi Erez gave presentations in the fall and winter to high school students at various schools. Erez focused on educating students about the BDS movement and its similarities to the anti-Semitic policies in Nazi Germany of boycotting Jewish stores, products and literature. Students also heard facts about the Arab-Israeli conflict and were presented with anti-Israel scenarios they might encounter on their future college campuses, as well as effective tactics to respond to the scenarios. These presentations are part of ZOA's ongoing mission to educate, train

Our education workshops and scholarship program are open to all Jews in Metro Detroit where we connect participants through their common love of Israel.



ZOA Michigan Advocacy Program for teens



ZOA Michigan community program

and motivate students to become passionate, dedicated and effective pro-Israel advocates.

ZOA - J Street Debate

ZOA Michigan Executive Director Kobi Erez debated a J Street representative before a group of college students. Hillel of Metro Detroit hosted the debate. We discussed key issues of the conflict, including the so-called two-state solution, Palestinian Arab terrorist culture, the right of the Jewish people to live anywhere in Israel, international pressure on Israel, and the role that J Street plays in advocating for this pressure.

J Street, another Jewish organization that sees itself as part of the social justice movement, lobbied for last December's UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel for building in Judea and Samaria. J Street also approves the boycott of Jews over the Green Line (including parts of Jerusalem) and even draws a moral equivalency between Hamas (the Palestinian Arab, US-designated terrorist group) and Israel. It is our job to continue to expose J Street for what it really is – an anti-Israel organization.

Media Relations

Several op-eds (by our executive director, president, and board members) focusing on the Iran deal, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the future of American Jewry, anti-Semitism at universities, and BDS were published in local and national media including the *Detroit Jewish News*, *Times of Israel*, and the *Jerusalem Post*, reaching thousands of people and educating them on current events.

WEST COAST

The ZOA continued to develop and strengthen its chapter in the Western region throughout the

fall of 2017. ZOA West Coast engaged with lay leaders from across the region and established a West Coast board of directors. The chapter fought anti-Semitism at the city level, hosted expert guest speakers to educate the community, and focused on bringing Zionist programming to college campuses and conferences.

Expanding ZOA's Presence on the West Coast

In September, ZOA National President Morton Klein visited the region for a series of meetings crucial to ZOA's expansion on the West Coast. Mr. Klein spoke at a parlor meeting of dedicated ZOA activists in the San Francisco Bay Area, to explain the ZOA's important role in the national discourse about Israel, and to generate enthusiasm for forming a regional board of directors.

ZOA members heeded the call to action: In December, ZOA West Coast convened the first meeting of its Northern California board of directors. The ten current board members draw from different professional backgrounds and represent communities across California. At the meeting, board members decided to establish two committees within the structure of the board, to effectively engage the communities' varied interests. One committee will focus on the San Francisco Bay Area, and the other will be responsible for the Central Valley corridor, including the Sacramento region. David Kadosh, Executive Director of ZOA West Coast, will work in collaboration with the board to develop programming for each region. Board members also will represent ZOA as lay leadership in communities across the state.

One of the major decisions of the newly

ZOA members heeded the call to action: In December, ZOA West Coast convened the first meeting of its Northern California board of directors.



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

Addressing the City Council, ZOA's David Kadosh told councilmembers that Shahin's "blind hatred for Jews is ingrained in his emotions and is a part of who he is." Shahin has "brought hate into an otherwise peaceful community in Davis."

formed board is to develop the precedent of an annual Gala Dinner, to honor those who exceptionally support ZOA's mission of strengthening Israel and defending Zionist principles. The ZOA is excited to host our first Gala Dinner on the West Coast in 2018!

Fighting Anti-Semitism and the Incitement of Violence against Jews

The ZOA confronted egregious incidents of anti-Semitism in Northern California. Last July, Ammar Shahin, the imam at the Islamic Center in Davis, issued two public sermons praying for the annihilation of the Jews: "Oh Allah, count them one by one and destroy them down to the very last one. Do not spare any of them. Oh Allah, destroy them and do not spare their young or their elderly.... Oh Allah, turn Jerusalem and Palestine into a graveyard for the Jews."

This blatant Jew-hatred could not be excused as a mistake or misunderstanding. Shahin, a graduate of Al-Azhar University ("Sunni Islam's most prestigious university"), is no stranger to Islamic theology and based his remarks on anti-Semitic hadiths which are commonly shared by Islamic preachers. At the time of Shahin's sermons, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem were promoting a propaganda campaign, encouraging violence against Jews. At mosques across Europe and the United States, imams followed the directives of the Palestinian Arab leadership and preached vile Jew-hatred from their pulpits.

Faced with mounting public criticism concerning Shahin's incitement to violence against Jews, CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations) stepped in and worked with local leaders – including the Sacramento Jewish Federation, the rabbi of the reform synagogue, a reverend from a Unitarian church, and the mayor of Davis – to craft a massaged "apology" with a pre-arranged interfaith group eager to accept. In Shahin's "apology" he never repudiated his incitement to genocide and instead apologized for having said "things that were hurtful to Jews."

Jewish and Christian communities in Davis and Sacramento, and also throughout the country, were disgusted by Shahin's incitement to violence and by the inadequate response from local community leaders. ZOA West Coast helped mobilize a diverse group of concerned citizens to speak before the Davis City Council. We gathered former professors at UC Davis, rabbis, pastors, a Holocaust survivor, Christian and Jewish community members, and a Democratic National Committee delegate to speak out against Shahin and the Islamic Center of Davis. ZOA and the Simon Wiesenthal Center were the only organizations represented before the City Council. Addressing the City Council, ZOA's David Kadosh told councilmembers that Shahin's "blind hatred for Jews is ingrained in his emotions and is a part of who he is." Shahin has "brought hate into an otherwise peaceful community in Davis."

By helping to mobilize the community before the Davis City Council, the ZOA made it clear that community members are not satisfied with the



Concerned community members speak before the Davis City Council against Imam Shahin's incitement to genocide



ZOA trains students in Krav Maga at Texas A&M

imam's "apology" which was crafted by CAIR and did not disavow any of his assertions that Jews should be annihilated. The ZOA also made it clear that we view Shahin's incitement to violence as a credible threat to the safety and security of Jews in Northern California. The ZOA urged the city council to publicly condemn the imam's incitement; to date, the council has failed to speak out since the sermon was publicized in July. We also urged the city council to work with the University of California, Davis, to prevent Shahin from lecturing on campus again. Shahin had previously lectured at UC Davis at the invitation of the Muslim Students Association and also in religious studies classes. The ZOA Center for Law and Justice affirmed ZOA's position in correspondence to each of the city council members and the mayor's office. ZOA is currently pursuing further action against Shahin and the Islamic Center of Davis and will continue to stand up for communities infected by anti-Semitism.

Fighting Anti-Israel Bias in City Government

This was not the only city council that required ZOA's attention this past fall. In Berkeley, a city councilmember, Cheryl Davila – a well-known BDS supporter – inappropriately questioned appointees to city commissions about their views on Israel, "Palestine" and BDS. Davila dismissed one of these individuals, Ben Gerhardstein, from his position on the Transportation Commission because, Gerhardstein claims, he refused to answer Davila's questions about Israel. Gerhardstein

was well qualified for his position on the commission and, according to a fellow commissioner, got things done.

The ZOA Center for Law and Justice wrote to the City Manager and Mayor, urging them to investigate Davila's actions as a violation of the Municipal Code. ZOA also publicized this issue in the local *JWeekly* and *Berkeleyside* newspapers to pressure city officials to ensure that, in accordance with the Municipal Code, city appointments are based on individuals' qualifications and experience, not on their personal views about Israel.

Educating the Community about Zionism and Israel

ZOA West Coast hosted two engaging historians, Dr. Asaf Romirowsky and Edwin Black, to educate the community about the widespread support for Israel's founding as a Jewish state, and about the corruption of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency), which helps perpetuate the Palestinian Arabs' "refugee" status. Dr. Romirowsky has conducted extensive research on UNRWA and has exposed much of its corruption during his time with the Middle East Forum and SPME (Scholars for Peace in the Middle East). Sponsored by the ZOA, Dr. Romirowsky spoke to Jewish communities in Menlo Park and Walnut Creek, and to an evangelical Christian congregation in Coarsegold.

To commemorate the 120th anniversary of ZOA's founding and the centennial anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, ZOA featured best-selling author Edwin Black at three programs in Northern

ZOA's West Coast Executive Director, David Kadosh, continued his mission of educating Jewish youth on the importance of Jewish self-defense with introductory Krav Maga training.

California to explain how the Zionist movement garnered international backing for the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel. Black provided a detailed historical account of the many countries that issued statements supporting British recognition of the Jewish right to self-determination in the Jews' national, historic home. The sentiments of the Balfour Declaration were shared by nearly all world powers and enshrined in international law at the San Remo Convention of 1920. Black provided this important context with supporting evidence. He delivered his lectures at Temple Emanuel in San Jose, the Chabad house of Stanford University, and at Sonoma State University.

Educating Jewish Youth about Jewish Self-Defense & Zionism

ZOA's West Coast Executive Director, David Kadosh, continued his mission of educating Jewish youth on the importance of Jewish self-defense with introductory Krav Maga training. He led self-defense workshops on the campuses of Texas A&M, Rice University, and Foothills College, and at campus conferences in West Palm Beach, San Diego, and San Mateo. At the Students Supporting Israel conference in San Diego, Kadosh delivered a multimedia presentation on the history of Jewish self-defense from the inception of Zionism until the founding of Israel.

Educating the Community about ZOA's Work in Defense of Israel and the Jewish People

Kadosh was interviewed by a Silicon Valley-based channel (KMVT) on *The Right Side* program. The interview focused on several issues, including the history of ZOA, its current national and Bay Area operations, anti-Semitism in Northern California, and the Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

NEW JERSEY New Executive Director

The ZOA's Northern New Jersey chapter is proud to announce the appointment of Alan Jay as its new executive director. Alan comes to ZOA with 25 years of consulting experience in his own

company that specialized in international trade, and with 20 plus years of service on the Board of Trustees of his Paramus, NJ synagogue. Through his work, which often took him to Israel, Europe and Asia, Alan developed skills that successfully brought companies from around the world to work together toward mutual benefit. Through his leadership positions in Paramus, Alan has been instrumental in promoting Israel and Judaism to the broader Bergen County, NJ area. Alan is leveraging his past experiences to build the ZOA's Northern NJ chapter to a position of recognition and strength in this great state.

While the Northern NJ chapter is not technically new, the chapter is being rebuilt from the ground up, with the express goal of sharing ZOA's message with as many New Jerseyans as possible, strengthening our collective voices in support of Israel and Zionism, nurturing the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel, and fighting anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias wherever and whenever it occurs. We are building relationships around the state, with other Jewish groups, leaders in the Jewish community, local politicians, and Jewish Federations. We are in the process of building a new board of directors that will help guide our growth and expansion. And we are scheduling our first official chapter events.

Community Support for Israel

Weeks after Alan Jay came on board, he was invited to represent ZOA at an amazing program at the Clifton Jewish Center, to honor the two Druze soldiers who were murdered by Palestinian Arab terrorists at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Bob Mark, the rabbi of the congregation, together with his son Eric, started a charity to show the Druze community Hakarot Hatov (recognition of the good) for their loyalty to the State of Israel.

Attending the program were Amir Sagie, Deputy Consul General of Israel in New York; Police Commander Yitzchak Almog, Israel's police attaché to North America; and Andrew Gross, director of political affairs and the advisor to the deputy consul general of Israel in New York. Rabbi Mark presented Sagie and Almog with a check for the two fallen soldiers' families, and a separate check for the third officer who was injured in the terrorist

attack. This was an incredible outpouring of love and support for non-Jewish citizens of Israel, from our own NJ community, together with the participation of an important delegation representing the government of Israel.

Protecting Students

Rutgers University is a beacon of higher education in our state and boasts the largest Jewish student population in the United States. Many of us send our children to be educated there, knowing they will have an opportunity to learn and grow into self-sufficient, productive adults. After recent revelations that a Rutgers professor was posting vicious, anti-Semitic lies and propaganda on Facebook, another professor was publishing a book filled with vile, anti-Semitic falsehoods, and yet another professor was formerly Syria's delegate and legal advisor at the United Nations, defending that country's documented atrocities against its own people, ZOA took action.

In a letter co-signed by Morton Klein, ZOA National President; Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice; and Alan Jay, executive director of ZOA Northern NJ, the ZOA urged Rutgers president to terminate the professor who had created a hostile learning environment for Jewish and pro-Israel students. Susan and Alan also wrote an op-ed educating the community about the anti-Semitism at Rutgers and urging them to contact the university's president and demand action. The op-ed was published in the *Jewish Standard* and on the *Times of Israel* website. Weeks later, Rutgers strongly sanctioned one of the professors.

Planning for the Future

In the coming months, we expect to sponsor events in Succasunna and Teaneck, New Jersey. We are also planning a scholar-in-residence program for a Shabbat on Long Beach Island during the upcoming summer.

We are often asked by those who live in the middle of the state which ZOA chapter to contact. The answer is simple: If you live in that part of the state where most of your neighbors root for the Flyers, the Eagles and the 76ers, you should probably call our friends at ZOA Greater Philadelphia. Everybody else should join us in the Northern NJ chapter (where we where we proudly support the Jets, the Giants and the Devils and the Devils!).

For more information, contact zoanj@zoa.org.

BOSTON ZOA Comes to Boston

Upon returning to Vienna after the meeting of the First Zionist Conference in 1897, Theodore Herzl wrote in his journal with characteristic Jewish optimism, "At Basel, I founded the Jewish state."

Founded in the same year, the Zionist Organization of America has been promoting and defending that dream of reconstituting a modern Jewish state in the ancient homeland of the Jewish people for 120 years. Zionists in New England feel tremendous enthusiasm to join ZOA in those efforts!

As the new Executive Director of the ZOA's Boston chapter, Jonina Pritzker shares that enthusiasm.

Pritzker has served as a pulpit rabbi in the Boston area for 24 years, with active and outspoken support for Israel being a defining feature of her rabbinic work. She has worked with various pro-Israel organizations developing Israel curricula for high school students, addressing media bias against Israel, and helping to organize the clergy group, Rabbis and Ministers for Israel. During these years, Pritzker repeatedly turned to the ZOA, quoting and promoting its work, and counting on its strong leadership.

Initial excited reactions to the opening of a Boston chapter of the ZOA include the following:

We will have a powerful megaphone moving into our area. . . . Three cheers for Morton Klein and ZOA!

I was thrilled to hear that a Boston chapter of the ZOA is being established.

I would like to personally thank him [Morton Klein] for all the great work he does setting the record straight on Israel. . . .

We need an organization with clear support of Israel that instills pride throughout the world.

Coupled with the excitement for what this means for us locally, Zionists in New England also recognize that as we attach our local efforts to the work of ZOA, our impact will be not only here, it will be on a national and international scale, as well.

We recognize that joining ZOA means, for example, that we are actively involved in the accomplishments ZOA has made supporting Jewish students on college campuses.

As documented by ZOA National President Morton A. Klein and Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., Di-

While the Northern NJ chapter is not technically new, the chapter is being rebuilt from the ground up, with the express goals of sharing ZOA's message with as many New Jerseyans as possible.

Coupled with the excitement for what this means for us locally, Zionists in New England also recognize that as we attach our local efforts to the work of ZOA, our impact will be not only here, it will be on a national and international scale, as well.

rector of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, in 2010:

After a six-year ZOA campaign, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights announced an important policy benefiting Jewish students in elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools. In a letter issued on October 26, OCR declared that it will enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect Jewish students from harassment, intimidation and discrimination at federally funded schools.

This is a breakthrough. Until this announcement, OCR would not enforce Title VI to protect Jewish students, leaving them without the same civil rights protections that have been afforded to other ethnic and racial groups since Title VI's enactment in 1964.

For years now, ZOA has been leading the charge and legal battles to protect our Jewish students on college campuses. ZOA is still leading the way to make sure that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act is enforced when Jewish students face often virulent anti-Semitism on their campuses.

Zionists in New England recognize that joining ZOA also means that we actively support the unwavering voice of ZOA National President Morton Klein as he testifies on Capitol Hill explaining the legal, moral, historical, and spiritual connection of the Jewish people to our eternal capital Jerusalem.

The ZOA was almost singularly active among Israel advocacy groups in pressing for the Jerusalem Embassy Act back in 1995 when it was signed into law. It was thrilling to note that only weeks after Morton Klein testified in Washington at the Hearing on Moving the American Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, President Trump made the historic pronouncement acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and stated that the US embassy will be moved to Jerusalem.

Our joining the ZOA means actively supporting our youth as they participate in ZOA Student Leadership Missions to Israel. These intensive two weeks of education and Israel advocacy training include travel to Judea and Samaria, areas rarely included in Israel trips. These students go on to become strong Zionist leaders on their campuses and in their communities.

Joining the ZOA means actively supporting the ZOA Government Relations Department.


Whether speaking about the problems with Iran policy, the problems with UNRWA, promoting the Taylor Force Act, or addressing a whole host of other pressing issues, the ZOA Government Relations Department provides an ongoing presence in Washington where the ZOA both speaks up and is often consulted on crucial issues facing Israel.

The examples of the reach and scope of the ZOA are vast and numerous.

Our love of and connection to the Land of Israel is as old as our people itself. Israel and Jerusalem hold the deepest religious significance for Jews. Although there are those who keep trying to deny and politicize this connection, the Land of Israel will never be a political issue for us. On the contrary, Israel is the spiritual center of Jewish history, and in Jerusalem lives the soul of the Jewish people.

ZOA is an organization that promotes those principles and policies that protect our religious, spiritual, historical, and legal rights to live safely and in peace in the land that has been ours since we became a people: the people of Israel in the Land of Israel.

As the rockets that have rained down on southern Israel cause a generation of children to grow up playing in underground playgrounds and running for their lives for the 15 seconds after a red alert sounds; as boycotts and sanctions are regularly threatened and implemented in order to isolate, denigrate, and criminalize the Jewish state; as relentless pressure is brought to bear on the Jewish people to forfeit their heartland and homeland where Jews have lived for thousands of years, to forfeit the one Jewish state among 23 Arab states; as Israel is repeatedly threatened with annihilation by her neighbors, there is a strong voice that forcefully and consistently responds and justly champions the Jewish people's right to the Jewish homeland. President Morton Klein and the ZOA stand up for Israel, day after day, in every setting from Capitol Hill to the Knesset, from synagogue to boardroom, from classroom to press conference, from courtroom to university campus.

We here in New England are thrilled for this opportunity to join our efforts to this critical work. As members of the ZOA, the depth and breadth of our reach will be such that we will be able to help Israel and the Jewish people in ways that previously we could only have imagined. 

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*ZOA regrets any errors or omissions



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