

ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Fall 2018

Fighting for Israel in Congress, the Media, Courts & on Campuses
and Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Jewish State



In this issue:

**ZOA'S EXTRAORDINARY
CAPITOL HILL ADVOCACY
MISSION 2018**

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Guilfoyle



Amb. Danny
Danon



Prof. Alan
Dershowitz

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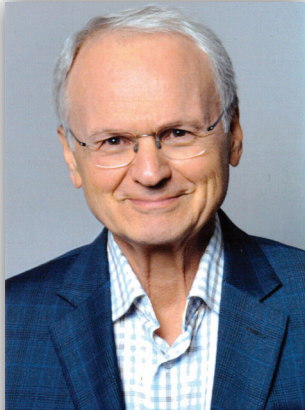
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Morton A. Klein
National President,
Zionist Organization
of America

ZOA'S MORTON KLEIN TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS ON TWO MAJOR ISSUES

ZOA THE ONLY JEWISH ORGANIZATION TO TESTIFY

In November 2017, I testified before the House Subcommittee on National Security in support of moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. I explained that moving the embassy strengthens American security and enhances worldwide respect for America. It demonstrates that the US can be counted on to keep her commitments to her allies, and that we will not be intimidated or show weakness by appeasing radical Islamic threats. If we allowed US policy to be determined by radical Islamist terror threats, we would only encourage more such threats and terror, and undermine the US campaign to eradicate radical Islamic terrorism.

I testified that I personally spoke to the Jerusalem Embassy Act's authors, Senator Bob Dole and Senator John Kyl, at the time the Act was passed in 1995. They told me directly that no president should ever use the waiver more than once or twice, if at all. And, if the president does use the waiver beyond that, then authority to use it should be rescinded by Congress.

I also brought to the committee's attention Senator Dole's testimony at a 1995 congressional hearing – that the waiver was intended to be used in extremely limited, unusual or unforeseen circumstances only, and *not* because the timing for moving the embassy might not be the best. Senator Dole testified: “*The President cannot lawfully invoke this waiver simply because he thinks it would be better not*

to move our Embassy to Jerusalem or simply because he thinks it would be better to move it at a later time. The waiver is designed to be read and interpreted narrowly.”

In my testimony, I also pointed out that moving the embassy will not cause further Mideast instability. Israel's relationship with Saudi Arabia and Egypt is strong today because of mutual security concerns and threats from Iran. Moving the embassy will not change this.

Not moving the embassy for 22 years did not help peace prospects. Peace is further away now than 22 years ago. Peace is impossible solely because of the Palestinian Arabs' refusal to accept Israel within any borders; their refusals to negotiate with Israel and to outlaw terrorist groups and end the promotion of hatred and murder in their leaders' speeches, and in their schools, media and mosques; and their incitement to violence by continuing to pay Arabs to murder Jews. In addition, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has now reconciled with the terrorist group Hamas, whose charter calls for the murder of Jews and for Israel's destruction.

The greatest outbreak of Palestinian Arab violence occurred after Israel offered unprecedented concessions and a Palestinian Arab state in 2000. This is all despite the fact that the embassy has not been moved for over two decades.

It is only under Israeli control of Jerusalem that all faiths have been guaranteed access to their holy sites. Under illegal Jordanian control of eastern

Jerusalem from 1948 to 1967, Jews and Christians were denied access to their holy sites. Christians couldn't build or add to their churches, and were forced to teach the Koran. The only place in the Middle East where the Christian population has grown is in Israel. Today, under Palestinian Arab control, 80% of the Christians have fled from Bethlehem because of oppression by Muslims.

PA President Mahmoud Abbas makes clear that if there were a Palestinian Arab state, then he would cut off access to religious sites. He regularly makes the racist statement that: "*In a final resolution, we would not see a single Israeli civilian or soldier on our land.*" Jewish sites in PA-controlled territory, like Joseph's Tomb, have already become virtually inaccessible to Jews. Palestinian Arabs also continue to desecrate Christian churches, statues, crosses and cemeteries, and land and property of Christians have been confiscated and extorted.

Moreover, Jerusalem has been the capital of Israel only. It's never been the capital of any other country. As the Jerusalem Embassy Act recognized, 1996 marked the 3,000th year of Jewish presence in Jerusalem since King David's entry. And the majority of people living in Jerusalem since the mid-1800's have been Jews. In 1906, the famed Baedeker's Guide to Jerusalem states that there were 40,000 Jews, 13,000 Christians and 7,000 Muslims living there.

Furthermore, Jerusalem is not once mentioned in the Islamic Koran, while it's mentioned 700 times in Jewish holy books. Jews pray for Jerusalem 20 times a day. Jews face Jerusalem during prayer.

In contrast, Muslims face Mecca. When the Jordanian Arab Muslims controlled Jerusalem, it became a slum; Jordan built its capital in Amman, and built the royal residence and university in Amman, and public Friday prayers were chanted from a mosque in Amman – *not* Al Aqsa in Jerusalem. No Arab leader but Jordanian monarchs visited Jerusalem during that period, and no important place of Islamic learning was established in Jerusalem.

When the Koran was written stating Mohammed went (in a dream) from the "furthest mosque" to heaven on a "winged horse," there were no mosques in Jerusalem and the Muslims did not control Palestine. This indicates Mohammed could not have made his heavenly trip from Jerusalem.

There are holy Muslim places in Jerusalem but Jerusalem has never been a holy city to Muslims. Mecca and Medina are the Muslim holy cities.

THE US SHOULD RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

In July 2018, I testified before the House's National Security Subcommittee in support of US recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Such recognition is in the interests of the United States, Israel and other allies.

Israeli sovereignty over the western two-thirds of the Golan Heights is a key bulwark against radical regimes and affiliates that threaten the security and stability of the United States, Israel, the entire Middle East region, and beyond.

- There are no possible security arrangements that can substitute for the topographical advantages, early warning locations and strategic depth provided by Israel's retention of the Golan.
- The Golan Heights' strategically-located high ground provides Israel with an irreplaceable ability to monitor and take counter-measures against growing threats at and near the Syrian-Israel border. These growing threats include the extremely dangerous hegemonic expansion of the Iranian-Syrian-North Korean axis; and the presence in Syria, close to the Israeli border, of: Iranian Revolutionary Guard and Quds forces; thousands of Iranian-armed Hezbollah fighters; Palestinian Islamic Jihad (another Iranian proxy); Syrian forces; and radical Sunni Islamist groups including the al Nusra Levantine Conquest Front (an incarnation of al Qaeda) and ISIS. Indeed, then-presidential candidate Donald Trump confirmed during a major speech in March 2016 that Iran is "in Syria trying to establish another front against Israel from the Syrian side of the Golan Heights."
- The Iranian regime is also attempting to build an 800-mile land bridge to the Mediterranean, running through Iraq and Syria. Such a land bridge would enable Iran to obtain naval ports, far from Iran's

mainland, that enhance Iran's ability to deliver advanced weaponry and support to Hezbollah and Iran's other proxies that wreak terror throughout the world. This major strategic threat makes it more important than ever to shore up Israel's position in the Golan.

- Alarming recent incidents confirm the presence of the Iranian front in Syria, and vividly demonstrate the necessity of assuring Israeli sovereignty over the Golan. During the recent past, Israel has intercepted drones and rockets launched and controlled from Syria, with the assistance of Iranian Quds forces. In response, Israel's air force destroyed Iranian/Quds Forces and Syrian aerial and launch facilities in Syria. In February, surface-to-air missiles in Syria shot down an Israeli F-16 fighter jet.
- America's moderate Sunni Arab allies could very well be quietly pleased by US recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan, in that this would help to stem Iranian aggression and the very same malign actors confronting our Arab allies. Evidencing the real interests of the moderate Sunni states, this past May, after the Iranian Quds Force launched 20 rockets from Syria into the Israeli Golan Heights, and the Israeli Air Force responded by striking dozens of military targets in Syria that belonged to Iran's Quds Force, Bahrain's Foreign Minister tweeted that so long as Iran uses its forces and missiles to try and destabilize the region, "it is the right of any country in the region, including Israel, to defend itself by destroying sources of danger."
- The necessity for recognizing Israel's retention of the Golan was also dramatically demonstrated during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Israel's presence in the Golan provided Israel with the strategic depth (of 8 to 16 miles) that enabled Israeli forces to assemble and push back Syria's initially effective surprise invasion. Without the Golan, Syrian forces could have overrun and annihilated Israel.
- Strengthening Israel's ability to retain the Golan is essential because Israel faces danger on five major fronts, and cannot afford to be weakened on the Syrian front when facing these multi-pronged dangers. The five fronts are: (i) Syria; (ii) Lebanon, where Hezbollah has over 100,000 advanced rockets pointed at Israel; (iii) Gaza, where Iranian proxies, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, incessantly attack Israel with thousands of rockets, terror tunnels and arson kites, and attempt to invade Israel to murder Jews; (iv) Palestinian Arab terrorism, including knifing, shooting and car ramming attacks, emanating largely from Arab villages in the PA; and (v) the Egyptian Sinai border, where ISIS affiliate Ansar Bait al-Maqdis and other terrorist groups attempt to infiltrate and attack Israelis.
- Because Israel is America's front line in the war to defeat radical Islamist terror, it is surely in America's self-interest to ensure that Israel maintains and enhances her ability to defend herself.
- Conferring US recognition is moreover "the right thing to do." Israel has the strongest ancient and modern historical claim to the Golan Heights, evidenced by numerous archeological finds, including dozens of ancient Jewish synagogues, villages and towns in the Golan. The Golan Heights is a part of the biblical territory promised to the Patriarch Abraham and the people of Israel for an everlasting covenant, recounted in Genesis 15. The strong Jewish presence in the Golan dates back from Biblical times through the 8th century CE.
- The famous Jewish city of Gamla, founded in the Golan in the first century BCE, and often referred to as the "Masada of the North," was the site of battles in 66-67 CE, reported by Josephus Flavius. The Jews initially repelled the Roman soldiers, but the Romans returned and slaughtered thousands of Jews. Thousands of other Jews jumped to their

Without the Golan, Syrian forces could have overrun and annihilated Israel.... Maintaining and recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan is the truest route to peace and a more stable world and Middle East.

deaths so as not to be enslaved or murdered by the Romans. Gamla's ancient synagogue, mikvah (ritual bath), homes, fortifications, Hebrew coins and other artifacts were uncovered in archeological excavations since the 1970s. Today Gamla is an Israeli national park and tourist site.

- In 2016, at a cabinet meeting in the Israeli town of Ma'aleh Gamla, next to the Gamla archaeological site, PM Netanyahu vowed that the Golan will remain part of Israel forever, and that the border will not change. The prime minister added:

"In the stormy region around us, Israel is the stabilizing factor; Israel is the solution, not the problem. . . . [A]fter 50 years it is time that the international community realized that the Golan will remain under Israeli sovereignty. The Golan was an integral part of the Land of Israel in ancient times. That is documented by dozens of ancient synagogues around us. And the Golan is an integral part of the State of Israel in the present time."

- Other important Jewish historical sites in the Golan, with remains of remarkable synagogues and other Jewish antiquities, include the villages of Katzrin and Umm El-Kanatir, where Jews continued to live through 749 CE, when an earthquake struck the area.
- Jews again returned to the Golan in the 1880s, while it was under Ottoman rule (1517-1917), and purchased and farmed extensive lands in the Golan. Jewish lands in the Golan were expropriated by Syria.
- Israel also has the legal right to the Golan – stemming from the Golan's inclusion in the 1922 League of Nations Mandate, agreed to by the US in an internationally binding treaty. The Mandate required Britain to hold the area in trust for the reestablishment of the Jewish homeland. However, Britain unlawfully traded the Golan to the French for rights to Iraqi oil fields. US recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the Golan would thus implement a treaty obligation that has been the law of the land in the United States for 93 years, and help rectify Britain's 95-

year-old wrong.

- In addition, Syria unlawfully seized further key areas of the Golan, abutting Lake Kinneret, during Syria's (and five other Arab nations') aggressive war against Israel in 1948-1949. The "pre-1967 lines" were thus lines that resulted from a combination of Syrian aggression in 1948-1949, and British perfidy in 1923. The Golan was rightfully Jewish land, designated for the Jewish State.
- UN Resolution 242, following Israel regaining the Golan in a defensive war in 1967, did not require Israel to return to the pre-1967 lines. Moreover, UN Resolution 242 first and foremost entitles Israel to secure and recognized borders.
- There was no peace during the 21 years when Syria fully controlled the Golan (1946-1967). Syria neglected the Golan's civilian development. Instead, Syria used the Golan Heights to continually harass and shoot at Israeli farmers and other Israeli civilians in the Hula Valley (Galilee) below; attempted to divert vital Israeli water sources; and used the Golan as a staging ground to wage out-and-out war against Israel in 1948-1949, 1967 and 1973.
- In contrast to Syria's neglect and abuses, during the 51 years that the Golan has been under the State of Israel's governance, Israel has developed the area into an oasis of agriculture, wineries, tourism, archaeological restoration and preservation, and religious co-existence.
- Israel protects the lives, and the religious rights and sites of people of all faiths in the Israeli Golan.
- Israel's field hospital in the Golan Heights provides vital humanitarian assistance to Syrian victims of Syria's civil war.
- By contrast, Bashar al-Assad's Syrian regime, and other groups that would move into the Golan in Israel's absence, have a record of brutalizing and murdering civilians, creating massive refugee crises, and destroying the world's religious and



Morton A. Klein testifying before Congress on July 17, 2018, in favor of US recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. ZOA Co-Director of Gov't Relations Josh London directly behind Klein

archaeological heritage.

- After waiting half a century for Syria to make peace, it makes no sense to withhold recognition of Israeli sovereignty for additional decades or even centuries, in deference to the pipe dream of an imaginary, suicidal, future Israeli-Syrian “peace deal.” Syria rejected Ehud Barak’s over-generous, foolhardy offer to cede the Golan in return for peace. Syria has not even engaged in negotiations for the past eight years.
- Syria has moreover fallen into such disarray that there is no reasonable actor in Syria capable of making or enforcing an agreement.
- In recent years, Syria and other groups operating in Syria have repeatedly breached the 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement between Israel and Syria. In addition to the drone and rocket incursions into Israel, United Nations observers in the disengagement zone between Israel and Syria (members of UNDOF, the UN Disengagement Observer Force) have been attacked and kidnapped. Thus, even if an Israeli-Syrian peace deal could be

negotiated, it is virtually a certainty that it would not be kept.

- The “land for peace” mantra has repeatedly been shown to be an abysmal failure, including in the Golan. The same areas of the eastern Golan that Israel withdrew from, under the 1974 Israel-Syria Separation of Forces Agreement, are now the staging ground for attacks on Israel.
- It would be a humanitarian disaster to uproot the Golan Heights’ flourishing communities of about 50,000 residents (about 30,000 Jews and 20,000 Druze).

In sum, maintaining and recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan is the truest route to peace and a more stable world and Middle East.

Morton A. Klein

Morton A. Klein
National President

Follow Mort on Twitter @MortonAKlein7

CAPITOL HILL MISSION

HUNDREDS OF ZOA ACTIVISTS ON CAPITOL HILL SEEK NEW SANCTIONS ON IRAN; SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF JEWS TO LIVE IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA

Hundreds of activists from 18 states across the country participated in the ZOA's Annual Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Mission on May 9, 2018. Meeting with almost 100 members of Congress or their staffers, ZOA activists urged lawmakers to impose new sanctions on Iran while strengthening existing ones; make credible the use of military options against Iran; and support Israeli military action against Iran, should Israel deem such action necessary as an act of self-defense. In addition, ZOA activists educated lawmakers about the right of Jews to live in Judea and Samaria.

At the ZOA's congressional luncheon, held in a magnificent room in the Russell Senate Office Building, ZOA activists were joined by numerous Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

ZOA National President Morton A. Klein welcomed the crowd: "It's a privilege to be with all of you today. If activists like you had existed in the 1930s, history could have been different. . . . Last week, the *Jerusalem Post* had an article about how the ZOA is the only organization to take positions in Israel's defense that other organizations do not. . . . And this has been an extraordinary week — President Trump ended the catastrophic Iran deal and, in a few days, President Trump will be fulfilling his campaign pledge to move the US embassy to Jerusalem. The ZOA was in significant part responsible for the legislation that led to this.

"Back in the mid-1990s, I spoke with Senator Jon Kyl, the most pro-Israel senator at that time, who put together the [Jerusalem embassy] legislation with Newt Gingrich. AIPAC would not touch the legislation. Senator Dianne Feinstein placed the waiver provision in the bill, enabling presidents not to fulfill its provisions on national security grounds. But Senator Robert Dole said on the Senate floor that the waiver clause is only for a genuinely serious emergency security issue, and should not be used for any other purpose.

"At the [congressional] hearing [in November 2017], I spoke about this waiver, and explained that it was only supposed to be for emergency use. We were the only one raising this issue. Members of Congress did not know the history and limited intent of the waiver provision. I also testified that moving the embassy helps rather than hinders peace. After all, the 22 years of delay in moving the embassy did not bring us closer to peace. Besides, Jerusalem is not holy to Muslims. Mecca and Medina are their holy cities. For those of you who have read the Quran, it says that Muhammed had a dream of flying from a mosque to heaven. A dream — it was not a real event — and there were no mosques in Jerusalem at the time, so it could not have been from Jerusalem."

Turning to the nuclear deal with Iran, Klein noted that former President Obama had given \$150 billion to the Iranians up-front. "He knew he was helping a radical terrorist group committed to destroying Israel and the US. The Iran deal allows Iran to get nukes legally within about 10 to 15 years, now 7 to 10 years. Iran has also been developing inter-continental ballistic missiles."

Several lawmakers addressed the ZOA activists. A sampling of their speeches follows:

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) was introduced by Klein as "one of the staunchest supporters of Israel. He understands the Arab war against Israel. He supports the right of Jews to live in Judea and Samaria," which earned the senator a standing ovation. Senator Cruz said, "I am so grateful for the strength and clarity of vision of the men and women here. Mort is standing up and speaking the truth no matter what the blowback, no matter what the repercussions. . . . I am grateful for ZOA's clarion voice. I seek Mort's advice on all issues relating to Israel."

Turning to recent developments, Senator Cruz said, "What a difference two years makes. To

CAPITOL HILL MISSION

"It's wonderful to have ZOA back with us. So many of the national ZOA leaders came out of Maryland. Thank you for your extraordinary relationship. There have been 70 years of a relationship between the US and Israel....I want to applaud ZOA for maintaining that relationship."

-Sen. Ben Cardin

have an administration that doesn't draw a moral equivalence between Palestinian terrorists killing innocent men, women and children, and the brave IDF soldiers defending them. To have a president that doesn't refuse to see the Prime Minister of Israel and treat him like a second-class citizen. . . . Yesterday, finally, the US pulled out of the catastrophic Iran deal. This deal was a disaster when it was negotiated; it was a disaster when it was signed; it was a disaster every single day it has been in effect. . . . I was emphatically on the side of those urging moving the embassy. Those who said 'Don't move the embassy,' had grand visions of a peace deal, but I believe we will not have peace until the Palestinian leadership recognizes the Jewish state of Israel and renounces terrorism. . . . It's the fourth time I've been to Israel in the past 5 years. Those of you who celebrate Passover say, 'Next year in Jerusalem.' Today I say to you, 'Next week in Jerusalem.'"

Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Ranking Democrat, Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "It's wonderful to have ZOA back with us. So many of the national ZOA leaders came out of Maryland. Thank you for your extraordinary relationship. There have been 70 years of a relationship between the US and Israel, when Harry Truman made the decision to recognize Israel against the advice of his State Department. . . . This relationship is vitally important to the United States. I want to applaud ZOA for maintaining that relationship."

Congressman Lee Zeldin (R-NY) praised the ZOA's Klein saying, "Mort Klein is such an amazing stalwart champion of your cause every day, with a message that gets heard all across the United States and elsewhere. I've seen him in the foxhole, taking incoming fire from every direction, but if you want to fight for Israel, you do it. If you're in a foxhole, you want Mort Klein

there with you. . . . My family history with ZOA goes back to when [Justice Louis] Brandeis was president of ZOA. . . . I'm making the trip to Israel for a historic announcement on Monday [opening the US embassy in Jerusalem]. President Trump is not just fulfilling a campaign promise he made, and that other presidents made. Jerusalem is the unquestionable, undivided capital of the Jewish state of Israel."

Congressman Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) spoke about the problem of rising anti-Israel sentiment in the Democratic Party: "Here's what I'm worried about as a Democrat. Israel must be a bipartisan issue. Israel is our key ally in the region, the key democracy, our supporter in terms of military and technology. The relationship is important not just for Israel, but for the US. I will not sign on to anything that is not bipartisan. It is essential to keep Iran in line. I'm on the terrorism financing subcommittee of the Finance Committee, so I see how the money moves. Billions of dollars are moving to fund terror. . . . The march by Iran to the Mediterranean, to build a Shia arc encompassing the states of the eastern Mediterranean, goes against everything we believe and hope for in this room. This issue has become strongly partisan. It should be about our security, and security in the region."

Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX): "Iran continues to spin centrifuges. . . . If Iran was going to develop nukes, Iran is going to do it in the military facilities, which the IAEA is not allowed to inspect. . . . If Iran lives up to the agreement, Iran will have nukes ten years after the agreement was signed. It's the world's problem. . . . I looked for a verse in the Bible saying, 'Those who betray Israel will be blessed,' but I haven't found it. . . . There has never been a time since Israel's inception, that when Israel has given away land, it wasn't used as a staging area for attacks on Israel. . . . You

"I am so grateful for the strength and clarity of vision of the men and women here. Mort is standing up and speaking the truth no matter what the blow-back, no matter what the repercussions. . . . I am grateful for ZOA's clarion voice. I seek Mort's advice on all issues relating to Israel!"

-Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)



CAPITOL HILL MISSION



know what happened to Gaza. Israel unilaterally gave away Gaza, and has been attacked from there every day."

Congressman Glenn Grothman (R-WI): "The Israel-US special relationship is so important today, given especially the missile threats posed by Iran and North Korea. People shouldn't be ashamed of supporting Israel and America. Instead of feeling that we have enjoyed success because we've been blessed by G-d, they believe we got where we are by taking advantage of other people. So, in a way, the greatest threat to the US and Israel is the internal threat, the feeling of being embarrassed by your country, that your gifts were stolen from other people."

Congressman Ron Estes (R-KS): Estes observed that former President Obama abstained from and permitted passage of a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel and falsely claiming that the territories beyond the 1949 armistice lines are "Palestinian lands." Today, President Trump's Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley was standing up for Israel within the halls of the United Nations. "What a difference a year and a half makes," Estes noted. "It is never the wrong time to do the right thing."

Congressman Ron DeSantis (R-FL), co-chair of the Israel Victory Caucus, was introduced by ZOA's Klein, who referred to the important hearing DeSantis held on moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. DeSantis said, "It's great to be here when we are days away from an American embassy in Jerusalem, and a

day after the announcement decertifying the Iran deal. The Iran deal was ratified by the Senate when? Oh, never. A majority of both houses opposed the Iran deal. President Trump is under no obligation to continue the deal when Iran continues developing missiles, and funding Hezbollah. The way you deal with the world's leading sponsor of terrorism, that says death to Israel, is not to keep giving them concessions, but to oppose them and pressure them. . . . Moving the embassy is way overdue. It is important to recognize Jerusalem as the eternal, indivisible capital of the Jewish state of Israel. It shows we are ready to stand by our allies and do what is right."

Congressman Brian Mast (R-FL) – described by Mort Klein as "one of the toughest questioners arguing for the need to move the US embassy to Jerusalem" – criticized the tendency to blame Israel for regional problems: "It doesn't make sense that the most peaceful country is responsible for the lack of peace. 'Why' matters. Israel is not fighting out of hatred but to preserve its society and security. . . . Thank you for coming to the Hill. I'm really proud of ZOA, proud of the friends I've made at ZOA. . . . Speaking of friends, we don't make peace with our enemies. We don't give our enemies piles of cash. We make peace with our former enemies. Those who call themselves our enemies and behave like enemies, we will continue to treat like enemies."

Congressman Keith Rothfus (R-PA): "You hear the chant 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.' No! From the river to the sea, Israel will be free. We will always stand with Israel. In 1995, the Jerusalem Embassy Act passed. We finally have a president who acted upon it. . . . It is time for Iran to come clean. If it wants to join the community, it has to stop spreading terror across the region, via Hezbollah, in Syria, in Yemen, and across the world. . . . I encourage you to keep up with the work that you are doing on behalf of the United States and Israel. G-d bless you, and G-d bless Israel and the United States."

Congressman Steve King (R-IA), a member of the Congressional Israel Victory Caucus: "Israel is just a little older than me. I was in awe of the heroism that hammered out that nation state as I grew up. . . . Any time we can project power, and protect survival of the world in the process,

"If Iran was going to develop nukes, Iran is going to do it in the military facilities, which the IAEA is not allowed to inspect. . . . If Iran lives up to the agreement, Iran will have nukes ten years after the agreement was signed. It's the world's problem."
-Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX)



it's good for America and Western civilization. . . . Israel is the land described in the Old Testament and awarded to the Jewish people by G-d, and we here on the Christian side will defend Israel strongly."

Congressmen Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) and **Eliot Engel (D-NY)** attended the luncheon but were compelled by pressing congressional business to leave before having an opportunity to address the ZOA activists.

David Schoen, Esq., a leading criminal lawyer and member of the ZOA's National Board, described the need for congressional hearings after the outcome in the legal case entitled *Sokolow v. Palestine Liberation Organization*. This was a lawsuit brought under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) by American terror victims against the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority (PA) for orchestrating terrorist attacks in Israel that led to the plaintiffs' deaths and injuries. The victims won a \$655.5 million jury verdict. On appeal by the PLO and the PA, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit vacated the jury verdict, concluding that the trial court lacked jurisdiction over the PLO and the PA, because the victims had failed to show that the US was a target.

The Second Circuit's decision effectively eviscerated the ATA. The victims petitioned the US Supreme Court to review the decision. Their request was supported by amicus briefs from 23 Senators and the entire House of Representatives.

At the request of the Court, the Solicitor General filed a brief expressing the position of the US government. The brief sided with the PLO and the PA, urging the Court to deny the victims' request for review. The Court listened, and denied the victims' request for review, leaving them without the justice they were due.

Schoen called for congressional hearings on the subversion of the judicial process by the Solicitor General, and to insure that the victims receive just compensation before the PA receives additional financial aid from the US. In addition, Schoen urged that before any entity receives US aid, it should have to agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the courts in cases brought under the ATA, as a condition of receiving the aid. Following Schoen's stirring presentation, Morton Klein noted that the ZOA is the only major Jewish organization to seriously pursue these issues in support of American victims of terrorism.

Klein thanked Executive Vice President John Rosen, Deputy Executive Director Howard Katsoff, office manager Nancy Hollander and the entire ZOA staff for their hard work in making the Mission such a success. Mort offered special thanks to Josh London and Dan Pollak, Co-Directors of the ZOA's Government Relations Department, who were masters of ceremonies at the luncheon event and led the discussion of issues, and for all their work in helping to bring the impressive array of lawmakers to the luncheon.

CAPITOL HILL MISSION PICTORIAL



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1. Cong. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Ranking Chair, House Foreign Relations Committee
2. ZOA Deputy Director Howard Katsoff, ZOA National Board member James Pollack, ZOA Executive Vice President John Rosen, and ZOA National Director of Outreach & Engagement Talya Messeri
3. ZOA's Deputy Director Howard Katsoff, ZOA's Government Relations Dep't Co-Directors Josh London and Dan Pollak, and Dr. Eugene Greenstein from ZOA's Michigan chapter
4. Cong. Steve King (R-IA)
5. Cong. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) speaks at the congressional luncheon
6. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)
7. ZOA activist Barbara Sommer

CAPITOL HILL MISSION PICTORIAL



1. ZOA Pittsburgh Exec. Director Stuart Pavilack (standing, left) and Capitol Hill Mission attendees
2. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)
3. ZOA Chair Mark Levenson, Mort Klein and Cong. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)
4. ZOA Gov't Relations Co-Director Josh London and ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler
5. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (center) with ZOA delegates
6. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)

CAPITOL HILL MISSION PICTORIAL



1. Cong. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) and Mort Klein
2. Cong. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen with ZOA activists
3. Mort Klein speaking at the congressional luncheon
4. ZOA activist Didi Fein asks a question during the congressional luncheon
5. Cong. Mario-Díaz Balart (R-FL)
6. ZOA activists listen to speakers at the congressional luncheon

CAPITOL HILL MISSION PICTORIAL



1



3



4



2



6



5

1. Mort Klein and Cong. Lee Zeldin (R-NY)
2. War hero Cong. Brian Mast (R-FL) about to speak to ZOA activists at the congressional luncheon
3. Cong. Keith Rothfus (R-PA)
4. Cong. Glenn Grothman (R-WI)
5. Cong. Ron Estes (R-KS)
6. Cong. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)

CAPITOL HILL MISSION PICTORIAL



1. Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) meets with ZOA activists
2. ZOA Chair Mark Levenson, Dr. Gerald Platt, and ZOA National Board member James Pollack
3. ZOA National Board member Kevin Ross
4. ZOA Chair Mark Levenson
5. ZOA Co-Director, Government Relations, Dan Pollak, and Morris Amitay, former Executive Director of AIPAC
6. Mort Klein with Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)



ZOA PEOPLE

PROFILE:

MARK LEVENSON, ESQ.

Chairman of the Board, Zionist Organization of America

Mark Levenson, the new chairman of the ZOA's national board of directors, is a busy real estate lawyer who handles a wide range of transactions for clients around the world. Yet he has also devoted his life to philanthropic and community activities.

Levenson is a member of Sills Cummis & Gross, P.C., a full-service law firm, where he divides his time between the firm's New Jersey and New York offices. He is co-chair of the Real Estate Department and also chairs the firm's Israel Business Practice Group.

Levenson's roots are in the Boston area. He grew up in Brighton, Massachusetts, where he attended the Maimonides School, an Orthodox day school, from kindergarten through high school. From a young age, Levenson said, he "tried to participate in acts of chesed," visiting nursing homes, saying prayers at the cemetery and selling chocolates at the local supermarket to raise money for charity. "I was guided by the example my parents set for me and my three siblings. All my life, my parents were tremendously involved in Jewish and philanthropic affairs – in our synagogue, in Maimonides, in ensuring housing for the Jewish elderly, and in kosher 'Meals on Wheels' for Russian immigrants," Levenson said proudly. "My parents even housed two young Jewish Iranian refugees from the 1979 Khomeini revolution in our fairly small home for a year, until their family arrived and they found a place to live."

After high school, Levenson went to Brandeis University and "loved it. Coming from an intense Jewish day school background, I loved all the things I was able to do at Brandeis." Majoring in economics and political science, he was involved in the university's radio station, WBRS, and numerous athletic activities.

Levenson's communal involvement began during his freshman year, when he worked as an intern at the Jewish Community Relations Council in Boston. Daniel Mariaschin, who is currently CEO and Executive Vice President of B'nai B'rith International, was the JCRC's assistant director at the time and remains a friend to this day.

While at Brandeis, Levenson also immersed himself in American politics. He actively participated in "Students for Jackson," after Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson announced that he was running for the US presidency in 1976. Levenson also worked for Congressman Robert Drinan, the first Roman Catholic priest ever elected to Congress, in Drinan's Waltham

district and Washington, DC offices.

In his junior year, Levenson took a six-month leave of absence from Brandeis to work as an intern/research assistant in Congressman Tip O'Neill's DC office, just as O'Neill was elected Speaker of the House. "It was a tremendous time for a young college kid," Levenson recalled. "You can't imagine anyone more humble, modest and caring than Tip O'Neill. He was one of the most down-to-earth people I've ever met. He treated everyone with respect and dignity. It left a terrific impression on me of how politics could be."

After the internship, Levenson returned to Brandeis, graduating in 1978. With Senator Ted Kennedy's assistance, he obtained a research assistant's position on the energy subcommittee of the US Congress Joint Economic Committee, chaired by Senator Kennedy, where Levenson worked for three months. He next accepted a position in the health policy group at the Urban Institute, a liberal think tank in Washington, DC, where he worked for a year.

While at the Urban Institute, Levenson applied to law school, thinking that he would remain in the DC area because of his love of politics. But when the New York University School of Law offered Levenson a full scholarship, he accepted it. That was his entree to New York.

Levenson first worked at the law firm then known as Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler, which had a "top-notch real estate practice." Levenson worked on matters for leading real estate developers such as Olympia & York, the international property development firm owned by the Reichmann family, and many other significant real estate transactions.

In 1987, Levenson went to work for the American Express Company as a senior real estate lawyer, where he remained for seven years. "It was an incredible experience," Levenson recalled. "I worked on real estate transactions all over the United States and overseas, including the Canary Wharf project in the U.K. and one of the first Western real estate projects in India. It really broadened my horizons as a lawyer, and allowed me to see more of the business side of being a lawyer."

In 1995, the New York City law firm of Kronish Lieb Weiner & Hellman invited Levenson to join as a partner in the real estate department. Levenson practiced there until the beginning of 2002, when he joined his current firm.

"ZOA is a legendary, venerable organization that is fighting for Israel."

Levenson could not be more enthusiastic about his legal career, describing it as "terrific, wonderful, varied, challenging and enjoyable." He is equally passionate about his philanthropic and community work: "It's an important part of what I do – to give back because I've been blessed."

Among his many community and philanthropic affiliations over the last 35 years, Levenson was president of his synagogue in Passaic-Clifton for four years. He was chair of the local Jewish Community Center for three years. He was president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Clifton-Passaic for eight years, and thereafter president of the New Jersey State Association of Jewish Federations for three years.

In 2010, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie appointed Levenson chair of the New Jersey-Israel Commission, which works to foster trade, cultural ties, educational exchanges, and a spirit of cooperation between the people of New Jersey and the people of Israel. Levenson continues to serve as chair of the commission under Governor Phil Murphy.

Levenson took his first trip to Israel in 1982, after graduating from law school and taking the bar exam. Since then, he has visited Israel "well over 100 times." He has brought politicians to Israel, joined and led trade delegations to Israel, and participated in probably 50 conferences and high level solidarity trips to Israel – during times of war and peace – over the last 36 years. Levenson has also helped bring almost 40 New Jersey legislators to Israel over the last five years.

Before becoming chairman of the ZOA's board, Levenson was a member of the board and, since last year, on the organization's executive committee. Even before assuming these formal positions, he participated in ZOA events and marched with the ZOA in the annual Celebrate Israel Parade.

In fact, the ZOA was an organization that Levenson knew "from my youth. It is a legendary, venerable organization that is fighting for Israel." Levenson was also drawn to the ZOA because he greatly admired one of its illustrious leaders, US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis. Levenson described Justice Brandeis as "one of my heroes and a courageous and visionary leader. I wanted to be involved in the Jewish community, fighting for Israel and the Jewish people. That was the ZOA."

After Israel withdrew from Gaza and as he became more concerned about the threats from Iran, BDS efforts and increasingly blatant and violent acts of anti-Semitism, Levenson "wasn't finding organizations really fighting for the priorities on Israel and Jewish solidarity and survival that I thought most important." He was drawn to the ZOA even more.

Levenson was also inspired by ZOA National President Morton Klein whom he would regularly meet at policy conferences and meetings. "I greatly admired and respected Mort," Levenson said. "He's incredibly principled, often fighting battles as a solo warrior. Mort never backed down; never went along to get along. I took note of what he did." At meetings of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, "Mort impressed me with his indefatigability, and his passion and command of the issues. He was fighting for Israel and against the hypocritical double standard that Israel is so often unfairly subjected to."

Before he became chairman of the board, Levenson worked closely with Mort Klein and with then-chairman, Dr. Michael Goldblatt on ZOA issues. "They inspired me even more," he noted. The work confirmed for Levenson that the ZOA is "the right cause and that I wanted to be involved more deeply."

When Levenson finds time to relax, he loves his Boston sports teams and loves to be with his family. He has been happily married for 35 years to Eta Krasna Levenson, a social worker and advocate for individuals with developmental and emotional health challenges. The Levensons have two "beautiful and amazing daughters," Hadassa Levenson (who recently became engaged to Emanuel Korn) and Jessica Levenson Mirsky, and a "terrific son-in-law," David Mirsky. The Levensons' "wonderful son," Eric Eliezer, passed away in February 2016 after a lengthy, brave battle with mental illness. Eric would have been 31 years old this past July 4.

Mark Levenson understands the significant time commitment that being chairman of the board will entail, but he is confident he "made the right decision." He is inspired by the work and level of commitment of Mort Klein and the ZOA's professional staff and is "honored to be chairman." The ZOA, Levenson said, is rapidly "growing and well-positioned in an upwards trajectory." He is excited about expanding the ZOA's work "as quickly as we can while keeping to our core values."

"I wanted to be involved in the Jewish community, fighting for Israel and the Jewish people. That was the ZOA."

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



Dan Pollak (left) and Josh London
Co-Directors, Government Relations
Department

*Iran remains
the greatest
threat in the
region to
Israel's
interests, and
to America's.*

The Trump administration's second year has seen several historic milestones towards achieving ZOA's priorities in Washington. The US embassy was moved to Jerusalem. The US formally ended our participation in the disastrous 2015 "Iran deal," the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and severe restrictions were placed—both statutorily by Congress, and separately by presidential fiat—on US aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) in response to the PA's incitement, money transfers to terrorists, and refusal even to talk to US peacemakers. Officials friendly to ZOA's agenda have taken office, directing both sides of the foreign policy team: Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State and John Bolton as National Security Advisor.

ZOA National President Morton Klein was twice a witness at congressional hearings, first on November 8 regarding the then-potential Jerusalem embassy move, and most recently on July 17, when he testified in favor of US recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. At a hearing of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's Subcommittee on National Security, chaired by Republican Congressman Ron DeSantis of Florida, ZOA's case was presented by Mort Klein with thoroughness. His testimony covered the history of the Golan region in great detail, going back to the Torah (Deuteronomy 4:43), the first and second Temple periods, and the Jewish revolt against Rome, when Gamla in the Golan was the second-to-last fortress to fall before Masada.

Mr. Klein was the only witness to reference the fact that the Golan was part of the original

mandate of the League of Nations designated to be a home for the Jewish people. He also covered the security imperative for retaining the Golan Heights as sovereign Israeli territory, and the need to confront Iran in Syria by retaining the moral and physical high ground in the Golan. His fellow distinguished panelists at the hearing were policy analyst and historian Michael Doran, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute; Ambassador Dore Gold, currently president of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs; Professor Eugene Kontorovich, Northwestern University School of Law; and Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, a professor at Princeton University, representing the opposition.

The earlier hearing on moving the US embassy to Jerusalem was also held by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's Subcommittee on National Security, chaired by Congressman DeSantis. At that hearing, ZOA's Morton Klein forcefully and eloquently argued in favor of the move and against the use and abuse of the presidential waiver authority granted by Congress. Indeed, Mr. Klein was the only witness to relate the history and context of the waiver authority, noting: "The Jerusalem embassy waiver provision has been inappropriately used" and was intended only to be invoked for a "serious emergency," not as a standard tool of foreign policy. His fellow distinguished panelists at that hearing were Ambassador John Bolton, then a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute; Northwestern University School of Law Professor Eugene Kontorovich; and Dr. Michael Koplow of the Israel Policy Forum, who represented the opposition to the embassy move.

ZOA does seek bipartisan solutions when possible, but we refuse to water down our legislative proposals for the sake of appearances alone.

Iran remains the greatest threat in the region to Israel's interests, and to America's. The reimposition of sanctions on Iran is a good start, but more must be done. Sanctions are having a significant impact on Iran's economy, but the mullahs who run the country have already demonstrated that economic pain alone will not deter them from proceeding towards a military nuclear capability. Congress has more of a role to play here, both in making clear that it will support Israeli military action should that become necessary, and that it will work to enable the people of Iran to possibly change their oppressive regime.

At the time of this writing, mainly because of the intransigence of the PA, no US funds are being released to PA President Mahmoud Abbas, who is serving the 13th year of his four-year term. The passage of the Taylor Force Act cuts some aid permanently, but the US is still a major donor to this corrupt regime. Congress can do more in light of the frankly belligerent posture the PA has adopted towards the US. Thankfully, President Trump has held up all areas of funding—not just those amounts subject to the Taylor Force Act.

A related matter is the misuse of US aid to UNRWA, the United Nations organization established to provide “humanitarian aid” to Palestinian Arab “refugees” only, and which expansively and uniquely defines “refugee” to include descendants in perpetuity until “resolution” of the original conflict. 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 UNRWA 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.

ZOA was pleased with the June 7th confirmation of Kenneth Marcus to be the Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights. We championed his appointment, while many Jewish organizations in-

explicitly opposed him. Marcus has a great record of activism for Jewish students on campuses, and strongly praised ZOA in a book he wrote on the subject, entitled *Jewish Identity and Civil Rights in America*. It is hoped and anticipated that his leadership at the US Department of Education will have a positive impact on the rights of Jewish students which are threatened at many campuses.

Opposition to Ken Marcus and other administration nominations reflects the unusually hyper-partisan environment prevailing in Washington this year. Even normally routine policy initiatives and appointments have generated intense controversy. Jewish groups such as the Anti-Defamation League have opposed the pro-Israel Mike Pompeo on the ground that he is allegedly a right-wing extremist. When John Bolton selected Fred Fleitz – a friend and ally of the ZOA in our work in Washington – to be his chief of staff, he was attacked baselessly as an “Islamophobic” extremist. This partisan environment affects every legislative proposal. ZOA does seek bipartisan solutions when possible, but we refuse to water down our legislative proposals for the sake of appearances alone.

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

In addition to dealing with our elected officials, the Government Relations Department interacts with other Jewish and Christian pro-Israel organizations in DC, and other American Jewish groups. Our annual ZOA Advocacy Mission to Washington (detailed elsewhere in this report) took place on May 9. We also work closely with our Regional Directors and with Jeff Daube, ZOA's Israel Director. We participate in meetings, public forums and policy discussions with foreign policy and political professionals, and continue to engage in print and broadcast media opportunities to spread the word on ZOA's issues. ZOA's Government Relations Department co-directors have also visited ZOA chapters to give talks and educate our members on the situation in Washington.

ZOA CHALLENGES NYC PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL'S TRIBUTE TO GAZA TERRORISTS



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



The Beacon School in Manhattan
(author - Tdorante10, Wikimedia Commons)

The Beacon School, an elite New York City public high school, rarely if ever holds silent tributes. It's never mourned the deaths of the estimated 500,000 Syrians killed by President Bashar al-Assad's government and its allies, or the murders of 2,000 Israelis over the last two decades.

That's why so many parents and community members were shocked and outraged when, in May 2018, the School authorized a school-wide silent tribute to those who were killed along the Gaza border with Israel. The School permitted a student to make a special announcement over the public address system, forcing students to stop what they were doing and honor violent rioters and terrorists who – armed with Google maps to Jewish communities – were using machine guns, Molotov cocktails, meat cleavers, improvised explosive devices, grenades, and “kite bombs” painted with swastikas to infiltrate and burn Israel's sovereign territory and attack and murder innocent Israeli civilians who live minutes from the Gaza border.

After their shamefully misguided decision, school officials showed little remorse and provided no answers. When Principal Ruth Lacey finally issued a letter to Beacon families, she admitted no wrongdoing but simply expressed “regret” if the tribute “offended anyone in our school community” – which was like “rubbing salt into an open wound,” in one parent's words.

Backed by parents, the ZOA sought answers from school officials and raised legal concerns. The tribute violated a school regulation that prohibits school facilities, equipment and supplies from being used for partisan politics.

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The Chancellor of New York City's Department of Education responded to the ZOA by punting the matter to the Superintendent – despite the fact that the Chancellor had publicly acknowledged his responsibility for whatever happens in the public schools. An interview with the *New York Times* last April featured his statement in the headline: “As the Chancellor, I ultimately own everything.”

When Superintendent Kathy Rehfield-Pelles responded to the ZOA, she muddled matters instead of providing answers.

She acknowledged the Department of Education's policy that “students should learn in a politically neutral environment,” suggesting that Beacon officials were wrong to hold a tribute to anti-Israel rioters and terrorists.

Yet she also wrote that the Department “supports student participation in civic engagement,” suggesting that the tribute was proper.

The Superintendent assured us that the Beacon incident was “immediately investigated,” that the Department took “appropriate follow-up action,” and that it is working with Beacon's principal on improved “protocols.” But she did not describe the investigation, its outcome, the Department's follow-up action, or the new protocols.

Beacon families are entitled to all this information. The tribute hurt and marginalized students, troubled and outraged parents, and blindsided all of them. The ZOA is still seeking answers so that parents can be assured that the School does not make such a disgraceful error in judgment again.

ZOA FIGHTS FIRST-IN-THE-US BAN ON POLICE TRAINING IN ISRAEL

Last April, Durham, North Carolina became the first city in the United States to ban police exchanges with Israel. Members of the Durham community were ashamed and appalled by the City Council's action.

With help from the ZOA – including important input from ZOA national board member Clifford Rieders, Esq. – two community organizations, Voice for Israel and the Durham Chapel Hill Jewish Federation, sent a detailed letter to the Durham Human Relations Commission, asking for help in addressing the problems created by the City Council's action.

In their letter, these community leaders pointed out that the City Council had failed to do any fact-gathering about Israel's law enforcement practices before issuing its statement imposing the ban. Instead, the City Council relied on propaganda falsehoods promoted by an anti-Israel, pro-BDS, anti-Semitic group that calls itself "Jewish Voice for Peace."

The community leaders also described how the City Council's statement unnecessarily divided the community and caused many Jewish and Israel supporters to feel targeted and unwelcome. Prior to voting on the statement, the City Council disgracefully gave a podium to Israel-bashers and anti-Semites.

One referred to Jews as the "synagogue of Satan" and said he was "obligated to point out the inordinate control that some Jews have over the political system in this city." As the Voice for Israel and Jewish Federation leaders wrote to the Human Relations Commission: "[T]he City Council's willingness to target and ban a police exchange with the one Jewish state in the world sent the message to this and other anti-Semites that their anti-Semitism is acceptable and would be tolerated."

Indeed, within two weeks of the City Council's action, anti-Semitic posters were discovered in downtown Durham. One depicted a silhouetted man pointing a gun at a bearded man with a long nose, wearing a yarmulke, with tentacles wrapping around the earth, with the message: "Right of revolution. Your ancestors threw off foreign oppression, time for you as well." Another poster said, "Greedy Jews" and "End Zionist Oppression."

These posters bred fear among Durham's Jews. One resident told the *Herald Sun*: "I was deeply disturbed and, to be honest, frightened. . . . [I]hose vile anti-Semitic threats, including the image of a gun pointing to a Jew, really rattled me Seeing

"[T]he City Council's willingness to target and ban a police exchange with the one Jewish state in the world sent the message to this and other anti-Semites that their anti-Semitism is acceptable and would be tolerated." – Leaders of the Voice for Israel and the Durham Chapel Hill Jewish Federation

incitements to shoot Jews in my hometown is not something I ever imagined."

The Voice for Israel and Jewish Federation leaders urged the Human Relations Commission to (1) provide a public forum for airing complaints about the City Council's statement; (2) obtain the data to determine whether the City Council's statement is supported by the facts and meets the needs of the city; (3) recommend that the City Council rescind its statement, if the evidence shows that the statement was unfair, unwarranted and discriminatory, and created unnecessary tensions and divides within the Durham community; and (4) caution the City Council to make future determinations based on unbiased evidence, not hateful propaganda. We await the Human Relations Commission's response.



Durham, NC Police Department
(author - Ildar Sagdejev, Wikimedia Commons)

ZOA CONTINUES FIGHTING FOR AMERICAN VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

The ZOA has a long history of standing up for American victims of terrorism, including those in *Sokolow v. Palestine Liberation Organization*. Members of American families sued the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority (PA) under the Anti-Terrorism Act, claiming that the PLO and PA perpetrated seven terrorist attacks in Israel between 2001 and 2004, which caused their injuries or their loved ones' deaths.

The Americans prevailed at a jury trial in New York and were awarded \$655.5 million in damages. But after this victory, they suffered several painful blows that the ZOA fought hard to avoid and correct.

After losing at trial, the PLO and PA appealed, and claimed that they could not afford to post any security while their appeal was pending. After media reports that the Justice Department might intervene to support this specious claim, the ZOA wrote to the US Attorney General, urging the Justice Department not to take any position that would undermine the jury verdict or the rights of the American terror victims. But the Justice Department filed a Statement of Interest which sided with the terrorists, and the court reduced the bond.

The victims suffered another blow when the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit vacated the jury verdict and dismissed their case. The Second Circuit decided that it would violate due process to exercise personal jurisdiction over the PLO and PA, because the plaintiffs had not shown that the PLO and PA "specifically targeted" US citizens or had the "specific aim" of targeting the United States – a virtually impossible standard for any terror victim to satisfy.

The victims asked the US Supreme Court to review the Second Circuit's decision. With urging from the ZOA, the House of Representatives and 23 US Senators from both sides of the aisle filed amicus briefs supporting the victims.

The victims were dealt another blow after the Supreme Court asked the Solicitor General to express the views of the United States regarding the victims' request for review. Eight months later, the Solicitor finally weighed in, urging the Court to deny the victims' request and leaving them without the justice they deserved.

The ZOA publicly criticized the Solicitor General's action, stating that he had sent "an unacceptable message" to terrorist entities like the PLO and the PA: "You can kill and maim Americans overseas and we, the United States government, will make it harder, not easier, for victims to go after you and hold you responsible."

The final blow to the terror victims came when, last April, the Supreme Court declined to hear their case. Fortunately, with the ZOA's urging and support, Congress is taking action and considering the bill called the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act of 2018, which will close loopholes in the law and ensure that Americans can hold terrorists accountable.

The House bill (H.R.5954) was reported out of the Judiciary Committee in June 2018, on a voice vote. As of this writing, the Senate bill (S.2946) is under consideration by the Judiciary Committee. The ZOA submitted a letter to the Committee urging it to support this crucial legislation.

With the ZOA's urging and support, Congress is taking action and considering the bill called the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act of 2018, which will close loopholes in the law and ensure that Americans can hold terrorists accountable.

EXTRAORDINARY ISRAEL ADVOCACY TRAINING



Justin Ellis
Director, ZOA's
Fuel For Truth

ZOA's FFT Boot Camp program is an intensive, multi-week class that trains participants to be effective advocates for Israel, providing training on how to promote Israel and refute propaganda and myths against Israel, as well as a rewarding social experience to meet other young Zionists.

THE FUTURE OF ZOA IS HERE

In its first year as an integral part of the Zionist Organization of America, ZOA's Fuel For Truth (FFT) has charted the course for how the ZOA will reach and connect with the next generation of Zionist leaders.

FFT works to equip young adults with the facts, skills and confidence to advocate for Israel and impact how members of their social and professional networks understand the Arab/Israeli conflict. Today's hyper-political environment is causing a breakdown in civil discourse and an increase in misinformation, both of which compromise honest and productive conversations surrounding Israel and the Middle East.

More than ever, supporters of Israel need to be prepared to have difficult conversations in a time when Israel's right to exist and defend itself in secure and recognized borders is increasingly questioned. FFT's signature Boot Camp program accomplishes this by educating and empowering individuals with high-level analysis of Israeli history and current issues, proven communication skills rooted in behavioral psychology, and mock social simulations that reflect real-world discussions surrounding Israel.

RECTIFYING A PROBLEM OF THE PAST

FFT pioneers a revolutionary model of Israel advocacy training and Jewish communal engagement for population segments under-served by traditional organizations and institutions. Sadly, the majority of American Jews receive an inadequate or nonexistent Jewish education. Those who attend Hebrew school are often not taught about the history of the Jewish people in the land of Israel, and those who attend Jewish day school or yeshiva are not immersed in Israeli history or taught how to talk about Israel with non-Jews.

There are many fantastic college programs that help young Jews and other pro-Israel students catch up, such as ZOA Campus, but these

programs and its benefits have an expiration date. What happens when students graduate and they no longer have the campus-provided structure of time, resources and community? FFT provides that continuity post-college, ensures these individuals will raise well-informed Zionist families, and bridges the gap during the period individuals are not necessarily affiliated with a synagogue, community, or Jewish organization.

INSIDE A PROGRAM LIKE NO OTHER

FFT's Boot Camp program is an intensive, multi-week class that trains participants to be effective advocates for Israel while providing a fun, social space to be part of a community and something bigger than oneself.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Kosher Dinner: Who wants to learn on an empty stomach? Every session begins with a buffet-style meal where participants and alumni schmooze.

Lessons: Our seminars provide a deep analysis of Israeli history, the major components surrounding the Arab/Israeli conflict, as well as proven communication skills rooted in behavioral psychology.

Interactive Exercises: It's one thing to know the issues and a whole other to know how to talk about them. Our mock social simulations prepare participants for the difficult conversations happening today.

Guest Speakers: Get an inside perspective from some of the most experienced voices in politics, diplomacy, media, communication and education. Previous speakers include Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz, Israeli diplomat Ron Prosor, former US Ambassador to Morocco Marc Ginsberg and *New York Times* columnist Bret Stephens.

Socialize: Every session ends with a social gathering at a local bar. This is where participants and alumni get to know each other on a personal level, forming lifelong relationships. *FYI, this has resulted in many marriages.*

ZOA'S FUEL FOR TRUTH

IMPACT AND SUCCESS

FFT has reached more than 40,000 young adults in person from all over the world since 2001, through Israel advocacy workshops and Jewish communal engagement.

Over 700 people from all walks of life have completed Boot Camp and our diverse alumni include people of all faiths, ethnicities and nationalities. These graduates include Jews, Christians and Muslims, and hail from countries including the United States, Canada, Israel, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Russia, Ukraine, Australia, Spain, Iran, Belgium and Venezuela.

During its first year as ZOA's Fuel For Truth, FFT can proudly report the following accomplishments and developments:

YEAR ONE HIGHLIGHTS

Successful Expansion: FFT launched Boot Camp in Miami and Boston, joining New York City and Washington, DC as the four existing FFT chapters. Plans are already in place to launch in Chicago this fall and Los Angeles in 2019.

Increased Participation: 204 young professionals enrolled in Boot Camp from fall 2017 through spring 2018, featuring 10 cohorts and 81 weeks of educational programming.

Creating The Link: FFT National Director Justin Ellis has begun staffing the ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel in order to facilitate the ZOA Campus to FFT pipeline for graduating college students.

Meeting Growth: As a result of the year one expansion and projections for year two, FFT is in the process of hiring an Associate Director who will assist with the planning and execution of Boot Camp programming in new and existing markets.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



KOSHER DINNER



LESSON



SPEAKER



INTERACTIVE



SOCIALIZE

SESSION TOPICS

ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATION SKILLS

HISTORY OF ISRAEL
1880 - PRESENT

ETHNIC CLEANSING
& GENOCIDE

LAND THEFT

REFUGEES:
CAUSES & OUTCOMES

IS THERE
AN OCCUPATION?

JEWISH COMMUNITIES
IN JUDEA & SAMARIA

THE APARTHEID MYTH

THE REALITY OF BDS

IS THERE A
PARTNER FOR PEACE?

HAMAS & GAZA

ONE-STATE VS TWO-STATE
SOLUTION

2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

2

NEW CITIES

4

TOTAL CITIES

10

COHORTS

81

WEEKLY SESSIONS

204

PARTICIPANTS

ZOA CAMPUS

LEADING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ZIONIST ADVOCATES TO STAND UNABASHEDLY WITH ISRAEL AND TO FIGHT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM ON CAMPUS

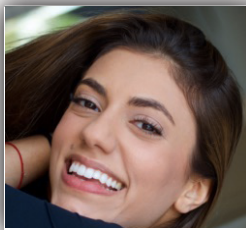
ZOA CAMPUS COORDINATORS



Leore Ben-David
Managing
Director ZOA
Campus, West
Coast Campus
Coordinator



**Jonathan
Ginsburg**
Associate Director
ZOA Campus, New
England Campus
Coordinator



Annie Cohen
Southeast
Campus
Coordinator



Or Taylor
Mid-Atlantic
Campus
Coordinator



**Rachel
Treisman**
Pacific
Northwest
Campus
Coordinator

ZOA Campus continues to speak as the leading Zionist voice on college campuses across America. By representing the spirit and values of true pro-Israel activism, ZOA Campus staff proudly work to educate and empower Jewish students, as well as those from different backgrounds. During the spring semester of 2018, ZOA Campus Coordinators, alongside their ZOA Fellows, planned, executed, and/or co-sponsored 294 events on 109 university campuses.

CAMPUS ZIONISM FROM COAST TO COAST

From coast to coast, ZOA's campus department had numerous achievements over the course of the academic year. In the west, Managing Director and West Coast Campus Coordinator, Leore Ben-David, led the department while also representing ZOA at campus and community events in Los Angeles, in commemoration of Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, and in celebration of Israel's milestone 70th Independence Day.

Since last year, the ZOA Campus presence at Yom Ha'Atzmaut events nationwide has grown exponentially, due in large part to the unique, interactive, and memorable programming that our department successfully provides.

This year, in addition to co-sponsoring over 80 Independence Day events on campus, ZOA Campus designed, produced, and distributed over 10,000 Zionist-themed mood cups to students at over forty different campuses across the nation (and in Israel, too). The mood cups bore the ZOA Campus logo and the statement, "70 & *Sababa*" (loosely translated as "cool" in Hebrew slang).

The New England region, under Associate Director and New England Campus Coordinator Jonathan Ginsburg, worked together with Zionist students and partners to sponsor a series of interactive initiatives, such as ZOA-led advocacy lectures and Krav Maga self-defense seminars. These programs, as well as a host of educational tabling events, proved to be particular highlights.

ZOA Campus in the Mid-Atlantic region continued to promote strong Zionist messages on campuses throughout the spring semester. Mid-Atlantic Campus Coordinator Or Taylor engaged campus leaders to run Israel advocacy programs that pursued collaborative initiatives, celebrating Israeli heritage. These efforts helped build and strengthen individual and collective campus pro-Israel networks so that each student and group have the tools and resources to represent Zionism effectively both online and on campus.

ZOA Campus's Southeast region had a busy and engaging semester. Campus Coordinator Annie Cohen successfully expanded our reach to universities that had little or no pro-Israel activity, continuing our mission to

educate and empower students to be pro-Israel. ZOA Campus planned and assisted with events at over 15 schools across the Southeast and Texas during just the month of April – the busiest month this semester for our pro-Israel advocates on campus – and even worked with students to showcase a camel on campus for Israel's Independence Day!

ZOA Campus in the Tri-State region successfully continued its mission to provide Zionist programming on more than two dozen campuses. ZOA Campus Fellows hosted nearly 100 events in the spring semester of 2018, including interactive activities such as Krav Maga. In addition, Fellows tabled with SodaStream USA root beer floats, in order to promote economic coexistence between Israelis and Palestinian Arabs, rather than the divisiveness and hostility that the BDS movement encourages.

Across the Midwest, ZOA Campus continued to inform and educate students about the geostrategic threats facing Israel while representing the spirit of Zionism. Midwest Campus Coordinator and Krav Maga educator, Pandit Mami, gave numerous lectures in the region about his own unique Zionist journey, while showcasing Israel's open and diverse society.

ZOA Campus's newest addition to the team, Rachel Treisman, is already making huge headway in the Pacific Northwest region. As a native Californian and recent UC Berkeley graduate, Rachel expanded the ZOA Campus influence in this challenging region for Israel advocates. Treisman worked with her former campus colleagues and current pro-Israel student leaders by equipping them with ZOA speakers, materials, and programming. Rachel also served as additional "boots on the ground" and support during heightened times of hostility, specifically aimed at the small (yet proud) Zionist student community at UC Berkeley.

DEFEATING BDS ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

ZOA Campus is especially proud to have worked in close partnership with student leaders at Boston's Northeastern University – including then-Huskies for Israel president and ZOA Fellow Carly Rutkovsky – to defeat an anti-Israel BDS resolution this past spring.



Pacific Northwest Campus Coordinator Rachel Treisman tables with SodaStream USA and ZOA Campus mood cups, which only turn blue if you are a true Zionist!

ZOA Campus also helped students fight (and defeat) BDS resolutions and initiatives at campuses such as Florida State University, the University of South Florida, George Washington University and Swarthmore College. We were extremely proud to play a leading role in defeating BDS at Case Western University during the spring semester of 2018, alongside ZOA Israel Mission alum, Jacob Roth. We will continue to battle BDS wherever it arises on other campuses.

THANKS TO OUR PRO-ISRAEL PARTNERS ON CAMPUS

ZOA was honored to partner with and be represented as the only Zionist organization at the Turning Point USA's Young Women's Leadership Summit in Dallas this past June. We proudly energized hundreds of students about Zionism and Israel.

During the spring semester of 2018, ZOA Campus Coordinators, alongside their ZOA Fellows, planned, executed, and/or co-sponsored 294 events on 109 university campuses.



ZOA Fellow and Israel Mission Alumnae with Pandit Mami and Jonathan Ginsburg at an event at Northeastern



Student Leadership Mission to Israel participants stand at the border with Syria and hear about Israel's humanitarian efforts in the region

ZOA Campus co-sponsored a student-run gala at Binghamton University, in partnership with the World Zionist Congress, celebrating Israel's water technology and advancement. ZOA Israel Mission alum, Talia Chasen, led the effort and brought together hundreds of Jewish and non-Jewish Zionist Binghamton students.

ZOA Campus also partnered with organizations such as CAMERA on Campus, Students Supporting Israel (SSI), StandWithUs, Save a Child's Heart, and local Hillel and Chabad chapters to reach an ever-growing campus body.

ZOA Campus was honored to partner with the Consulate General of Israel to New England for the 2018 Israel Independence Student Gala. The event featured ZOA Campus's own Pandit Mami, as a special guest speaker.

ISRAEL MISSION

ZOA Campus led its annual Summer Student Leadership Mission to Israel this past June and July, bringing together 31 student leaders from across the nation, with varying levels of Israel knowledge and engagement. After two weeks of strategic touring, high-level expert briefings, candid conversations with Palestinian Arabs and Jews directly affected by the conflict, and long hours in the hot Israeli sun, students coalesced into a network of empowered Zionists ready to educate and influence their peers after they return to their respective campuses.

Our group stopped to visit Nati Rom, founder of Lev HaOlam, and co-founder and resident of the Samaritan community of Esh Kodesh. Rom, an attorney, heads a non-profit that ships goods



ZOA Campus Staff at the new US Embassy in Jerusalem

strictly produced in Judea and Samaria in monthly care packages, as a way to counter the anti-Semitic BDS movement. Students had the opportunity to speak with a "radical settler" – a term they often hear on campus from professors and groups like Students for Justice in Palestine – and then come to their own conclusions about whether this characterization bears any truth.

The Mission participants also had the surprise opportunity to visit the new US embassy in Jerusalem, which was also quite exciting for ZOA Campus staff (see photo).

We thank the MZ Foundation for its generous support of our student leadership missions to Israel.

THE BEST (AND ONLY) ZIONIST AFTER-PARTY AT AIPAC'S POLICY CONFERENCE

The ZOA Campus team represented itself at the AIPAC Policy Conference this past March. We engaged hundreds of students throughout the conference and especially at the much-celebrated ZOA after-party, which over 700 young professionals and students attended.

ZOA Campus is extremely proud of its many accomplishments this past year and the entire department is thrilled to continue to pave the way as the leading voice of Zionist activism on college campuses in America!

ZOA Campus designed, produced, and distributed over 10,000 Zionist-themed mood cups to students at over forty different campuses across the nation (and in Israel too) for Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.

ISRAEL OFFICE

SEVEN HISTORIC DAYS IN MAY

History was made on May 14, 2018 with the opening of the US embassy in Jerusalem, and ZOA was there to mark the occasion. In light of what may turn out to be a game-changer towards universal recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, this report is dedicated to recounting highlights from that momentous day and week, along with recent efforts by ZOA Israel to keep the Jerusalem sovereignty momentum going.

ZOA'S JERUSALEM MISSION

At the initiative of ZOA national board member and Brooklyn chapter president Rubin Margules, and led by national president Morton Klein and new board chair Mark Levenson, a ZOA VIP delegation traveled to Israel for a week filled with exclusive events, private briefings, and informative lectures and outings. The delegation also included former ZOA chair Dr. Michael Goldblatt, and national board members Eli Hertz, Michael Orbach, Jim Pollack, and Stanley Rosenberg.

The ZOA Jerusalem mission actually began more than 23 years ago with the introduction of the Jerusalem Embassy Act, a tireless initiative by ZOA leaders and allies working with Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ), 1996 Republican presidential candidate Senator Bob Dole (R-KS), and other members of Congress from both sides of the aisle.

While most mainstream Jewish organizations at the time were taking a tepid wait-and-see attitude toward the bill, ZOA proceeded — as is its way — ahead of the crowd. In November 1995, the US Jerusalem Embassy Act (PL 104-45) was signed into law, passing 93 to 5 in the Senate and 374 to 7 in the House. Notably, though, had the version of the bill that ZOA was promoting been passed, one that did not include the infamous presidential waiver invoked for decades, we might have been celebrating an embassy opening no later than May 1999.

The denouement of our 23-year journey, and of course the centerpiece of the ZOA VIP mission, was the embassy inauguration ceremony. The addresses by President Trump (on video), PM Netanyahu, President Reuven Rivlin, Ambassador

David Friedman and Jared Kushner, among prominent others, along with the unveiling of the US seal by Ivanka Trump and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, contributed much to the occasion. But it was former Senator Joe Lieberman who perhaps came closest to summing up the collective spirit when (overheard by ZOA Israel's Mount of Olives campaign colleague Josh Wander) he said, "I prayed and prayed for this day, but I did not think I would live to see it actually happen in my lifetime."

President Trump and Ambassador David Friedman deserve our deepest gratitude for recognizing Jerusalem's current and historical reality by implementing what their respective predecessors would not. Moreover, they created the political space enabling Guatemala and Paraguay to follow suit shortly afterwards, while several other countries in the pipeline are also seriously considering the move.

JAM-PACKED AGENDA

Besides working diligently to ensure our VIP delegation's participation in the May 14 embassy event, ZOA Israel organized a rich complement of activities for the group before and after. A Motzei Shabbat Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) reception at the home of Dr. Amnon and Lynn Gimpel, one of Israel's more influential families associated with the national camp, kicked off our itinerary. The next day, we met with Jerusalem Mayor and rising candidate for high office Nir Barkat, at the Tower of David Museum, where he spoke to the press and at the celebratory musical performances.



Jeff Daube
Director, ZOA
Israel

While most mainstream Jewish organizations at the time were taking a tepid wait-and-see attitude toward the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act, ZOA proceeded, as is its way, ahead of the crowd.



**Israel Director Jeff Daube with
ZOA Chair Mark Levenson at
Shomron overlook**



Stanley Rosenberg, Jeff Daube, Michael Orbach, Mark Levenson, MK Amir Ohana, Morton Klein, Rubin Margules and James Pollack

"I prayed and prayed for this day, but I did not think I would live to see it actually happen in my lifetime."



ZOA leaders with Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat (second from left)

A memorable "Thank You America" reception, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had us interfacing that evening with community and religious leaders, numerous Israeli government officials, and a US delegation that included Joe Lieberman, Senators Mike Lee (R-UT), Dean Heller (R-NV) and Ted Cruz (R-TX), and Congressmen Joe Wilson (R-SC), Dennis Ross (R-FL), Jody Hice (R-GA), and Lee Zeldin (R-NY). PM Netanyahu's inspiring congratulatory message to President Trump was featured prominently.

Congressman Ron DeSantis (R-FL), also present, deserves a special mention for his behind-the-scenes role in selecting the embassy site and pushing for its immediate acceptance. As chairman of the House National Security Subcommittee, DeSantis had taken a particular interest in the five interim steps to recognize Jerusalem proposed to him last year by ZOA Israel in a three-way meeting with MK Amir Ohana (Likud).

Yet another sumptuous reception took place on the morning of the embassy ceremony, at the home

As chairman of the House National Security Subcommittee, DeSantis had taken a particular interest in the five interim steps to recognize Jerusalem proposed to him last year by ZOA Israel.



ZOA delegation with WZO Vice-Chair Yaakov Hagoel (center)

of ZOA friends Simon and Hannah Falic. Among the government officials and honored guests with whom we had many hours of quality chat time were Jerusalem mayoral candidate Minister Ze'ev Elkin (Likud), Minister Uri Ariel (Jewish Home), Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely (Likud), and CUFI's Pastor John Hagee. Florida Governor Rick Scott spoke eloquently about the embassy move as a singular manifestation of the deep bond between Israel and America.

Members of our delegation were invited as well to a CUFI gala event at the David Citadel Hotel. It capped off a day that even the concurrent — and premeditated — Hamas terror activities on the Gaza border could not spoil.

The next day we were treated to briefings by NGO Monitor president Gerald Steinberg, who provided insights into the anti-Israel NGOs and funders such as the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation; and by Dan Diker, a fellow and special projects director at Ambassador Dore Gold's Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, whose expertise in the BDS-jihadist nexus is unrivaled.

Racing off next to the Knesset, the group gained new insights from MK Ohana about Israel's complex, Iran-instigated challenges in the North, South, and Judea-Samaria. Ohana sits on the all-im-

portant Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

The day concluded with a trip to Jerusalem's Old City to meet with WZO Vice-Chairman Yaakov Hagoel, followed by the Betar Western Wall Museum opening ceremony, featuring President Rivlin, Mayor Barkat and Minister Elkin.

The day of the Guatemala Jerusalem Embassy opening, May 16, was no less hectic. Minister Elkin and Deputy Minister Michael Oren (Kulanu) had to cancel their time with us, due to the Gaza crisis. But our meetings with Deputy Minister Hotovely and Likud MK Sharren Haskel were outstanding, not to mention gratifying for ZOA Israel, as each described her collaborations with us on defining and pursuing Israel's rights in Judea-Samaria.

A Knesset Christian Allies Caucus forum offered us additional opportunities to meet with Knesset members, the Guatemalan delegation comprised of their diplomats and members of their congress, and South Carolina House Representative and pioneer anti-BDS legislator Alan Clemmons. Thanks to Jim Pollack, former Congresswoman Michele Bachmann joined us at the forum and at our meeting with Hotovely.

A Peduel birds-eye view of vulnerable central Israel should be experienced by all those who still believe in the Oslo delusion.

The next day, ZOA's delegation took a tour of Samaria. It included meetings with Samaria Regional Council head Yossi Dagan, Ariel University Vice-Chancellor Yigal Cohen-Orgad, and Samaritan community members; a visit to the Barkan industrial park where 3,000 Arab and 3,000 Israeli employees work closely together; and a Peduel birds-eye view of vulnerable central Israel that should be experienced by all who still believe in the Oslo delusion.

The icing on our seven-layer cake was an invitation from the Israel Council on Foreign Relations to Jeff Daube and Mark Levenson to join Paraguay's president and foreign minister the following week, at the King David reception honoring their own embassy transfer to Jerusalem.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

ZOA Israel continues to press for Jerusalem sovereignty on the local, international, and American fronts. At the Knesset, we are emphasizing the security implications of illegal Arab building in eastern Jerusalem and the need to counteract with Jewish building. We are relentlessly pursuing top leadership at UNESCO to permit a

tour of Jewish Mount of Olives provided by us to its Ramallah delegation. In Washington, we are seeking the removal of references to eastern Jerusalem as "occupied Palestinian territory" in State Department reports and communiques. And, on behalf of Americans in Israel who were born in Jerusalem, our Sense of Congress letter draft aims to elicit a presidential executive order tying Jerusalem with Israel on birth-related documents.

We are also working to disempower the US Consulate on western Jerusalem's Agron Street, suggesting it be turned into the US Ambassador's residence instead of functioning, as it does now, as the embassy to the Palestinians — evident in its educational, cultural and sporting activities, civil society initiatives, Fulbright and other grant awardees, and collusions with left-wing NGOs.

As for the US embassy move, we have yet to assess its full significance. ZOA Israel is advising diplomats from across the globe that they would be well advised to follow America's lead. Only one other Jerusalem building would be able to top the new embassy in historical importance, we tell them, and when that building on the Temple Mount goes up — God willing — real estate prices in this city will go through the roof!



ZOA delegation members and former Cong. Michele Bachmann treated to briefing by Dep. Min. Tzipi Hotovely at the Knesset



ZOA board member Rubin Margules with MK Sharren Haskel at the Knesset

Join Us...

The Zionist Organization of America **Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner**

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 4
2018

Marriott Marquis, NYC
Reception 4:30pm
Glatt Kosher Dinner 6pm

Honoring
Amb. John Bolton
Dr. Bob Shillman
Amb. Richard Grenell
Mark Levin



Amb.
Bolton



Dr.
Shillman



Amb.
Grenell



Mark
Levin



Kimberly
Guilfoyle



Amb.
Danon



Prof.
Dershowitz

CELEBRATING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF REESTABLISHMENT OF
ISRAEL AND OPENING OF US EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM



Official Embassy Seal



Mark Levenson and Mort Klein at
Jerusalem Embassy Move Celebration

INSTALLATION CEREMONY

ISRAELI NY CONSUL GENERAL DANI DAYAN; FORMER CONG. MICHELE BACHMANN; SENIOR ADVISOR TO ISRAELI PM NETANYAHU DR. RAN BARATZ WERE SPEAKERS



(left to right) Michael Orbach; Dr. Michael Goldblatt; Morton Klein; Amb. Dani Dayan; Mark Levenson, Esq.; Dr. Alan Mazurek; Ed Siegel, Esq.; and Henry Schwartz at ZOA's Office Dedication & Installation Ceremony

On June 27, 2018, the ZOA's National Board of Directors announced the organization's new officers and celebrated the ZOA's new offices. Over 100 people – including board members, friends, family, and donors – attended the joyous event.

Mark Levenson, Esq. is the new chairman of the ZOA's board, succeeding Dr. Michael Goldblatt. Mr. Levenson is co-chair of the Real Estate Department at Sills Cummis & Gross, a law firm with offices in New Jersey and New York. He is also a longstanding member of the firm's Management Committee.

Mr. Levenson has done extensive international work for clients in Israel, the United Kingdom, India, the Czech Republic, Eastern Europe, Latin America and France. He has served as an arbitrator for the New York City Civil Court system and is a Fellow in the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

Mr. Levenson is the longstanding chairman of the New Jersey-Israel Commission and immediate past president of the New Jersey State Association of Jewish Federations. He has held a variety of leadership positions in many non-profit organizations—serving in the role of chair, president or executive committee member—and has received numerous awards for his

volunteer activities. In addition, he has done significant professional and pro bono work for various non-profits, including the Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy, the Jewish Federation of Clifton/Passaic, A Better Chance, and the ZOA.

Mr. Levenson played a critical leadership role in the drafting and enactment of New Jersey's anti-BDS legislation. He is an honors graduate of Brandeis University and received his law degree from the New York University School of Law.

The Vice Chairs of ZOA are Alan Mazurek, M.D. and Michael Goldblatt, Ph.D. Dr. Mazurek is a distinguished neurologist affiliated with multiple hospitals in the New York area, including Mt. Sinai Hospital and North Shore University Hospital. He is also a clinical professor at Mount Sinai Medical School, as well as a long-time pro-Israel activist. Dr. Goldblatt is a renowned clinical psychologist who was a faculty member of The Family Institute of Philadelphia and Temple University School of Medicine for many years, on staff at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and Holy Redeemer Hospital, and a Clinical Professor at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Starting at age 17, Dr. Goldblatt has published over 300 op-eds and letters in well-known publications such as the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times* and the *Philadelphia Enquirer*. He also

INSTALLATION CEREMONY



National Board members Michael Orbach and Dr. Judith Friedman Rosen



Rita Klein, National Board member Len Getz and Susan Getz

fought tirelessly to free the Jews from the Soviet Union.

The ZOA's Treasurer is Henry Schwartz, a legendary businessman and philanthropist who is the CEO of Elmhurst 1925, a plant-based food and beverage company. Mr. Schwartz serves on the boards of other pro-Israel groups and has worked diligently to protect the security of America and Israel.

The Deputy Treasurer is Bart Blatstein, head of the real estate giant, the Tower group, in Philadelphia. He has major property holdings throughout Philadelphia and Atlantic City, including the famed Showboat Hotel and the new Ocean Resort Hotel and Casino. Mr. Blatstein is on the President's Advisory Board and Board of Visitors of Temple University. He has served on the board of the Anti-Defamation League, and has been active in pro-Israel causes for decades.

The ZOA's new Secretary is James L. Pollack of Chicago, Minnesota and Bal Harbour, Florida. Mr. Pollack is a distinguished businessman who has served as the financial director for a presidential candidate and served on the executive committee of AIPAC and many other pro-Israel groups.

The ZOA's Executive Vice President is John Rosen, formerly a regional director for the American Jewish Committee. Mr. Rosen has also held posts in Jewish Federations in Boston, Nashville and New Jersey.

The installation of officers took place in the ZOA's beautiful new offices, located in a high-rise building in midtown Manhattan overlooking the Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building and the East River. Former Cong. Michele Bachmann, a former presidential candidate and leading evangelical Christian Zionist; Ambassador Dani Dayan, Israeli Consul General to New York and surrounding areas; and Dr. Ran Baratz, a senior advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, spoke at the installation ceremony.

To celebrate the ZOA's new offices, there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony performed in the offices' lobby, between two beautiful sculptures of physicist and Zionist Albert Einstein and former president of ZOA, US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis.

Board members Michael Orbach, Dr. Stanley Benzel and Dr. Judith Friedman Rosen led the ceremony of affixing a beautiful new mezuzah on the doorpost of the ZOA's entranceway. Henry Schwartz made a Pchayim surrounded by ZOA friends and well-wishers.

Dr. Michael Goldblatt welcomed the gathering, spoke about the ZOA's history and introduced ZOA's new chairman. National President Morton A. Klein spoke about the dramatic growth and change at the ZOA over the last 25 years, including the establishment of a national campus department headed by Leore Ben-David; a Center for Law and Justice headed by Susan Tuchman, Esq.; a Government Relations Department in Washington DC, headed by Dan Pollak and Josh London; an activist millennial program called ZOA's Fuel For Truth, headed by Justin Ellis; a new Director of National Outreach and Engagement, Talya Messeri; a Director of Special Projects, Elizabeth Berney, Esq.; a ZOA Report biannual publication; and an annual Mission to Washington, DC. Mr. Klein also described the wide breadth of the ZOA's educational efforts, including the publication of op-eds and letters in major secular and Jewish outlets; appearances on TV and radio; programs on campuses, and at synagogues, churches, and other venues; and ZOA-sponsored student trips to Israel every year.

Special appreciation was expressed to Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson, Bernie Marcus, Ira Rennert, Myron Zimmerman, the Milken Family Foundation, Dr. Bob Shillman, and Dr. Irving and Cherna Moskowitz, and many others, for contributing to the ZOA's phenomenal growth, increased influence and growing ability to help Israel and the Jewish people.

AROUND THE COUNTRY



Talya Messeri
National Director
Outreach & Engagement



Sharona Whisler
Exec. Director
Florida



Steve Feldman
Exec. Director
Greater Philadelphia



Stuart Pavilack
Exec. Director
Pittsburgh



Kobi Erez
Exec. Director
Michigan



David Kadosh
Exec. Director
West Coast



Rabbi Jonina Pritzker
Exec. Director
New England



Alan Jay
Exec. Director
New Jersey



Deborah Peretz
Exec. Director
Long Island

AROUND THE COUNTRY

ZOA NATIONAL INTRODUCING THE ZOA NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Early in the summer of 2018, Talya Messeri joined the ZOA's team in a major new post – National Director, Outreach and Engagement – to expand our outreach throughout the country.

Ms. Messeri has over 10 years of experience working with multiple non-profits from coast to coast, as a fundraiser, outreach professional, and structural strategist. Her background also includes a degree in film production from the University of Southern California's prestigious School of Cinematic Arts.

With years of professional experience in the effort to counter the anti-Semitic, anti-Israel bias in the media and change the overall cultural narrative, Ms. Messeri brings to ZOA her passion and principles and is excited to be able to call this organization her new home.

"As a longtime advocate for Israel and Western values, I've followed ZOA's numerous successes and have been impressed by its loud, clear, unwavering voice when it comes to speaking out for Israel and combating the numerous anti-Semitic forces in the world today," Ms. Messeri states. "ZOA's multi-faceted approach of arming students and young professionals with knowledge and resources, empowering lobbyists and giving them access to the decision-makers in Washington, DC, and taking groups and individuals to task through legal channels by way of the ZOA Center for Law and Justice is particularly inspiring and effective. I'm honored to join ZOA and to have the opportunity to help shape the future structure of this critically important organization that has remained, since its inception, on the correct side of history."

ROLLING OUT A NEW STRUCTURE

Ms. Messeri is currently working with the National Executive Vice President, the National President, the Board and staff to head up ZOA's national outreach and engagement effort. Her role is multi-faceted: She is developing a donor

engagement structure to implement nationally, and will work with the current regional directors to apply it to the existing ZOA chapters across America and personalize it for their individual regions. In the long term, she will extend this model and work with additional areas of the country where eager, dedicated volunteers and board members are looking to build ZOA's presence in their communities.

In addition to shaping a national framework which will include ongoing programming and perks for members of the engagement levels around the country, Ms. Messeri is currently serving as a member of the New York Metro team which also includes the directors of ZOA's northern New Jersey and Long Island chapters. She has begun to implement the engagement structure by first introducing this new model to the greater New York area. The roll-out of engagement level programming to ZOA regions around the country will begin in early 2019.

PERKS AND PROGRESS

Although the engagement structure will grow and evolve over time, the National ZOA community will be able to take advantage of membership at a number of giving levels over the course of the year. For example, Herzl Society members (donors of \$1000 to \$2,499) will have the opportunity to attend exclusive programming featuring ZOA experts at speaker events, dessert receptions, insider briefings, panel discussions, and much more.

Higher giving levels will be able to take advantage of the opportunities that exist for all of the lower giving levels, along with invitations to small, exclusive receptions and other perks to be unveiled at a later date.

In addition, all engagement level members are already being recognized with special ribbons at the ZOA Gala. These ribbons will also be provided at the DC Mission and other national ZOA events.

POISED FOR SUCCESS!

The New York Metro team is kicking off the engagement structure this fall with a modest calendar of programs that will serve as a starting point. As of this writing, three Metro New York engagement level events are planned:

*"I'm honored to join ZOA and to have the opportunity to help shape the future structure of this critically important organization that has remained, since its inception, on the correct side of history."
-Talya Messeri*



Participants in the second Miami boot camp of ZOA's FFT with VP of Foundation for Defense of Democracies, Lawrence Muscant (standing, third from the left)



ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler and ZOA's FFT Miami President, Jennie Rimon

"ZOA's FFT provides the tools and strategies for young professionals to feel confident in any Israel-related discussion." – Jennie Rimon

On September 6, 2018, the engagement level roll-out will consist of a wine and cheese reception for \$1000+ givers, to be held at ZOA headquarters in Manhattan. A second event is planned for early October. Last, but certainly not least, the ZOA community engaged at \$5000+ and above are invited to attend an exclusive reception the night before the annual Gala in November, for which there has already been an overwhelming response.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

ZOA's national community can expect a much busier calendar for 2019 and beyond!

After the ZOA Gala on November 4, 2018, Ms. Messeri will be working very closely with the regional directors to fine-tune the structure for their respective regions. ZOA engagement level members around the country can look forward to exciting programs and perks where they live, and also to invitations to events around the country geared to their specific giving level. For example, we hope that Herzl Society members (\$1000+ donors) living in Boston can join us at a Herzl Society event in Florida, California, New York, or Philadelphia if they happen to be in the region at the time.

For engagement structure questions or if you would like additional information, please contact TMesseri@zoa.org.

FLORIDA

ZOA'S FUEL FOR TRUTH LAUNCHES IN MIAMI

Propelled by the commitment and energy of young lay leaders, Jennie and Elliott Rimon, ZOA Florida was proud to support the launch of ZOA's Fuel for Truth (FFT) in Miami. ZOA's FFT is a five to 10-week boot camp program for young professionals, to teach them how to advocate effectively for Israel.

Jennie explained why she was moved to launch ZOA's FFT in Miami: "As a young Jewish woman surrounded by a family of active Israel supporters, I felt that the program had a unique strategy on Israel advocacy. The program specifically targets young professionals because they are sometimes distracted from this important work. Moreover, many young professionals have recently graduated colleges which are heavily influenced by anti-Israel culture and have sometimes been fed misinformation. ZOA's FFT provides the tools and strategies for young professionals to feel confident in any Israel-related discussion. The added benefit of ZOA's FFT, and most importantly for some, is the social network and family atmosphere it creates. I was compelled to bring it to Miami."

The first Miami boot camp took place at the Rok Family Shul in Brickell and was followed approximately one month later with a larger group for the second boot camp in the same location. Later weeks of the boot camp featured several expert speakers, including Lawrence Muscant, Vice President of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies; Bal Harbour, Florida Mayor Gabriel Groisman; and Guy Gilady, Deputy Consul General to Florida and Puerto Rico in Miami.

ZOA's FFT program has grown quickly in South Florida, a clear sign that it is both needed and successful. ZOA Florida is looking forward to the next boot camp after the high holidays, in Aventura.

ACTIVISM

ZOA Florida was proud to be well represented at ZOA's annual pro-Israel Advocacy Mission to Capitol Hill. The Florida delegation met with Senator Marco Rubio's office and then broke off into meetings with their respective congressional representatives: Congresswomen Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and Lois Frankel.



Yom Hashoah Panel (L-R): Garel Way, Beth Torah exec. dir. Wayne Keil, Kat Lane, Beth Torah Rabbi Mario Rojzman, Sharona Whisler, Beth Torah President Steven Scheck, and Amber Cataldo



ZOA Florida sprang into action after the young pop artist known as Lorde canceled her concert in Israel at the request of supporters of the anti-Israel BDS movement. Lorde was scheduled to perform in April at two Florida state operated venues, the Miami Sports Authority and the Tampa Sports and Exhibition Authority. ZOA Florida reached out to these venues, urging them to cancel the concerts in accordance with Florida's anti-BDS law. In addition, ZOA Florida blasted out an action alert, urging ZOA members and supporters to contact the concert venues directly and call for the concerts to be canceled. ZOA Florida is now working on adding Lorde's corporation to Florida's list of scrutinized companies boycotting Israel.

ZOA Florida is also proud to be working with Josh Levy, mayor of the city of Hollywood, to pass an anti-BDS ordinance in the city. The proposed ordinance was crafted with the success of the state's law in mind, highlighting that BDS is anti-Semitic because it singles out the one Jewish state in the world and the only democracy in the Middle East, while ignoring the conduct of truly human-rights-abusing countries.

NEW CHAPTER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

After discussions with the Orlando-based Zionist activist group, Zionistas, the group was transformed into a ZOA chapter. This is a very exciting development in ZOA's effort to expand its reach in Florida, and it was made possible by the commitment that the Zionistas cultivated in Central Florida. The group is headed by new ZOA Florida board member, Dr. Daniel Layish.

The local Jewish newspaper, *The Heritage*, covered this exciting development, noting "that because of the community's involvement these past eight years, they are able to continue pro-Israel efforts, activism, and education here in Central Florida through ZOA." The new chapter has

already pulled off its first successful event with the screening of the film, *The Fight of Our Lives*.

YOM HASHOAH, YOM HAZIKARON AND YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Programming in the month of April centered on commemorating Yom Hashoah, Yom Ha'atzmaut, and Yom Hazikaron. ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler participated on a panel hosted by Beth Torah in Aventura, which included Beth Torah's Rabbi Mario Rojzman and other community leaders. A video of the panel discussion was produced by a new young Jewish engagement organization, 1Echad. The panel participants discussed how lessons from the Holocaust can help us confront anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism today.

For the second year, ZOA Florida co-sponsored the Young Israel of Hollywood's very special Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut program. ZOA also co-sponsored the first school-wide Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at Marlin's Stadium, organized by the Israeli Consulate and the Falic Family Foundation. This celebration brought together 12 local Jewish day schools for a blue and white parade. It also featured a program with Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez; Israel's Consul General to Florida and Puerto Rico, Lior Haiat; and a video message from Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. ZOA Florida also co-sponsored and set up an informational booth at the community-wide Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, hosted at Temple Kol Ami.

EVENTS

Along with the Chabad of West Boynton, Temple Emanuel in Miami Beach, and the Young Israel of Hollywood, ZOA hosted acclaimed author and investigative journalist, Edwin Black for three separate events. Mr. Black addressed the topic of

ZOA Florida is proud to be working with Josh Levy, mayor of the city of Hollywood, to pass an anti-BDS ordinance in the city.

ZOA Florida is excited to announce its first fundraising dinner, chaired by new board member Liz Brauser, honoring "Heroes for Israel" Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Rabbi Eliot Pearlson and his wife Judy, on Sunday, December 16.

"Israel and International Law," a presentation that starts at the beginning of Israel's biblical history.

ZOA Florida was proud to once again join forces with award-winning filmmaker, Gloria Greenfield, by screening her new film, *The Fight of Our Lives*. The film delves into the elements that threaten Western and democratic values, many of which also threaten Israel. ZOA hosted two events, including its first one in Orlando since a new ZOA chapter was established there. The turnout for this evening went beyond expectations for a first-time event and is a positive starting point for future programming. Jake Suster, a ZOA Fellow at the University of Central Florida (UCF), attended the screening and said, "Knights for Israel [the pro-Israel group at UCF] came to the event with an open mind, and by the end of the film, our members were left speechless. It was an eye-opening experience that showed them how fortunate we are at UCF to be able to openly and proudly advocate for the state of Israel. At the same time, students got a better understanding of why we advocate for Israel's right to exist in the first place."

The Downtown Center Chabad hosted the second screening of Greenfield's film. The post-screening discussion revolved around each person's role in making sure that their peers and children are grounded in democratic values and stand up to those who threaten them.

SAVE THE DATE FOR ZOA FLORIDA'S FIRST "HEROES FOR ISRAEL" DINNER

ZOA Florida is excited to announce its first fundraising dinner, chaired by new board member Liz Brauser, honoring "Heroes for Israel" – Con-

gresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Rabbi Eliot Pearlson and his wife, Judy – on Sunday, December 16. Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen announced last year that she would be serving her final term in office before retiring. She has been a champion for Zionist causes, often educating her congressional colleagues on important issues and challenges that Israel faces, from the House floor. ZOA Florida is honored that the congresswoman is accepting its first Zionist Hero award.

Rabbi Pearlson has been more than vocal about his Zionist activism over the years. He shows up when the community needs to come together for Israel. He is recognized in the South Florida community for his outspoken support for Israel, often sharing information that he has learned from ZOA with his congregants. Rabbi Pearlson has also continued the tradition of Temple Menorah's embrace of Jewish refugees from Russia and Argentina, in the same way that his predecessor welcomed Cuban Jews to the shul in the 1960's, without requiring a membership fee. His wife, Judy, is a well-respected and admired educator in her own right, no doubt serving as the foundational support and guidance for this team's important leadership for the South Florida Zionist community.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ZOA Florida welcomes new board members, Dr. Daniel Layish of Orlando and Liz Brauser of Hollywood. Dr. Layish serves as Vice-President of the Central Florida Pulmonary Group, chairs the Maimonides Chapter for Jewish Physicians of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando, serves on the Orlando Board of JNF and chairs its local Doctors for Israel chapter.

Liz has served on boards and chaired fundraising events for the Brauser Maimonides Academy (and played an instrumental role in its growth): Congregation Ohav Zedek in Manhattan; the South Florida Central Agency for Jewish Education; the National Conference of Synagogue Youth Southern Region, and many other chesed organizations.

To learn more about ZOA Florida or to get involved, please contact swhisler@zoa.org.



(L-R) Filmmaker Gloria Greenfield, ZOA Florida board member Dan Dalyish, Staci Layosh, Sharona Whisler

GREATER PHILADELPHIA PUTTING ADVOCACY INTO ACTION IN PHILADELPHIA AND BEYOND

Greater Philadelphia ZOA hosted an event this past summer unlike any we have held before – and we hope it is the first of many such events. On June 26, we presented “An Evening With Frank Luntz,” at a Marriott in Center City, Philadelphia. The program included an exclusive pre-event Patrons’ Reception with glatt-kosher food and wine from Israel, and remarks by Luntz. This was followed by a public, free-wheeling presentation by the noted public opinion and communications maven, which was informative, stimulating, engaging and enjoyable. Nearly 200 people – across a wide range of ages, political views, religions and levels of observance – listened, learned and laughed during Luntz’s presentation focusing on “American Public Opinion About Israel: What Forms it, and What Can Pro-Israel Advocates Do to Improve It.” The evening began with greetings and opening remarks from ZOA National President Morton Klein. This event was our first Jerome Taylor, Esq. Forum event, sponsored by Judy Taylor in memory of her husband, attorney and Greater Philadelphia ZOA Board member, Jerome Taylor, Esq.

Though the bar has been set high, we will strive to hurdle it with our annual Gala, scheduled for October 17. Once again we will celebrate America and Israel, rejoice in an evening filled with spirited Zionism and patriotism, and honor the cream among a vast crop of pro-Israel advocates and activists from our region.

Last fall, a representative of the Council on American-Islamic Relations spoke and presented a film at a local public library. Leaders and members of Greater Philadelphia ZOA attended the event, to monitor it and refute any would-be distortions. The film and talk perverted the history of Muslim and Arab mistreatment of Jews and were also anti-Jewish and anti-Israel. In response to Greater Philadelphia ZOA’s protesting of the event, library officials invited us to have an event of our own –

and so we did. We screened the film “Body and Soul, the State of the Jewish Nation,” and featured a talk by local sage, Naphtali Perlberger, a new vice president and board member of Greater Philadelphia ZOA. Significantly more people attended our event than the CAIR event.

Last winter, we received hundreds of cards and letters from students at Jewish day schools, synagogue Hebrew schools and Jewish Community Center programs for our “Bring the Joy of Purim to the Men and Women of the Israel Defense Forces” campaign. The campaign operates in conjunction with ZOA National’s annual Purim mission, led by Brooklyn ZOA’s Rubin Margules. Nearly 20 educational facilities responded to our request for cards and letters. The warm sentiments expressed in each submission – both in words and drawings – show that the youngest of American Jews strongly support Israel’s defenders in uniform. We made a video featuring some of the submissions we received – set to children singing “Hatikvah” – before they were eventually hand-delivered to Israel’s heroes by Rubin and his team.

Frank Luntz and his topic – “American Public Opinion About Israel: What Forms it, and What Can Pro-Israel Advocates Do to Improve It” – were a great learning experience made possible by the generosity of Judy Taylor.



Greater Philadelphia Executive Director Steve Feldman (left), with Judith Taylor and Frank Luntz

During a PowerPoint presentation by Executive Director Steve Feldman, pro-Israel young professionals who are part of a new local group called "Focus" were appalled to see the level of anti-Israel media bias.

HELPING TO NAB A CRIMINAL

In May, a day after the City of Philadelphia officially commemorated the 70th anniversary of Israel's re-establishment, vandals desecrated an Israeli flag hanging above one of the city's most prominent thoroughfares, dousing it with red paint. While one of the suspects was arrested and charged, another remains at large as of this writing. Greater Philadelphia ZOA has become involved in identifying the other suspect by creating a "wanted" flyer of sorts, which the Philadelphia Police Department is using in its investigative efforts.



SHOWING THE JEWISH PEOPLE'S HISTORIC CONNECTION TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

We created an exhibit called "Maps Tell the Story" – a collection of four 3'x2' maps – which vividly shows that the land of Israel has belonged to the Jewish people for millennia, that we have had a continuous presence in the land, and that

our most significant and historic places are in areas that much of the world seeks to take away from Israel and the Jewish people. The maps go back to the areas that were set aside for each of the tribes in the biblical era, to present-day Israel, including all of Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. Others show how small Israel is compared to the Arab world, and how even tinier it is compared to the vast Muslim lands. We have shown the exhibit at three events and it is even more popular than we anticipated, with people taking the time to look over each map carefully. In fact, when the maps were on display at our event with Frank Luntz, Luntz referred to them positively in his presentation. The maps are also available on our website under the "Take Action" tab, within "Advocacy Resources." See them at: <http://philly.zoa.org/pdf-resources/>.

We displayed our map exhibit at the ZOA booth at two major Israel 70 festivals in the region: in Cherry Hill, NJ, at an event sponsored by the Katz Jewish Community Center, and in Valley Forge, PA, at an event sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. At the two events, we gave out thousands of pieces of literature about ZOA, Israel, Zionism and pro-Israel advocacy.

As part of Israel's 70th re-birthday celebrations, the Philadelphia Orchestra traveled to Israel to perform. In advance of the orchestra's trip, anti-Israel activists staged nearly a dozen demonstrations and protests, and local media featured vicious anti-Israel articles and columns. ZOA members took part in a couple of pro-Israel counter-demonstrations. We also responded to a number of the anti-Israel articles, letters and op-eds with op-eds and letters of our own. In addition, we contacted reporters and editors to protest the lies – which included accusations that Israel is an "apartheid" state and slaughtering thousands of civilians.

More generally, Greater Philadelphia ZOA leaders and members had articles, op-eds and letters published in a variety of publications, and we were interviewed a number of times on the radio. We also gave talks and made presentations to a variety of organizations and at synagogues throughout the region, including a new group for pro-Israel young professionals called "Focus." The group is affiliated with ZOA's Fuel For Truth.

Maps of historic Israel, contemporary Israel and Israel compared to the Arab and Muslim world are compelling, crystallizing issues using images that otherwise might require a book's worth of explanations.



ADDING TO OUR LEADERSHIP

Earlier this year, Greater Philadelphia ZOA held elections of board members and officers. Our current roster of officers is: co-presidents Lee Bender and Kevin Ross; vice presidents Heather Berman, Ruth Gleit, Naphtali Perlberger, Kevin Williams and Wendy Woloshin; and treasurer Len Getz. Gene Shusman continues as our chairman of the board. Also, we welcomed three new members to our board: Roy Kardon, Naphtali Perlberger and Al Shapiro. The elections took place at a festive board dinner that featured a presentation by Dan Pollak, co-director of ZOA's Government Relations Department. Earlier in the day, Dan gave a presentation on upcoming changes in Congress, and their implications for Israel, at

an exclusive event in Center City, hosted by the law firm of Allen L. Rothenberg, Esq. We hope to meet with a number of congressional candidates in the region, from both parties, between now and the November elections, to discuss their respective positions on Israel and related matters, and to offer information that will help them better understand the region.

More than 40 members and friends from our region participated in ZOA's annual Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Mission last May, where we advocated for increased sanctions on Iran, and to protect the rights of Jews living in Judea and Samaria. We anticipate that our chapter will be well represented at ZOA's Brandeis Award Dinner in Manhattan in November.



Greater Philadelphia ZOA Board Chairman Gene Shusman; member Malka Kantor-Rapkin; Frank Luntz; and Howard Katzoff at pre-event reception



Greater Philadelphia ZOA Co-President Kevin Ross (right) greets students from Koheret Yeshiva High School at ZOA's Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Mission

PITTSBURGH

ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ZOA Pittsburgh announced the recipients of its Israel Scholarship Program for 2018. They are Elana Eydelman, Rachel Luzer, and Aviva Itskowitz. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship to help offset expenses of their respective summer study programs.

"I want to thank the Chair, Julie Paris, and her Scholarship Committee for their time and energy spent on the most important program that ZOA does each year," said Jeff Pollock, president of the ZOA Pittsburgh chapter. "It is really exciting to see the enthusiasm and interest displayed by all of the applicants. I only wish we had more endowments to fund additional scholarships."

Since its inception in 1962, the ZOA Scholarship Program has awarded hundreds of scholarships to Jewish high school students in the Pittsburgh area. Students are evaluated on their accomplishments, volunteerism, and essays on the topic, "What the State of Israel and Zionism Mean to Me."

The Israel Scholarship Program continues today with funding from endowments underwritten by Avraham and Patti Anouchi; Harold and Marla Scheinman; the late Thelma Esman; the late Bernard and Esther Klionsky; and the Novick family, in loving memory of the late Ivan and Natalie Novick.

ZOA'S TOLERANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Zalman Shapiro, PhD, *z"l*, a former ZOA national board member, recognized the need for Holocaust education in the late 1990's. His concern was that as more time passed, the Holocaust would be in the distant past, and many people simply would not know about it. To fill the need to educate young people about the Holocaust, he created ZOA's Tolerance Education Program.

The program was designed to complement what is being taught in the schools and culminates in a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, DC. Sophomores who are studying or who have studied the Holocaust in a history/social studies class are

Israel Scholarship Recipients



Elana Eydelman attended the NCSY - Israel in Depth program. She said, "Israel is the Jewish home where we are always welcome. Being a Zionist is wanting to feel closer to the land of Israel, the people, the culture, the environment, and being proud of Israel and being Jewish."



Rachel Luzer also attended the NCSY - Israel in Depth program. Rachel said, "I want to visit Israel to experience, to touch, and to see many of those places I have spent my entire life learning about. The Kotel and Rachel's grave are two of the many historically important sites to me."



Aviva Itskowitz attended the NCSY - Michletet program. Aviva said, "Israel is a place where Jews and Judaism can flourish and grow without feeling like an outsider or a minority as in other countries. Zionism is expressing a love for Israel and showing how important it is for the survival of the Jewish people."

eligible to participate on a first-come, first-served basis. Learning about history in class is often soon forgotten, but a visit to the USHMM leaves a lasting memory.

The first trips to the USHMM began in 1999. They became a tradition that continues until today. Each spring, 11 motor coaches take over 525 students to DC. From inception to the present date, ZOA Pittsburgh has taken 6,400 students to the USHMM.

Following the trip, participating students complete surveys about their knowledge and their experience. In addition, they compete in a ZOA essay contest for prizes.



Pittsburgh Public School students after they visited the US Holocaust Museum

Quotes from winning essays:

"This experience changed me . . . I learned how this traumatic event impacted those at the time but it also impacts generations to come. In addition to the knowledge that the Holocaust Memorial Museum provided me with, this trip changed my attitudes. It has put my life into perspective."

"My impression on visiting the Holocaust Museum was heartbreaking. It was beyond hurt or grief, it was horrifying seeing the millions of innocent children, parents, and grandparents piled out for dead. Burning humans and treating them like they're animals! Learning about the Holocaust showed me what true hate looks like."

"I found myself growing increasingly sickened by the acts that were committed by the Nazis. How could someone be so cruel? How could someone harbor so much hatred in their hearts? Why kill innocent people who've done nothing harmful to those around them?"

"I did not just learn what happened during the Holocaust, I learned how bad it was and how as a society we must never forget what happened in that time, and never let it happen again. We must never stand by and watch while our fellow humans suffer, and we must never be silent during a time when we need to speak up."

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Every other year, Grace Baptist Church of Monroeville (12 miles east of Pittsburgh) and the Friends of Israel Ministry hold a “Night to Honor Israel.”

The program consists of a Jewish speaker and a Christian speaker. Part of the program is to raise money for a Jewish charity. The event is coordinated by church members Rev. Jeff and Arlene Berg, professionals with the Ministry.

ZOA Pittsburgh’s Executive Director, Stuart Pavilack, was a guest speaker at the latest program. He started his presentation by saying, “I was asked to speak about Jewish ties to the land of Israel, last year’s 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, and the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel. That covers some 3,500 years and in the next breath they said, ‘be brief.’” He said, “Herein lies the problem. Once you get to know me, you will realize the words ‘Stuart’ and ‘brief’ cannot be used in the same sentence.” The Church raised \$2,300 for ZOA’s Tolerance Education Program.

MICHIGAN ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND ISRAEL EDUCATION WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The purpose of ZOA Michigan’s scholarship program is to educate, train and motivate students to become passionate, dedicated and effective pro-Israel advocates, and to provide scholarship assistance to students participating in various organized educational trips to Israel.

Our Israel Education Workshops were successful. Students learned about the Arab-Israeli conflict, Jewish history and heritage, Zionism and serving in the IDF. We also discussed how to answer tough questions about Israel that they might encounter on their college campuses.

Some of the students are planning 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 students for students on campus and around the Jewish community.

Our education workshop and scholarship program are open to all Jewish teens in Metro Detroit where we have connected, and will continue to connect, Jewish teens through their common love of Israel. The program promotes Jewish identity and encourages students to take on leadership roles and become active pro-Israel advocates.

Over the past few years, ZOA Michigan has spent approximately \$60,000 in scholarships to help students afford trips to Israel.

FIGHTING BDS AND EXPOSING CAMPUS ANTI- SEMITISM

In support of the Jewish state and in opposition to the BDS movement against Israel, we continue to encourage Americans to purchase Israeli goods and introduce fine Israeli products to stores in Michigan. In addition, through events and social media, we make sure the public understands that the BDS movement is just another chapter in a book of many who failed in the past to destroy the Jewish State through violence and terrorism. The BDS movement aims to do so through economic warfare and isolation.

Nazi SS officers stood outside Jewish stores in Germany, boycotting them simply because the owners were Jewish. Similarly, the BDS movement is boycotting a state because it is Jewish. The Nazi movement’s goal was to destroy the Jewish people, and the BDS movement’s goal is to destroy the Jewish state. While BDS representatives may claim their movement is about equality, the truth is that the movement has nothing to do with human rights and everything to do with anti-Semitism. Otherwise, the BDS movement would target countries such as Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia, three countries with a long history of appalling human rights violations – not Israel.

What is even more alarming than the BDS movement’s goals, however, is the fact that more and more young Jews are identifying with different elements of the BDS movement. Speaking with a number of Jewish students from the University of Michigan, some of whom are supporters of J Street, we found that while most of them do not support divesting from Jewish companies inside the “Green Line” (i.e., the 1949 armistice lines),

they do see merit in boycotting Jews who live outside the Green Line.

The Jewish community needs to ask itself how more than 80 years after the Nuremberg Laws, Jewish young adults – although still a minority, albeit a growing one – can believe it is right to boycott other Jews. The situation is bad, but it will only get worse if we fail to effectively address it.

The pro-Israel community must adjust its strategy from defense to offense. The conversation should shift from whether or not Israel deserves to be boycotted to the actual human rights violations that Palestinian Arabs are responsible for. Daily attempts by Palestinian Arabs to murder Jews, teaching their children to glorify the killing of Jews, and paying murdering terrorists should be the main topics when discussing the conflict or the BDS movement.

It is time to stop being on the defense and take the initiative to change the conversation on campus, so that BDS resolutions, like the one that passed at the University of Michigan, do not pass elsewhere.

SPEAKING IN SCHOOLS

ZOA Director, Kobi Erez, gave presentations in the spring and summer to high school students at various schools, barbecues and social events. Erez focused on educating students about the BDS movement and its similarities to the anti-Semitic Nazi Germany policies 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 strategies to use in these situations.



Executive Director Kobi Erez addressing high school students

ZOA Michigan Director Kobi Erez focused on educating students about the BDS movement and its similarities to the anti-Semitic Nazi Germany policies of boycotting Jewish stores, products and literature.



ZOA Michigan community BBQ

These presentations are part of ZOA's ongoing mission to educate, train and motivate students to become passionate, dedicated and effective pro-Israel advocates. ZOA provides support to students who advocate for Israel on campus.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ZOA Michigan celebrated Israel's 70th year and the relocation of the US embassy to Jerusalem with a presentation by Dan Pollak, co-director of ZOA's Government Relations Department. Pollak spoke about the challenges Israel faces at 70 and the responsibility American Jews have to support the Jewish state. Guests enjoyed Israeli refreshments and wine at the presentation.

We hosted a special film presentation and discussion entitled "Europe's Jewish Exodus." The wake of anti-Semitism in Europe has sparked an exodus of Jewish people from the continent. Some Jewish leaders maintain that there is no longer a future for Jews in Europe. The film and talk by ZOA Michigan's Executive Director, Kobi Erez, showcased what may be in store for European Jews and what we can do to help them.

We had the privilege of hosting producer/director Gloria Greenfield who spoke about and

screened her new documentary, *The Fight of Our Lives*. The film examines the internal and external threats facing the West. Over 200 hundred people enjoyed this important film.

ZOA – J STREET DEBATE

In May 2018, ZOA Director Kobi Erez debated a J Street representative in front of a group of college students. A student at Wayne State University organized the debate. We discussed key issues of the conflict, including the "two-state solution," Palestinian Arab terrorist culture, the right of the Jewish people to live anywhere in Israel, international pressure on Israel and how J Street actively lobbies for this pressure.

J Street, another Jewish organization that sees itself as part of the social justice movement, lobbied for the December 2016 UN 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 terror group) and Israel. It is our job to continue to expose J Street and other organizations like IfNotNow who hide behind their Jewish identity to disguise what they really are – anti-Israel organizations.

MEDIA RELATIONS

ZOA op-eds that focused on the Iran deal, the Israeli-Palestinian Arab 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*. We reached thousands of people and educated them on current events.



ZOA Michigant event flyer featuring the film, *The Fight Of Our Lives*



ZOA MI Director Kobi Erez debating a J street representative

WEST COAST

In the spring of 2018, the ZOA's West Coast chapter focused on reaching new communities in the Western region and developed new strategies for outreach. This was accomplished while maintaining a steady tempo of educational programs throughout the state of California.

OUTREACH TO CALIFORNIA ELECTED OFFICIALS

With the help of ZOA lay leaders on the Northern California Board of Directors, ZOA West Coast launched an initiative to engage with elected officials in the California state legislature. The ZOA West Coast board recognized that Zionist interests were not being represented in the capitol, although anti-Israel groups like CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations) were regularly afforded a seat at the table.

ZOA's West Coast Director, David Kadosh, developed a relationship with the office of Assemblyman Marc Levine, chair of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus. The Jewish Caucus is currently comprised of 15 Democrats from both the California Assembly and Senate. The Jewish Caucus sponsored anti-BDS legislation which was adopted as law in 2016. They have also

taken positions against anti-Semitism and issued statements in support of Israel. Despite their many achievements, the chair of the Caucus expressed interest in working with ZOA to better educate state legislators on the important challenges facing Israel.

In June, ZOA sponsored an educational program for elected officials which was hosted by the Jewish Caucus in a room on the Senate side of the California State Capitol. Itamar Marcus, Director of Palestinian Media Watch (PMW - www.palwatch.org), delivered a presentation documenting Palestinian Arab incitement to violence against Jews and the pervasiveness of anti-Semitism in Palestinian society.

ZOA has consistently raised the issue of Palestinian Arab incitement as one of the main impediments to peace. Palestinian political and religious leaders regularly resort to anti-Semitic diatribes based on conspiracy theories, and actively call for violence against Jews. Streets, buildings, and sports stadiums are named after terrorists who have murdered innocent Israeli civilians. This hatred is unbridled and can be found in Palestinian Arab textbooks and on children's television programs.

PMW translates Palestinian Arab media broadcasts, public sermons, and political speeches

The ZOA West Coast board recognized that Zionist interests were not being represented in the capitol, although anti-Israel groups like CAIR (Council on American Islamic Relations) were regularly afforded a seat at the table.



ZOA Northern California board members, Rudy Melnitzer and Dr. Arnie Zeiderman, discuss Palestinian incitement to hatred and violence with Itamar Marcus and CA state legislators



ZOA members (center) after the San Diego Yom Ha'atzmaut Festival with ZOA Campus Director Leore Ben-David and ZOA West Coast Executive Director David Kadosh



Dr. Asaf Romirowsky pres

in order to expose these hate-mongers in their own words. Marcus presented his research to a bipartisan gathering of nine State Senators and Assembly members, and their staff. The legislators appreciated learning from Marcus and were disgusted by the rampant child abuse and anti-Semitic indoctrination in the Palestinian Arab-controlled areas.

The next ZOA legislative event is planned for the first week back from summer recess. Investigative journalist Edwin Black will deliver a presentation on Israel's legitimacy under international law and the widespread support for its founding.

ACCESSING NEW COMMUNITIES

As the 70th anniversary of Israel's independence approached, ZOA West Coast organized events with community partners throughout the region. During these preparations, a new community, in Spokane, Washington, reached out to ZOA for support. ZOA worked with a local synagogue, Temple Beth Shalom, and facilitated a Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) program with indigenous rights activist, Ryan Bellerose. Ryan is a native Canadian, of the Meti tribe, who spoke with the group about Zionism as an indigenous rights struggle. Many Israel supporters, unfortunately, lack the understanding of the Jewish people's moral and legal right to self-determination in their national, historic homeland – Israel.

The Jewish community in Spokane was grateful for ZOA's support and, in July, the ZOA West Coast Director visited the community to solidify the relationship. There, he met with professors from the local universities and with Jewish community leaders, and was hosted at Temple Beth Shalom for a presentation on the importance of Jewish self-defense. ZOA's Pacific Northwest Campus Coordinator is planning a trip to the

region in the fall, to follow up with the many schools in the area.

COMMEMORATING 70 YEARS OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE

ZOA West Coast co-sponsored two programs with Dr. Mordechai Kedar, in San Francisco and Los Angeles, for an in-depth analysis of Israel's relations with the Arab/Muslim world, on the eve of Israel's 70th anniversary. Dr. Kedar is an Israeli scholar of Arab culture, and lectures at Bar-Ilan University. He spoke about Arab tribalism and identity, and explained how "Palestinian" identity was created in 1964 as a weapon in the Soviet/Arab fight against Israel.

ZOA also took part in two community-wide Independence Day festivals in San Mateo and San Diego. The ZOA booth was popular at both festivals and attracted large crowds, thanks to ZOA volunteers distributing free root beer floats made with Israeli SodaStream technology. Festival-goers were happy to take ZOA educational materials, including the new ZOA reports exposing J Street as an anti-Israel organization and dispelling the myth that Israel "occupies Arab land."

While in Southern California, ZOA's West Coast director worked with ZOA Campus and delivered presentations on the importance of Jewish self-defense. We gave introductory Krav Maga demonstrations at Chapman University and California State University at Long Beach.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PROGRAMS

In addition to developing a new relationship with the community in Spokane, Washington, ZOA West Coast expanded its outreach in Marin and Sonoma counties in Northern California. ZOA organized a parlor meeting to introduce

ZOA has consistently raised the issue of Palestinian Incitement as one of the main impediments to peace.



sents his research on UNRWA in Santa Rosa, CA



Q&A at the ZOA West Coast screening of *The Fight Of Our Lives*

ZOA's director and lay leadership to active members from both counties.

In June, ZOA coordinated an event in Santa Rosa with Dr. Asaf Romirowsky. Romirowsky's research focuses on abuse and corruption within the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the UN agency which oversees Palestinian Arab "refugees." He compared the special treatment Palestinians are afforded by UNRWA to the protocol at the UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), which oversees the remainder of the world's refugees.

Only Palestinian Arabs are granted refugee status for their descendants, in perpetuity. In all other cases, refugee status is applied to those who were directly displaced as a result of conflict. UNRWA has become a self-serving machine with a budget far outstripping the UNHCR's. UNRWA employs over 30,000 staff compared to the UNHCR's 11,000. Some of those employed by UNRWA also hold positions in the Palestinian Arab terrorist organizations, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. UNRWA schools indoctrinate Palestinian students against Israel and use maps labelling all of Israel as "Palestine." Romirowsky elaborated on the positive effect of the American re-evaluation of support for UNRWA, and provided concrete examples of how the American UN delegation can impose meaningful changes to the organization.

In February, ZOA hosted director/producer Gloria Greenfield for two screenings of her latest film, *The Fight of Our Lives: Defeating the Ideological War Against the West*. Following the film's premiere in Los Angeles, ZOA West Coast organized events at the JCC in Palo Alto and at Cornerstone Church in Fresno. The film confronts many of the threats facing Western societies. One of the academics interviewed in the film, Professor Bruce Thornton, joined the Fresno screening to participate in the Q&A discussion.

CONFRONTING BIASED EDUCATION IN SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ZOA West Coast worked with the ZOA Center for Law and Justice to address a significant incident of anti-Israel subversion in San Francisco. The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) entered into a contract with a radical anti-Israel group, the Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC). AROC has been at the forefront of BDS activities in the Bay Area. It regularly stages protests and fundraisers for "Gaza," and hosts speaking tours for anti-Israel activists. The group gained notoriety in 2014 when they organized a protest known as "Block the Boat" at which they physically attempted to block the Israeli ZIM shipping company from docking at the Port of Oakland, one of the largest ports of entry for goods into the United States. One of the group's leaders, Reem Assil, commissioned a mural inside of her Oakland bakery, honoring convicted terrorist Rasmea Odeh. Odeh was convicted and imprisoned in Israel for her role in a 1969 bombing attack on an Israeli supermarket, which killed two college students. After she was released in a prisoner exchange and immigrated to the US, she was deported in 2017 for failing to disclose her criminal history and purposefully misleading US immigration officials.

Despite warnings and protests from the Jewish community, the SFUSD entered into a contract with AROC to teach Arabic and Arab cultural lessons in San Francisco's public schools. ZOA provided the district's board of education and Superintendent with numerous examples of how AROC is in violation of the district's own requirement for contracted groups to conform to their non-discrimination policy. In its letter to district officials, the ZOA wrote: "AROC must publicly and unequivocally renounce all of its anti-Israel and anti-Zionist rhetoric, cleanse its website of all such rhetoric, and publicly apologize for

ZOA coordinated an event in Santa Rosa with Dr. Asaf Romirowsky, whose research focuses on abuse and corruption within the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the UN agency which oversees Palestinian Arab "refugees."

ZOA is building relationships with elected officials, community leaders, and college students in order to develop their understanding of the many issues important to Zionists.

engaging in such discriminatory conduct to this point. If AROC refuses to do so, then the decision to grant AROC a contract must be rescinded.”

ZOA West Coast will continue to confront anti-Semitism and anti-Zionist activity in the Western region and is working with local activists to organize rapid mobilization forces in the East Bay counties, which are often a focal point for anti-Israel activity. ZOA is building relationships with elected officials, community leaders, and college students in order to develop their understanding of and appreciation for the many issues important to Zionists.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

ZOA has been quite busy in the Garden State. Take a look at what we’ve been up to.

ZOA received a telephone call from the rabbi at Temple Shalom in Succasunna, New Jersey.

“Would the ZOA help teach our high school students about the BDS movement and what life is like for Jewish students on college campuses?”

On a blustery Sunday morning in February Executive Director of Northern NJ Alan Jay, and former Tri-State Campus Coordinator Seth Greenwald headed west to help prepare Jewish students for a safe and rewarding college campus experience.

Here at the ZOA we dispel myths and present facts. Which is exactly what we did in Succasunna, but first we needed to set the mood. It is easier to defend Israel if you love Israel. And if you know Israel, you’ll love Israel. So to infuse the room with the spirit of Israeli culture, we brought cookies and candies and other snacks, all made in Israel! We brought a host of ZOA Campus materials that teach students about Israel and the broader Middle East in terms that students can relate to, materials that teach them how to respond to the anti-Israel, anti-Semitic narrative. We shared ZOA’s position on the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign: that it is not intended to enhance the lives of Palestinian Arabs but rather to destroy Israel.

To demonstrate how important Israel is to the United States, we shared information about the growing number of states, New Jersey included, that have passed legislation deterring corporate entities from participating in BDS and prohibiting state

pension fund investment in pro-BDS companies.

Leaving the program, we were confident that the ZOA provided a strong Zionist foundation upon which these future college students can build. They will walk onto their chosen college campuses with the basic tools to feel safe and secure as pro-Israel Jews, even if challenged by opposing viewpoints. We were delighted that the synagogue’s rabbi and educational director drew the same conclusion. They wrote:

“Thank you and Seth for a fantastic presentation!

You definitely started a very important dialogue, which we hope to continue within our community.”

ICAN TEEN CONFERENCE

The Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey (JFNNJ) sponsors an annual iCAN Teen Conference “to help prepare high school teens to discuss Israel and Jewish issues they may encounter at college. They will gain a better understanding of the rhetoric and responses to the BDS movement (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel) and anti-Semitism.”

iCAN is a phenomenal program and for the second year in a row, the ZOA was invited to participate. We led educational sessions with students and provided students with important tools to help them feel safe, secure and confident when they go to college. We met and spoke with students and their parents from high schools throughout New Jersey and the New York metropolitan area. In many cases we were able to give students contact information for ZOA Fellows (i.e., ZOA’s college liaisons who act on ZOA’s behalf on their respective campuses, by tabling with ZOA materials and organizing pro-Israel events) at the schools they expected to attend.

The ZOA is proud to partner with the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey and we’re excited that we have already been asked to participate in iCAN 2019!

HATE SPACES SCREENING

Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance on Campus, is a documentary film that is part of a national campaign to educate and mobilize the Jewish community and the American public to respond effectively to the increasing hostility toward Jewish students on college campuses.

Last April, the Rockland County-based Focus on Reality group (FOR), in conjunction with Congregation Shaarey Israel in Suffern, New York,

screened the film and invited the ZOA to moderate a discussion about it. We were glad to oblige. The film was introduced by FOR and Northern New Jersey chapter Executive Director Alan Jay took over when the film ended. He summarized the film, and provided historical background on the BDS movement and some of the other anti-Israel groups featured in the film. Alan described the ZOA's work on campus, as well as specific anti-Semitic incidents that led to the ZOA being recruited to defend the civil rights of Jewish students. The screening ended with a substantive Q&A featuring insightful questions and observations and a general consensus that this is a problem that must be highly prioritized.

One member of the FOR group shared her thoughts in a letter she sent to President Donald Trump (and shared with the ZOA):

"Our moderator, Alan D. Jay, Zionist Organization of America, did a wonderful job answering questions as well as suggesting we get in touch with our legislators. So we are asking you to direct us as to how we get the attention of our Senators and Representatives to make up and address the negative challenges Jewish students are facing on many college campuses."

WASHINGTON MISSION

The delegation traveling on the New Jersey bus to Washington D.C. for its annual advocacy mission was a bona fide cross section of pro-Israel society: women, men, doctors, lawyers, educators and others—some working, others retired. Most impressive, we were

fortunate to be joined by several students from the Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls and the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies. Everyone took time out from their busy schedules to stand up for a safe and secure Israel. The New Jersey bus was managed by Susan Tuchman, director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, and Alan Jay, executive director of the ZOA's Northern New Jersey chapter.

Prior to the mission, all participants received the talking points to be addressed with the lawmakers they would be meeting, including background information and instructions on how to advocate effectively. This year's talking points focused on Iran and the right of the Jewish people to live in Judea and Samaria (you will find details about the mission elsewhere in this report).

All the lawmakers we met were incredibly receptive, welcoming and attentive to our cause. It was especially rewarding when Senator Bob Menendez specifically greeted the students who were part of our delegation and commented that their presence demonstrates that the future of the ZOA and Israel is in good hands!

The feedback we received about the mission was enthusiastic, including the following:

"I want to thank you and the ZOA organization for all the effort made to allow for all of the high school students, including myself, to be able to attend the mission on Wednesday May 9."

"I have had a week now to dwell on the experience I had in Washington with the ZOA. I cannot fully express in words how much of an eye opening time it was for me. I made my first trip to our nation's capital and was able to interact with countless other people, listening to new points of view and expressing my own....It was surreal to meet with Senator Menendez and shake hands and take pictures with Senator Cruz and Representative Gottheimer."



Alan Jay (left), Howard Katzoff (right), and ZOA NJ activists with Cong. Josh Gottheimer (center) at the Capitol Hill mission

Enthusiasm has been growing with the chapter in New England. Event participants have commented that it is "enlightening and uplifting to know there is a Jewish organization that actually understands the issues."

NEW ENGLAND

Chaim Weizmann, the first President of Israel, was once asked, "Why don't you just accept the offer to establish a Jewish State in Uganda?" He answered, "That's like me asking why you drove 50 miles to see your mother when there are so many other nice old ladies so much closer to your home."

The Land of Israel is the national homeland of the Jewish people. By any criteria, whether it be the Biblical Mandate, the historical connection, the spiritual and religious bond, or international law, the Jewish people and the Land of Israel are inseparable.

The Jewish people lived and worshipped as a free and sovereign nation in the Land of Israel for hundreds of years, from the time Joshua re-entered the land with the Israelites, until the Babylonians destroyed the holy Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BCE. Seventy years later, the Jews rebuilt this Temple, which then stood for centuries until the Romans destroyed it in the year 70 CE. The Temple Mount in Jerusalem remains the holiest place within Judaism, and to this day, every Jew turns towards the Temple Mount to pray.

Throughout the centuries, many conquerors tried to incorporate the Land of Israel into their own empires: the Babylonian empire, Persian and Greco-Assyrian, Roman, Byzantine, Arab Caliphates, Turkish, Crusader, Ayyubid, Mameluke, and Ottoman.

But despite these attempts, Israel remained the country of the Jewish people, and Jerusalem has served as the capital of only the Jewish nation.

In the modern era, the rights of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel were recognized and codified in international law at the San Remo Conference of 1920.

Following World War I, world representatives came together in San Remo, Italy, empowered to fulfill the terms of peace, which included the breakup of the former Ottoman Empire. Not only Israel, but also Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, were all established out of what had been sections of the Ottoman Empire.

In 1920, these international representatives passed the San Remo Resolution. To achieve their goal of reconstituting the ancient Jewish

homeland, they allocated the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, the land that currently comprises Jordan, the Golan Heights, and Gaza. They specified these particular regions because this is where Jews have lived since ancient times and was recognized as the native land of the Jewish people.

The San Remo Resolution was signed into international law and was subsequently endorsed by the League of Nations, adding to international law the full weight of the international community. In addition, it became part of US law when President Harding signed a Joint Resolution of the 67th Congress of the United States and when the US signed the Anglo-American Convention of 1924.

The international arbiters who gathered in San Remo recognized the sovereign rights of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel and secured them in international law. Subsequently guaranteed by a unanimous vote of the League of Nations – an obligation that was inherited by the United Nations – the Jewish right to live anywhere between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea remains codified in international law to this day; the 1947 Partition Plan, which is so often cited as the legal basis for Israel's borders, never held any legal authority.

These are just a few of the facts about Israel and its history that ZOA New England has been discussing at parlor meetings, as the youngest chapter of the Zionist Organization of America is establishing its regional presence.

Enthusiasm has been growing with the chapter in New England. Event participants have commented that it is "enlightening and uplifting to know there is a Jewish organization that actually understands the issues."

A second attendee added that the event she attended "was absolutely wonderful [and that she] can't wait to bring friends and family to our next meeting."

ZOA New England has been joined on several occasions by Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., Director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice. Her groundbreaking work on behalf of Israel-supporting students on college campuses has been an inspiration to every group which has heard her speak. Her intimate knowledge of campus life across the country is clear. And one is struck that on the

one hand, Ms. Tuchman has had an impact on the way Jewish college students across the entire country are legally protected. Yet, at the same time, she has made herself available on such an individual level so as to have detailed, personal stories about individual students who have sought her help. The follow-up questions for this special speaker always continue long after the formal event has ended.

In addition, ZOA Campus Associate Director and New England Coordinator Jonathan Ginsberg has been a wonderful local presence and a wealth of information about local campus life and issues. Jonathan provides pro-Israel programming at numerous colleges and universities, and empowers students from all backgrounds through a series of interactive initiatives, including ZOA-led advocacy seminars and educational tabling on campus. In addition, he has presented at each ZOA New England gathering.

Looking forward, ZOA New England is determined to become a strong regional presence and correct the often-prevalent misinformation about Israel. Dedicated Zionists are excited to launch an Israel Ulpan. Patterned after the Hebrew Ulpan, in which students and olim immerse themselves in speaking Hebrew upon arriving in Israel, ZOA New England Israel Ulpan will be an opportunity to gain knowledge and develop confidence when speaking about Israel.

The Boston area is also fortunate to be a location for ZOA's Fuel For Truth, a program designed specifically for young professionals in their 20's and 30's. While learning to speak up for Israel in effective ways, the participants form a community of peers. The next seven-week Boot Camp program will begin in October.

ZOA New England members marveled recently as National President Morton Klein was once again called upon to testify on Capitol Hill. Just as he explained in November of 2017 on the world stage the centrality of Jerusalem to Judaism and to the Jewish people, on July 17, 2018, he explained the importance of the Golan Heights to the Jewish people and its place in Jewish history. From the synagogues and mikvaot of the ancient city of Gamla in the first century BCE, to the Jewish antiquities found in the village of Katzrin, the Jewish presence in the Golan Heights dates back to Biblical times.

Zionists in New England 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. As we continue to grow, we look forward to expanding our support of and contribution to the important work being done by Morton Klein and ZOA.

LONG ISLAND INTRODUCING DEBORAH PERETZ

ZOA is thrilled to announce the recent appointment of Deborah Peretz as the new Regional Director of its Long Island region. Deborah comes to us with 20 years of experience in the Jewish world, which includes working for Hillel at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. In addition to her role as Stony Brook Hillel's Associate Director, she led Birthright tours.

Deborah also worked as North American Director for the WUJS Institute, and she has educated youth and young adults throughout Long Island. Prior to this, Deborah lived in Israel, where she had the honor of working for Amira Dotan, the first woman general in the Israel Defense Forces. In addition to her vast knowledge and devotion to Israel education, Deborah is also an accomplished actress, and has been featured in both television and film.

In her role as Regional Director, Deborah works as part of the New York Metro team. As a long-term resident and active member of the Long Island pro-Israel community, she has her finger on the pulse of the varied populations of the region, including Queens and Brooklyn.

Deborah has always been a strong advocate on behalf of Israel, both in her professional and personal life. Often, she found herself standing alone in her beliefs. In her short time on board at the ZOA, she has already proven herself to be a powerful member of our team and feels right at home. Deborah is thankful that she no longer has to be the lone voice in standing for truth. Her passion for the betterment of Israel is surpassed only by her desire to infuse the region with newfound enthusiasm.

Deborah looks forward to continuing her work with Long Island supporters of Israel. Anyone interested in getting more involved should feel free to contact her at dperetz@zoa.org or (212) 481-1500, x 237.



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