

ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Spring 2019

**ZOA Celebrates Morton Klein's
25 Years at ZOA**

**ZOA Leadership Mission
to Israel 2019**

**Launch of NY Metro Region &
Donor Societies**

**ZOA Student Leaders on
Biannual ZOA Trip to Israel,
Including Judea/Samaria**



Founded 1897



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Morton A. Klein
National President,
Zionist Organization
of America

We have lived through some truly historic moments during the Trump administration, most notably, the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, abrogating the dangerous Iran Deal, forcing the PLO to leave its offices in Washington, D.C., ending all aid to Abbas' Palestinian Authority, leaving the anti-Israel UN Human Rights Council, ending U.S. funding of the anti-Israel UNRWA, and most recently President Trump's extraordinary recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the strategically vital Golan Heights.

As President Trump put it when announcing his decision, "After 52 years it is time for the United States to fully recognize Israel's Sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which is of critical strategic and security importance to the State of Israel and Regional Stability!"

President Trump's announcement was especially welcome, coming as it did on Purim, the festival in which the Jewish people celebrate being saved from annihilation by a wicked Persian viceroy centuries ago.

I am proud to say that I testified last July before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on National Security, convened by then-Chairman Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) to consider U.S. recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Others who testified included Amb. Dore Gold and Prof. Eugene Kontorovich of Northwestern University School of Law. Our testimony and this hearing played a pivotal role in turning the Administration's attention to extending U.S. recognition to Israel's sovereignty over the Golan. (Just as my testimony before Congress earlier, along with Amb. John Bolton, played an important role in bringing visibility and impetus to the issue of moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.)

The ZOA, of course, has strongly applauded President Trump's historic decision regarding the Golan Heights, which Israel conquered from Syria in a war of self-defense, the Six

Day War of 1967. We no less applauded and supported Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement that Israel's sovereignty rightfully applies to the Golan and is perfectly consistent with international law.

All the criticism we hear, for example, that Israel is in the wrong because it cannot rightfully aspire to obtain territory through conquest, is actually incorrect and a distortion of international norms.

Only aggressors may not seek to acquire territory through war and conquest. That makes sense if one is talking of Russia, which invaded Ukraine and occupies territory there. That makes sense if one is talking of Iraq, which invaded Kuwait and annexed it. It makes no sense if one is talking of Israel, which did not attack Syria and, indeed, spent decades trying to make peace with it.

Israel presents the exceptional case of a nation that is not an aggressor, but which acquires territory through a war of self-defense.

That is why we stated at the time that international law only prohibits the acquisition of territory by aggressive war. In contrast, a state that has been repeatedly assaulted from territory subsequently wrested from the aggressor can rightfully acquire title to that territory in circumstances where the aggressor state is unwilling or unable to conclude a peace settlement and continues to threaten and facilitate aggression against the defending state, as Syria has done.

The Golan Heights overlooks the Sea of Galilee, offering any occupying military force a clear and unobstructed view of the peaceful villages and towns lying below. From the dawn of Israel's independence in 1948, Syria rained artillery shells down upon innocent Israeli civilian communities and farms. Israeli farmers used to be compelled to plough fields in armor-plated tractors.

Throughout the 19 years that Syria controlled the Golan Heights, peaceful Israeli life and agriculture were held hostage to periodic bouts of unprovoked Syrian aggression.



This terrible situation only came to an end when Syria, in cahoots with Egypt and Jordan, launched an unprovoked assault upon Israel in 1967. Syria's then-Defense Minister Hafez Assad said this war would be "a battle of annihilation" to "explode the Zionist presence."

It is extremely important, as we said at the time, that the U.S. Congress pass a resolution reiterating President Trump's declaration of U.S. recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. It is to that end that the ZOA will be bending our efforts.

Instead, Israel wrested the Golan Heights from Syria in the closing stages of the 1967 war. Syria again tried to capture the Golan Heights in its attack upon Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur War but in the end, after fierce, courageous and even miraculous fighting, Israel repelled the Syrian aggressors. In 1981, Israel extended its jurisdiction to the Golan Heights.

Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, Israel was not required to withdraw from all of the territories that came under its control, but to negotiate with the aggressors a peace agreement that might alter these boundaries.

Clearly, the idea that any and all territories lost by the Arab aggressors of 1967 must return to these countries is not enshrined in UNSC Resolution 242. Moreover, International Court of Justice Judge Stephen Schwebel also declared that territories lost by an aggressor state could be held by defending states

until the aggressor made peace — something Syria has never done.

Israel offered to return the territories to Syria in exchange for a genuine peace settlement, but was greeted with contemptuous Syrian refusal to even sit at the same table with Israeli negotiators. In fact, Syrian diplomats only met Israeli counterparts face-to-face for the first time at the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference.

Throughout the 1990s, the Syrians refused to conclude peace with successive Israeli governments, despite being offered the return of virtually the whole of the Golan Heights that had been under Syrian sovereignty. Syria demanded that Israel return to Syrian control not only the Golan Heights, but also strategically vital sovereign Israeli territory adjacent to the Golan Heights, which Syria had seized in its war of aggression against the fledgling Jewish state in the 1948-49 first Arab-Israeli war.

Israel naturally refused what would have constituted an outrageous reward for aggression. Meanwhile, Syria periodically permitted Hezbollah in Lebanon to launch rockets into northern Israel.

To claim that Syria is entitled to the Golan Heights despite its aggression, terrorist behavior and lack of deep historical connection to the region is to assert the absurd and unjust notion that a belligerent aggressor should lose nothing for waging unlawful, aggressive wars, as well as military assaults on peaceful civilians during peace-time.

Syria had ample opportunity over several decades to demonstrate that it was interested in peace and to have the Golan Heights returned to Damascus' control in return for a genuine peace treaty. It refused to do so.

In retrospect, just as well — imagine the



nightmare facing Israel, had Syria agreed to sign a piece of paper during the 1990s in exchange for the return of the Golan Heights to the terrorist Syrian regime. The Golan Heights would have served throughout the recent Syrian civil war as a renewed base for aggression against Israel. ISIS and other jihadist groups running rampant in Syria would have been able to fire directly into northern Israel, as Syria once did.

Instead, Israel was able to use the Golan Heights to protect itself from ISIS attacks and Iranian-sponsored attacks and to actually provide a field hospital to treat Syrian victims of the civil war.

As a result of Syria's refusal to negotiate peace, Israel has ruled the Golan Heights for 52 years — far longer than the 21 years it was controlled by the Syrian state (1946-67).

Let it be remembered that the Golan Heights has a long Jewish history, having been part of the biblical Jewish kingdoms. As archeological findings confirm, including dozens of ancient synagogues, coins, mosaics and other artifacts, Jewish history in the Golan dates back to biblical times.

Let it also be remembered that this is only by chance that the Golan Heights was included within the original borders of the French Mandate over Syria and, later, the independent Syrian state. This was only because the British ceded the territory to the French Syria Mandate under the terms of the Paulet-Newcombe Agreement (1920), which settled the boundaries between the British Mandate of Palestine and the French Mandate of Syria. Indeed, prior to that 1920 agreement, several Jewish communities had been established in the Golan Heights, many already in the nineteenth century, with the approval of the previous Ottoman authorities who had controlled

it until the end of the First World War.

There was otherwise no good reason in history, equity, demographics or anything else to suggest that the Golan Heights should be under the control of Syria. To the contrary, there are sound reasons — historic, strategic and equitable — why the territory should be part of Israel.

It is only under Israeli control that that the Golan Heights have been entirely peaceful. In contrast, under Syrian control, they served as a constant base for illegal and unprovoked Syrian aggression against Israel.

All this provides ample justification to welcome U.S. recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan. Israeli sovereignty there is a key bulwark against Iran and Iranian-backed terror groups and regimes that threaten the security and stability of the United States, Israel, the entire Middle East, and beyond.

President Trump has rightly sent a message of deterrence to would-be aggressors. Until now, Israel's Arab enemies have always assumed that they can engage in continuous aggression in the confidence that, whatever else might happen, they will receive back lost territories as of right. That illusion was dealt a serious blow last March by President Trump.

It is extremely important, as we said at the time, that the U.S. Congress pass a resolution reiterating President Trump's declaration of U.S. recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. It is to that end that the ZOA will be bending our efforts.

Sincerely,

Morton A. Klein
National President,
Zionist Organization of America

**ZOA congratulates Morton A. Klein
on celebrating 25 years of service as
ZOA National President.**

ZOA CAPITOL HILL ADVOCACY MISSION 2019

JUNE 19 (OPTIONAL) - KICKOFF DINNER

JUNE 20 - LOBBYING DAY

WWW.ZOA.ORG



**1,200 ATTEND ZOA GALA, HEADLINED BY:
AMB. JOHN BOLTON
AMB. RICHARD GRENNELL
TV/RADIO'S MARK LEVIN
PROF. ALAN DERSHOWITZ
AMB. DANNY DANON
PM BENJAMIN NETANYAHU (VIDEO)
SEN. TED CRUZ (VIDEO)
CAROLINE GLICK (VIDEO)**

LOUIS D. BRANDEIS GALA



Over 1200 people attended ZOA's 120th Louis D. Brandeis Awards Dinner on Sunday, November 4, at New York City's Marriott Marquis Hotel. The night's truly remarkable roster of VIPs and honorees included National Security Advisor and former Ambassador to the UN John Bolton, the U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell, TV/radio host Mark Levin; Israel's Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon, Harvard Law Professor Emeritus Alan Dershowitz, and actress Suzanne Somers. Surrounded by his proud family, Morton Klein was honored for his 25 years of service as ZOA's national president.

Television news personality and attorney Kimberly Guilfoyle was the Gala's emcee.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the guests via a videotaped message. Major ZOA donors provided tables for 175 student activists from universities and colleges around the country.

In her opening remarks, Guilfoyle elicited cheers from the audience when she noted that the Gala was taking place amidst momentous events — the U.S. Embassy's move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the Trump administration's decision to defund the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the U.S.' withdrawal from the anti-Israel UN Human Rights Council, and the deportation of the last known Nazi war criminal residing in the U.S.

Congratulations from Benjamin Netanyahu and Caroline Glick

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the guests by video, lauding the ZOA for having played a “key role in the fight for a Jewish state,” and expressing his “deep appreciation” for the ZOA’s zealous advocacy for Israel under Morton Klein’s leadership. The Prime Minister said, “I congratulate Mort Klein on 25 years of such passion and commitment to your work. The people of Israel and I personally thank you.”

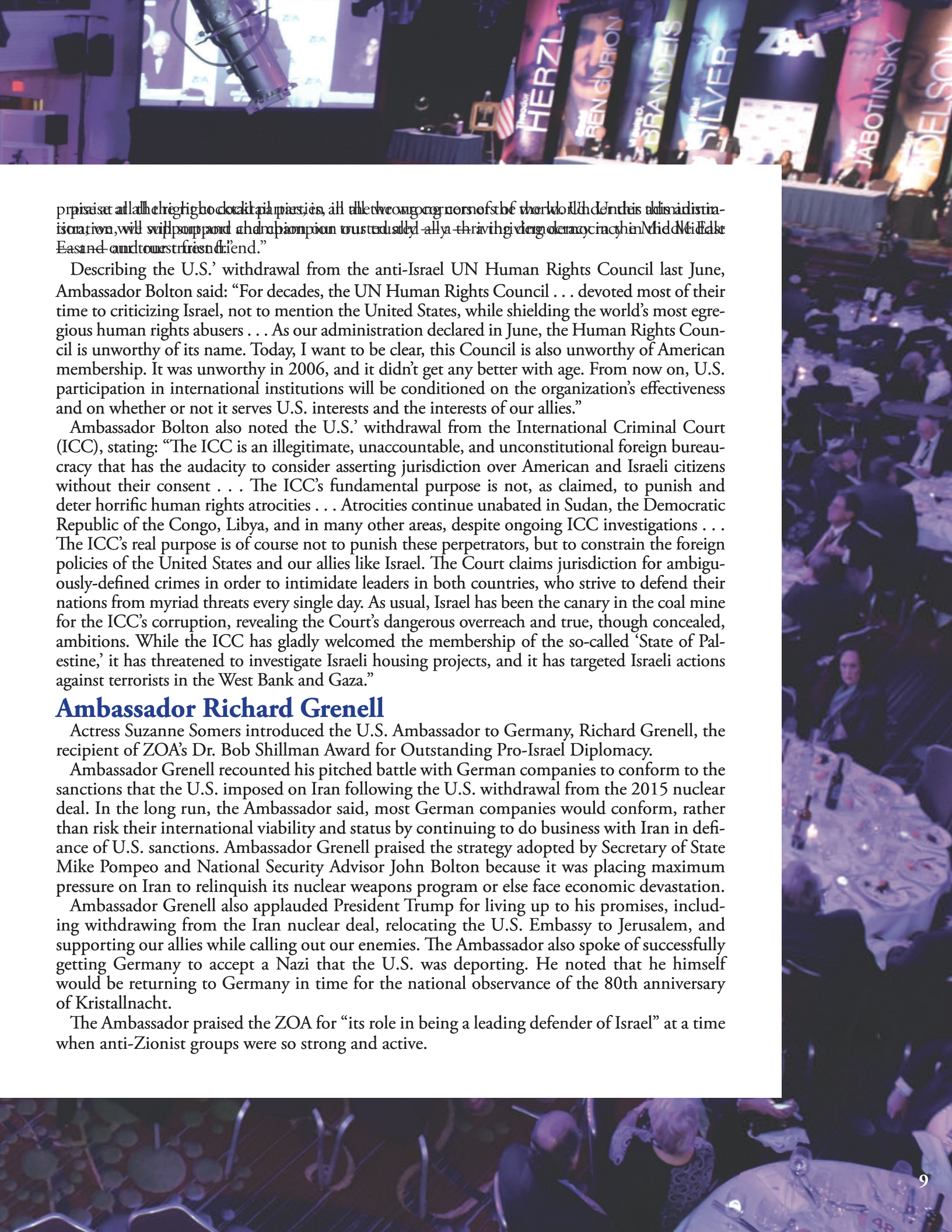
Netanyahu praised the ZOA’s fearless battle for the truth, no matter how unpopular its message, and for never flinching from defending Israel from its detractors. He also declared that the U.S.-Israel relationship is closer than ever, with cooperation at all levels. The Prime Minister strongly praised all of the ZOA’s honorees that evening for their principled support of Israel.

Jerusalem Post Deputy Managing Editor and Columnist Caroline Glick also paid generous tribute to Morton Klein’s quarter century of leadership at the ZOA, in a videotaped message. Glick observed that “from the get-go, Mort Klein has been the one to go to for strong principled support for Israel.” She also noted that Morton Klein has often been the only one standing up for Israel when other Jewish organizations were nowhere to be seen, and that his dynamism over many years had turned the ZOA into an effective organization that is respected in the halls of government.

Ambassador John Bolton

John Bolton, U.S. National Security Advisor and former Ambassador to the UN under President George W. Bush, received ZOA’s Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson Defender of Israel Award. Ambassador Bolton praised Morton Klein’s strong and effective leadership of the ZOA: “For 25 years now, Mort has served as national president of this outstanding organization, leading with extraordinary courage, vision, and pride. Thank you, Mort. This organization has long served as a staunch advocate for the Jewish state, for the Jewish people, and for a strong U.S.-Israeli partnership . . . We are no longer apologizing for defending our national interests and our sovereignty. We are calling out our enemies, and standing by our friends. We are preventing foreign bureaucrats from dictating our means of self-defense and attacking our partners. Gone are the days when the United States sold out our allies, appeased murderous regimes, and tiptoed around obvious facts in the name of political correctness.”

Turning to the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Ambassador Bolton said, “The United States has . . . moved our embassy to its rightful home in the holy city . . . As you know, the historic American Embassy move was long overdue. In relocating the embassy, President Trump accomplished what other leaders had repeatedly promised but consistently failed to deliver. This important decision did more than simply acknowledge a clear reality on the ground. It did more than merely shift our principal diplomatic activities from Israel’s coast to the heart of the Holy Land. This decision, without a doubt, showed the world that the United States will once again stand for what is right and just. We will not sacrifice Israel’s security to garner



praise all the high school graduates, all the young men of the world. It is an administration, will support and champion trusted ally thriving democracy in the Middle East and our steadfast friend.”

Describing the U.S.’ withdrawal from the anti-Israel UN Human Rights Council last June, Ambassador Bolton said: “For decades, the UN Human Rights Council . . . devoted most of their time to criticizing Israel, not to mention the United States, while shielding the world’s most egregious human rights abusers . . . As our administration declared in June, the Human Rights Council is unworthy of its name. Today, I want to be clear, this Council is also unworthy of American membership. It was unworthy in 2006, and it didn’t get any better with age. From now on, U.S. participation in international institutions will be conditioned on the organization’s effectiveness and on whether or not it serves U.S. interests and the interests of our allies.”

Ambassador Bolton also noted the U.S.’ withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC), stating: “The ICC is an illegitimate, unaccountable, and unconstitutional foreign bureaucracy that has the audacity to consider asserting jurisdiction over American and Israeli citizens without their consent . . . The ICC’s fundamental purpose is not, as claimed, to punish and deter horrific human rights atrocities . . . Atrocities continue unabated in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, and in many other areas, despite ongoing ICC investigations . . . The ICC’s real purpose is of course not to punish these perpetrators, but to constrain the foreign policies of the United States and our allies like Israel. The Court claims jurisdiction for ambiguously-defined crimes in order to intimidate leaders in both countries, who strive to defend their nations from myriad threats every single day. As usual, Israel has been the canary in the coal mine for the ICC’s corruption, revealing the Court’s dangerous overreach and true, though concealed, ambitions. While the ICC has gladly welcomed the membership of the so-called ‘State of Palestine,’ it has threatened to investigate Israeli housing projects, and it has targeted Israeli actions against terrorists in the West Bank and Gaza.”

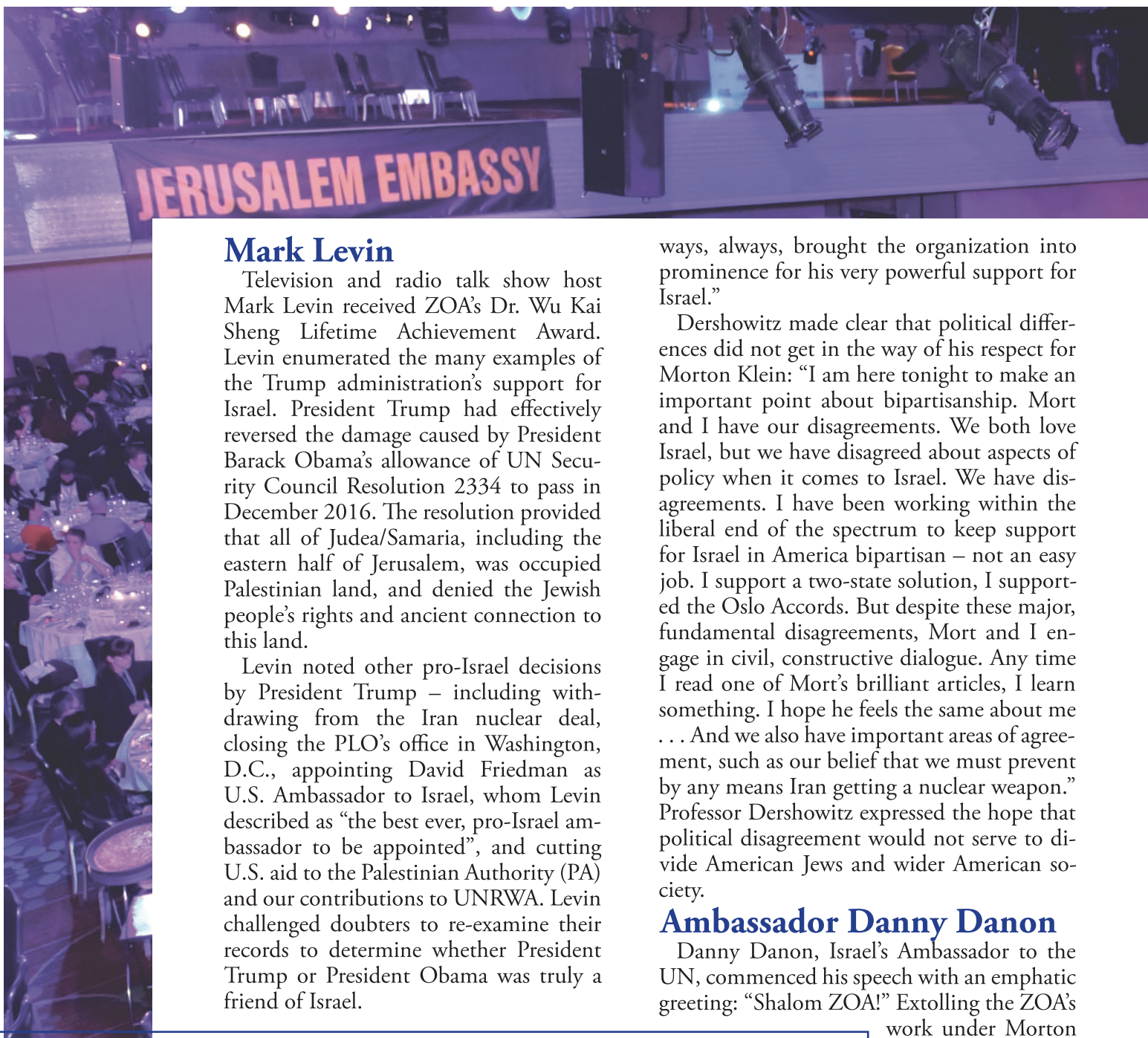
Ambassador Richard Grenell

Actress Suzanne Somers introduced the U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Richard Grenell, the recipient of ZOA’s Dr. Bob Shillman Award for Outstanding Pro-Israel Diplomacy.

Ambassador Grenell recounted his pitched battle with German companies to conform to the sanctions that the U.S. imposed on Iran following the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal. In the long run, the Ambassador said, most German companies would conform, rather than risk their international viability and status by continuing to do business with Iran in defiance of U.S. sanctions. Ambassador Grenell praised the strategy adopted by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Advisor John Bolton because it was placing maximum pressure on Iran to relinquish its nuclear weapons program or else face economic devastation.

Ambassador Grenell also applauded President Trump for living up to his promises, including withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal, relocating the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, and supporting our allies while calling out our enemies. The Ambassador also spoke of successfully getting Germany to accept a Nazi that the U.S. was deporting. He noted that he himself would be returning to Germany in time for the national observance of the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

The Ambassador praised the ZOA for “its role in being a leading defender of Israel” at a time when anti-Zionist groups were so strong and active.



Mark Levin

Television and radio talk show host Mark Levin received ZOA's Dr. Wu Kai Sheng Lifetime Achievement Award. Levin enumerated the many examples of the Trump administration's support for Israel. President Trump had effectively reversed the damage caused by President Barack Obama's allowance of UN Security Council Resolution 2334 to pass in December 2016. The resolution provided that all of Judea/Samaria, including the eastern half of Jerusalem, was occupied Palestinian land, and denied the Jewish people's rights and ancient connection to this land.

Levin noted other pro-Israel decisions by President Trump – including withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal, closing the PLO's office in Washington, D.C., appointing David Friedman as U.S. Ambassador to Israel, whom Levin described as “the best ever, pro-Israel ambassador to be appointed”, and cutting U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and our contributions to UNRWA. Levin challenged doubters to re-examine their records to determine whether President Trump or President Obama was truly a friend of Israel.

ways, always, brought the organization into prominence for his very powerful support for Israel.”

Dershowitz made clear that political differences did not get in the way of his respect for Morton Klein: “I am here tonight to make an important point about bipartisanship. Mort and I have our disagreements. We both love Israel, but we have disagreed about aspects of policy when it comes to Israel. We have disagreements. I have been working within the liberal end of the spectrum to keep support for Israel in America bipartisan – not an easy job. I support a two-state solution, I supported the Oslo Accords. But despite these major, fundamental disagreements, Mort and I engage in civil, constructive dialogue. Any time I read one of Mort's brilliant articles, I learn something. I hope he feels the same about me . . . And we also have important areas of agreement, such as our belief that we must prevent by any means Iran getting a nuclear weapon.” Professor Dershowitz expressed the hope that political disagreement would not serve to divide American Jews and wider American society.

Ambassador Danny Danon

Danny Danon, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, commenced his speech with an emphatic greeting: “Shalom ZOA!” Extolling the ZOA's work under Morton Klein's leadership, Ambassador Danon observed that “none of this would be possible without the life-


Dershowitz made clear that political differences did not get in the way of his respect for Mort Klein.

Prof. Alan Dershowitz

Harvard Law School professor emeritus Alan Dershowitz introduced Morton Klein, whom he described as “a great Jewish leader and my friend” and whom Dershowitz saluted for his “uncompromising, passionate support for Israel.” Dershowitz described Morton Klein as having “al-

long dedication of Mort Klein. Mort Klein has been my friend for three decades. We have worked together on important issues.”

Ambassador Danon condemned the horrific massacre of eleven Jews in a Pittsburgh synagogue the previous week: “They were murdered only because they were Jews and it happened on the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht,” the pogrom against Jews in Nazi Ger-



many and other Nazi-occupied areas in 1938. “We will not stop fighting until the source of anti-Semitism is eradicated,” the Ambassador implored.

The Ambassador also spoke about an Israel-bashing session at the UN the previous month involving the anti-Israel organization B’Tselem, which he described as “a joke of a human rights organization which sides with our enemies, telling lies about the IDF, the Israeli government and Israel’s Supreme Court. Shame on them.” Danon proudly said that Israel is now winning in the UN, with relations with 160 countries and working closely with countries around the world.

Morton A. Klein

ZOA National President Morton Klein expressed what a tremendous honor it was to have led the ZOA for 25 years. Describing the important role the ZOA has played at vital points in the history of Zionism and Israel, Klein noted that it was a prior ZOA national president, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis, who championed the view that support for Zionism was entirely consistent with strong American patriotism. In contrast, Klein said, “anti-Semites and frightened Jews were screaming that Zionist Jews were guilty of dual loyalty.”

It was Louis Brandeis, Klein recounted, who approached President Woodrow Wilson and persuaded him to support the 1917 Balfour Declaration. Klein observed that Britain would not likely have issued the Balfour Declaration without the support and encouragement of the U.S. President, which Brandeis had secured and which helped lead to the creation of the Jewish State of Israel.

Klein paid tribute to those who helped ZOA survive and flourish, including Dr. Michael Goldblatt, Michael Orbach, Dr. Alan Mazurek, Ed Siegel, Esq., Henry Schwartz, Lowell Milken, Sylvia and Carl Freyer, Sheldon and Dr. Miriam Adelson, and Irving and Cherna Moskowitz. “Many, many more” have

made the ZOA’s work possible, Klein said.

Klein praised the work of ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, its Government Relations department, ZOA Campus, ZOA’s Fuel For Truth, and its Israel office. He noted proudly that “we were the only major Jewish group that opposed the Oslo Accords, correctly predicting that it would lead to disaster. For this, we were condemned by our detractors as extremists, as warmongers, as enemies of peace . . . We were also the only major Jewish group to oppose the 2005 disastrous unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, which has led to the firing by Hamas and assorted terror groups of over 20,000 rockets from Gaza into Israel.”

Klein also described the ZOA’s many achievements, including its role in the enactment of the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act. Working with former Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and other stalwart friends of Israel on Capitol Hill to obtain congressional recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, and to call for the relocation of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, Klein noted: “We were the only major Jewish group to support it from the beginning.”

ZOA also played a leading role in campaigning in opposition to President Barack Obama’s disastrous Iran nuclear deal, Klein recounted, helping to organize the rally on Capitol Hill at which the leading Republican presidential candidates at the time — Donald Trump and Ted Cruz — and talk show host Mark Levin, spoke in opposition to the deal.

Klein described how the ZOA’s persistent lobbying and media campaigning convinced New York’s Metropolitan Opera not to broadcast the anti-Semitic opera, *The Death of Klinghoffer*, thus preventing the opera from being broadcast worldwide to millions of listeners. Klein also recounted the successful efforts of ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice to obtain legal protection for Jewish students from anti-Semitic harassment and discrimination under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act – a



Kimberly Guilfoyle
Emcee

Amb. John Bolton

Amb. Richard Grenell

Mark Levin

law that historically had not been applied to protect Jews.

Klein acknowledged the vital contributions of the ZOA's Government Relations department, which works to explain the truth about the Arab war against Israel to legislators and their staffers on Capitol Hill. "Yes, the Arab war on Israel," said Klein emphatically. "There is no Arab-Israeli conflict. The Palestinian Arabs have been offered a Palestinian Arab state alongside Israel many times. This is an Arab war against Israel's existence."

Describing the work of ZOA Campus and ZOA's Fuel For Truth, Klein proudly explained how both programs give college students and young professionals the tools they need to advocate effectively for Israel, and to respond to the propaganda lies promoted by Israel's enemies.

Klein also reminded Gala guests about the ZOA's many successful challenges to appointments to high offices, based on their records of hostility to Israel, including John Roth (who would have been appointed head of research at the U.S. Holocaust Museum), Joseph Zogby (who was appointed advisor to then-National Security Council Middle East Advisor Martin Indyk, but who resigned after three weeks following a ZOA campaign highlighting his anti-Israel record), Chas Freeman (who, but for

ZOA action, would have headed the National Intelligence Council), and Salam Al-Marayati (who would have been appointed to the National Commission on Terrorism, but for the ZOA campaign alerting Congress to his Holocaust denial and his support for terrorist groups and for Israel's destruction). Klein also noted that it was the ZOA campaign alone that prevented Strobe Talbot, who was on record stating that America should treat Israel like Iraq, from eventually becoming Secretary of State.

Klein then made a moving appeal for unity among the Jewish people, in the wake of the horrific massacre of 11 Jews in a Pittsburgh synagogue: "Despite our achievements and the work of other Jewish groups, the scourge of anti-Semitism is still with us. I am the child of Holocaust survivors, born in a displaced persons camp in Germany. I lost most of my family, including three of my grandparents, to Hitler's Holocaust. I know first-hand the consequences of unbridled, virulent Jew-hatred. The horrific massacre, the murder of 11 beautiful, innocent Jews at a Pittsburgh shul by an evil monster who said he hates President Trump because of all the 'kikes' around him, all the Jews around him. How can we as Jews and decent people try to minimize the likelihood of such nightmares to occur? First,



Prof. Alan Dershowitz

Amb. Danny Danon

Morton Klein & Family

Prime Minister
Benjamin Netanyahu

we Jews have to realize that anti-Semites do not care about the level of any Jew's religious observance. They don't care if you're Orthodox, or Conservative, or Reform, or Reconstructionist, or an atheist Jew. They don't care about your political views, whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, rich or poor, or educated or not. The anti-Semites hate every Jewish man, woman and child. We Jews have to realize that we are all in this together. We must unconditionally love, support and respect one another, no matter what our differences are. All Jews, whether they be Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist or atheist, are all 100% Jewish. That's what the Torah teaches us. These murderous acts may start with the Jews but, as I tell non-Jewish friends, it never ends with the Jews."

There is far too much tolerance for the anti-Semitic black supremacist hater Louis Farrakhan, who recently called Jews "termites," Klein said. We must condemn every significant anti-Semitic and Israel-hating act and ostracize every anti-Semite and Israel-hater, Klein emphasized.

Despite all the suffering and conflict, Klein observed with wonder that Israel has thrived: "Who would have believed at the time of Israel's creation that it would be a flourishing state of seven million Jews today?"

Morton Klein Receives ZOA's Theodor Herzl Award

ZOA Chairman of the Board Mark Levenson, Esq. presented Morton Klein with ZOA's Theodor Herzl Award, based on Klein's 25 years of outstanding service to the ZOA. Rebecca (Rita) Klein received a beautiful "Woman of Valor" plaque, in appreciation for always standing together with her spouse and partner with strength and purpose in support of Am Yisrael.

Joining the Kleins on stage were their daughter Rachael, her husband David and their children Elijah, Isaac, Levi and Micah, all of whom flew in from Phoenix to share in this celebration. Morton's brother, Dr. Samuel Klein, the Danforth Professor of Medicine and Nutritional Science at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, joined them on stage. Mort paid tribute to his 96-year-old mother, a Holocaust survivor, who could not attend the Gala.

Final Notes

ZOA board member Clifford Rieders, Esq. delivered the D'var Torah, and board member Shira Lewis recited the blessing over the bread. Mort thanked those who had "worked so, so hard, day and night, for months" to make this year's Gala a success: John Rosen, Howard Katzoff, Nancy Hollander, Jackie Shafer, Enid Roman, Kathy Branch and Rachel Glazer. 🇺🇸

LOUIS D. BRANDEIS GALA PICTORIAL

1. ZOA student activists
2. Amb. John Bolton, recipient of ZOA's Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson Defender of Israel Award, ZOA National President Morton Klein, and Ingeborg Rennert
3. Dr. Joseph & Karen Frager, Iris & Shalom Maidenbaum, Amb. John Bolton, Suzanne Sommers, ZOA National Board Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq., and ZOA National Board Vice-Chair Dr. Michael Goldblatt
4. National Board Member Len Getz, Amb. John Bolton, and ZOA National Board Vice President Kevin Ross
5. Mark Levenson, Esq., Morton Klein, ZOA Deputy Director Howard Katzoff, Mark Levin, recipient of ZOA's Dr. Wu Kai Sheng Lifetime Achievement Award, and ZOA National Board Vice President Michael Orbach
6. Prof. Alan Dershowitz introducing Morton Klein
7. Morton Klein, accepting ZOA's Theodor Herzl Award for 25 years of service to ZOA, alongside wife Rebecca (Rita) Klein, daughter and son-in-law Rachel and David Don, grandchildren, brother Dr. Sam Klein, and ZOA leaders
8. Ahuva & Martin Gross, Amb. John Bolton, and Morton Klein
9. Suzanne Sommers introducing Amb. Richard Grenell
10. Ruth Gleit, Amb. John Bolton, and ZOA National Board Vice President Morton Gleit
11. Amb. Danny Danon, ZOA National Board Secretary James Pollack, Amb. John Bolton, and Morton Klein
12. Allison Miller, Amb. John Bolton, and ZOA National Board Vice President Jay Miller



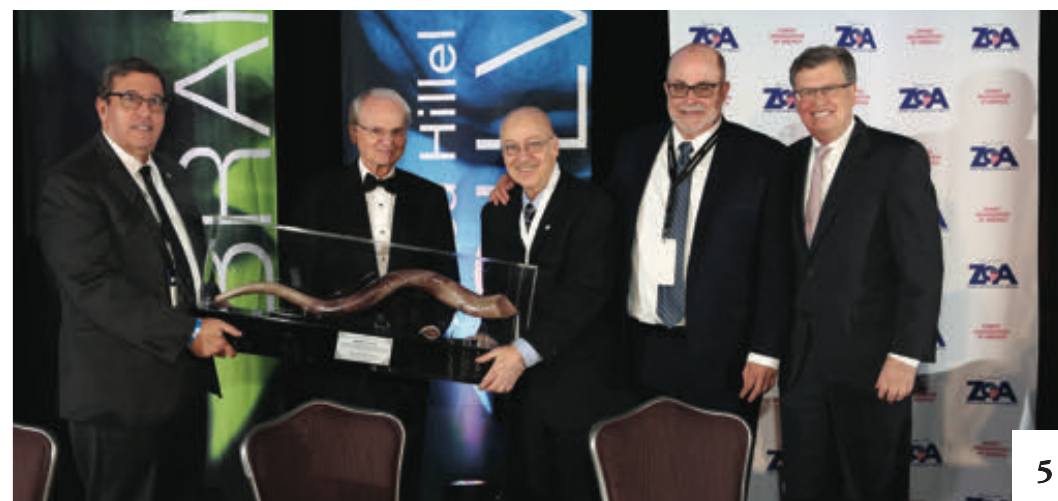
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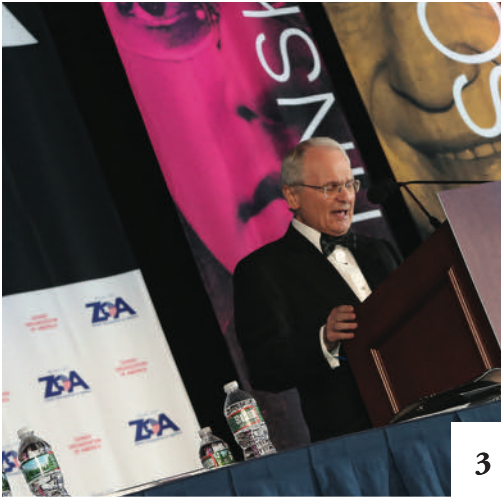




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1. Kimberly Guilfoyle and David Webb
2. Rebecca Krausz, ZOA National Board Vice President Dr. Judith Friedman Rosen, ZOA honoree Mark Levin, Julie Strauss Levin, and ZOA National Board Vice President Martin Sokol
3. ZOA National President Morton Klein addressing guests
4. Y-Studs A Cappella performance
5. Dr. Craig Deligdish and Gila Bronner
6. ZOA National Board Vice President Rubin Margules, Amb. John Bolton, and Dr. Joseph Frager



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7. ZOA National Board Vice President Eli Hertz and Amb. John Bolton
8. ZOA National Board Vice-Chair Dr. Michael Goldblatt, Julie Strauss Levin, ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq., ZOA honoree Mark Levin, Suzanne Sommers, and Alan Hamel
9. Amb. Richard Grenell and ZOA National Board Vice-Chair Dr. Alan Mazurek
10. ZOA National Board Member Cliff Rieders, Esq. delivering the D'var Torah and emcee Kimberly Guilfoyle
11. Ira & Ingeborg Rennert, Amb. John Bolton, Amb. Danny Danon, and Tali Danon
12. Brian Grodman and Amb. John Bolton



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1. ZOA honoree Mark Levin and ZOA National Board Vice President Jay Knopf
2. ZOA National Board Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq., Kiron Skinner, ZOA National President Morton Klein, Amb. Richard Grenell, and Arthur Schwartz
3. Judy Rosenberg, Amb. John Bolton, ZOA National Board Vice President Stanley Rosenberg, Esq., and Morton Klein
4. Morton Klein, Amb. Richard Grenell, recipient of ZOA's Dr. Bob Shillman Award for Outstanding Pro-Israel Diplomacy, and Suzanne Sommers
5. ZOA National Board Vice President Dr. Arthur Kook and ZOA honoree Mark Levin
6. ZOA Campus Associate Director Jonathan Ginsburg, Morton Klein, ZOA Campus Coordinator Antar Davidson, ZOA Campus student honoree Hendel Seif-Rosenfeld, MZ Foundation Director Sam Levine, ZOA Campus Managing Director Leore Ben-David, and ZOA Campus Coordinator Or Taylor
7. TV news anchor Rita Cosby and Morton & Rita Klein

Profile: Howard Katzoff, Deputy Director

Israel is in Howard Katzoff's bones. It's part of his essence, his family history.



The ZOA's Deputy Director for approximately the past three years, Howard hails from an Orthodox family dedicated to the Jewish and Zionist communities. These communities shaped and inspired his lifelong commitment to the safety and security of Israel and the Jewish people.

Howard's parents were deeply involved in the Young Israel of Williamsburg. When the Katzoffs moved to New Rochelle in the early 1950s, Howard's parents became active in Jewish and Zionist organizations in Westchester County, including the ZOA.

Howard's mother was the journal chairperson for the ZOA dinner. Howard's father fundraised, including arranging a concert featuring Richard Tucker, Jan Peerce and Robert Merrill, three renowned Jewish performers who also lived in the area. "My father got them together to perform for the ZOA," Howard said. "It was like a Night of the Stars."

When Howard was 12 years old, his parents took him and his six-year-old brother to Israel. The trip occurred in the mid-1950s, when travel to Israel was not easy. "We took a ship to Europe, then a train across Europe, stopping to visit Jewish communities along the way," Howard remembered fondly. "We always needed to find a kosher restaurant to eat in." From Naples, the family took a smaller boat to Haifa.

The boat's passengers included approximately 200 Jewish refugees – mostly families – who had been expelled from Morocco and Tunisia, and who stayed in the hold below. The children were Howard's playmates.

Israel then is not Israel today. "It was poor, struggling, and just developing," Howard recalled. "There was no wealth or industrial base. There was no major tourism."

Howard vividly remembers visiting his father's cousin's family in Jaffa. They had recently immigrated to Israel from Russia and were living in an apartment with five other families. Living conditions were harsh. Howard went with his father to buy a refrigerator for the cousins. It was small, the size of a hotel refrigerator, yet all six families shared that refrigerator and it changed their lives. One of Howard's cousins, now in his 70s, has never forgotten what that refrigerator meant to them.

Howard's mother was active in the organization to learn agriculture and Hebrew. As the Katzoffs jumped off his tractor to welcome the family. He placed his arms on Howard's shoulders, and said in Hebrew, "Welcome to our country," Howard related, and gave

In Jerusalem, the Katzoffs visited Menachem Begin, then a Knesset member. Howard's great-grandparents had lived down the street from the Begin family in Russia (now Belarus). Begin wrote a message in the autograph book that Howard brought with him to Israel. While Howard did not appreciate its significance then, he has come to treasure it. The message, signed by Begin, reads: "To Howard, my young friend from the U.S.A. – a sweet boy – with Zion's greetings and heart's love."

Another indelible memory is the Katzoff family's visit on Shabbat to an agricultural children's village in Ra'anana. Howard's mother was active in the organization that brought young Ethiopians to this village to learn agriculture and Hebrew. As the Katzoffs toured the facilities, one of the Ethiopian boys jumped off his tractor to welcome the family. He approached Howard, placed his arms on Howard's shoulders, and said in Hebrew, "Welcome to our country."

All of these experiences "were embedded in my brain," Howard related, and gave him the incentive to work for Israel someday. "I knew that Israel was always going to need help, especially after what I'd seen during that incredible journey."

"I had the privilege of being educated by rabbis, seculars and Jesuits," Howard recounted. After attending an Orthodox yeshiva in Brooklyn, a Jewish day school in Westchester, and then Yeshiva University High School, Howard went to Columbia University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering. From there, Howard obtained his law degree from Fordham Law School and then went into the army. Howard trained as a medic in the army reserves, and ended up as the training officer in a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) unit.

After the army, Howard married and moved

to Philadelphia when he got a job as a patent attorney with a pharmaceutical and chemical company. He immediately got involved in a synagogue, joining its board. He and his wife had a daughter, Karen, who followed in Howard's footsteps, living in Israel for several years and overseeing teen and Birthright trips in Israel.

After seven years as a patent attorney, Howard completely changed course. He opened and ran a successful restaurant in Philadelphia's culturally rich South Street area.

After four years of working long days, seven days a week, Howard changed course again, by going into the children's furniture business. The business flourished; eventually Howard owned five or six stores. He remained in that business for 30 years.

Meeting Patti Klein, now his wife of 35 years, was a turning point for Howard. It was Patti who found Shaare Shamayim, the Philadelphia synagogue to which Howard came to devote his time and energy, joining the board, holding leadership positions and chairing committees.

The synagogue was always Zionist and Howard made sure it stayed that way. When there were community-wide rallies for Israel, during times of war or crisis, his synagogue hosted them. Howard often led services in the rabbi's absence. In almost every sermon he delivered, he spoke about Israel.

Howard helped lead the synagogue for over 25 years. Even when he and Patti moved from Philadelphia to Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Howard maintained his ties to the shul, traveling 25 miles to be there every Shabbat.

Howard also befriended other Zionists when he lived in Philadelphia, including Lew Dashe, Gene Shusman and Dr. Michael Goldblatt. All three were members of the synagogue and active in the ZOA.

Howard's own involvement in the ZOA

that brought young Ethiopians to this village toured the facilities, one of the Ethiopian boys approached Howard, placed his arms on Howard to our country.” These experiences “were emblem the incentive to work for Israel someday.

started approximately nine years ago. He had retired from the children’s furniture business, obtained his real estate license, and was deciding what to do next. He accepted an invitation to the executive committee meeting of ZOA’s Greater Philadelphia chapter, as they were looking for effective ways to fundraise.

Howard had a wealth of fundraising experience, running dinners and other major events at his shul. At the ZOA meeting, he suggested that the chapter hold a dinner and laid out a plan for it.

Howard became the chairperson of the first ZOA dinner in Philadelphia. He holds that position to this day.

The ZOA’s first dinner in Philadelphia was a huge success. The chapter raised money, and, as Howard described it, “we were on our way.” About two years later, Howard became co-president of the chapter (with Lee Bender who is still co-president).

In 2013, Howard went from being an active local ZOA lay leader to a member of the national organization’s professional staff. Dr. Goldblatt told Howard about an opening in the New York office for the development director’s position. “It was a privilege to join the ZOA staff,” Howard recalled, “and an opportunity to contribute to the ZOA and its mission.”

Howard soon took over organizing ZOA’s annual gala. Under his leadership, it has become the superstar, must-attend event in the Jewish and pro-Israel community.

Howard’s energy and vision contributed to the ZOA’s development and success in many other ways. He helped form ZOA chapters in the NY metro area (Manhattan, Long Island and northern New Jersey) and created an organizational structure, overseeing the chapters nationally. He helped create the partnership between ZOA and Fuel For Truth, a unique program which provides

young professionals with the substantive and communicative tools to advocate effectively for Israel, while also affording them fun social opportunities and connections. With his amazing team, Howard organizes the ZOA’s major events, including (in coordination with the Government Relations department) the ZOA’s annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission.

Howard and Patti have been to Israel more than 50 times, including participating in several Purim missions organized by ZOA National Board Member Rubin Margules. Howard saw the value of an annual national ZOA mission to Israel and is the driving force behind planning and organizing this one-of-a-kind trip.

Ask ZOA staff and they will tell you how lucky they are to work with Howard. Yet Howard sees himself as the lucky one. In addition to cherishing his life with Patti and their children and grandchildren, he said, “It’s a personal mission and a privilege to work with the most wonderful people on earth who care and are as committed as I am. I love every one of them. And to follow in my parents’ footsteps is a whole other story.”

Howard is equally effusive about working with ZOA National President Morton Klein: “There’s nobody else like Mort. I feel like I’m working side by side with the Jabotinsky of our generation.”

“I don’t consider my work for the ZOA as just a job,” Howard continued. “I love Israel and I love what ZOA stands for – its devotion, its commitment to the safety and security of the State of Israel and to the survival of the Jewish community. Look at what we’re doing to help our kids and grandkids.

“There’s no other organization doing all this work. ZOA is it! I feel like I’ll be here as long as I’m walking and breathing.”

Howard, we surely hope so. 🇺🇸

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



Dan Pollak

Director, Government Relations

More than halfway through the first term of President Donald Trump, ZOA has accomplished more towards its goals in a short time than anyone could have expected. Unfortunately, a great deal remains to be done, and there are indications that the next two years will have many minefields.

As these words were written, U.S. contributions to the Palestinian Authority (PA) have actually reached zero for the first time this century. The U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem is open for business, and the PA mission in Washington, D.C. has been closed. The U.S. has withdrawn from the infamous and duplicitous Iran Deal (JCPOA) crafted by President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State John Kerry. The U.S. stands behind Israel as it conducts military operations in Syria to directly challenge the Iranian presence there. The Senate has just passed a law facilitating the fights by U.S. states against the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement. The present is an almost unbroken story of good news when it comes to U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, the near future looks much more difficult. The House of Representatives is now controlled by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and the new era in the chamber is symbolized by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), one of the most uninformed members of Congress, particularly on the issues ZOA cares about most. There are two new Muslim members of Congress, Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN), both of whom have made statements that are anti-Israel at best, and anti-Semitic at worst.

The new reality in the Democratic Party is that nothing pro-Israel can be taken for granted. The rising level of partisan vitriol has made it likely that the administration and Congress will agree on very little in the next two years. Some expect the Trump peace plan

for the Mideast region to be unveiled in the near future, and there are indications that it may have problematic elements. Iran has continued to worm its way towards developing a military nuclear capability, and to test ballistic missiles whose only purpose is to deliver nuclear weapons. Not enough attention has been focused on Israel's northern border and the very real possibility that Lebanon, controlled by Hezbollah, may strike Israel at any time with thousands of missiles, resulting in a war with serious casualties for Israeli civilians. (Worth noting: The U.S. continues to supply the Lebanese Army with weapons and support, even though this army is now closely allied with Hezbollah and Iran.)

Partisan Gridlock in Washington

ZOA's Government Relations department is experiencing both sides of this reality in our nation's capital. Our relations with the administration are quite good, however, the partisan gridlock, which brought us the government shutdown earlier this year, has challenges for our congressional agenda.

The ZOA, like every pro-Israel group, would be quite happy if support for Israel was truly bipartisan. Unlike some Jewish organizations, the ZOA does not alter its agenda to create superficial results for an imaginary bipartisan consensus.

The truth is that there are elements of the "Democratic" Party that have become hostile to Israel in principle and in their votes. For example, as the anti-BDS vote was taken in January, every then-declared candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination opposed the bill on spurious First Amendment grounds. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs includes Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN), who is an admitted supporter of BDS and denier of Israel's right to exist. Traditionally pro-Israel Democrats, like Chairman of that same committee Eliot Engel



(D-NY), were unable or unwilling to block her appointment.

The PA has refused to stop paying salaries to terrorists and their families, which increase with the brutality of the crimes committed against Jewish victims. As PA President Mahmoud Abbas begins the 15th year of his four-year term, the PA has also refused to meet with senior U.S. diplomats. President Trump has responded by curtailing discretionary U.S. aid, and the PA refused additional U.S. aid in an effort to escape the jurisdiction of U.S. courts when American terror victims (or their families) seek civil remedies for the deaths and injuries resulting from the PA's terrorist actions. One controversial area is U.S. aid that supports security cooperation between the PA and Israel. ZOA believes there should be no blank checks to the PA, but rather of course Israel itself should choose the correct level of security cooperation.

BDS and Iran

BDS against Israel is intrinsically a scheme to destroy Israel by alternative means. It will fail, and everywhere it is promoted, it reveals its adherents as extremists. Much of the legislative activity against BDS is at the state level, where individual states have passed laws making it impossible for a business to contract with the state if they are boycotting Israel. At the federal level, technical legislation to ensure that federal laws do not conflict with these state efforts is the focus of the current battle. Our opponents are raising baseless First Amendment objections to these efforts. In the first decisive legal ruling, a federal judge in Arkansas recently upheld that state's anti-BDS law.

Iran has not yet been stopped from proceeding with its plans to develop nuclear weapons, and ZOA continues to push for congressional actions to make this more difficult. President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo, along with National Security Advisor John Bolton, are doing great work on this challenging issue, but new congressional sanctions are needed as well. ZOA is doing all we can to keep the focus on Iran and its nefarious activity. Nothing that happens in Lebanon, Syria or Gaza is really independent of the evil plans of the Iranian regime.

Nothing that happens in Lebanon, Syria or Gaza is really independent of the evil plans of the Iranian regime.

Community Affairs

The ZOA's Government Relations department also continues to focus on our other regular legislative priorities, including fighting for Jewish students on our college campuses. 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 D.C., and other American Jewish groups. Our annual ZOA Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission will take place in June this year. We also work closely with our regional directors throughout the U.S. and Israel; 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 director has also visited ZOA chapters to give talks and educate our members on the situation in Washington. 🌐

CENTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE



Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.
Director, Center for Law
& Justice

Office for Civil Rights Reopens ZOA's Title VI Case Against Rutgers – In Landmark Decision, OCR Will Now Use State Department's Accurate Anti-Semitism Definition to Assess Motive

In a long-awaited decision, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR") reopened the ZOA's 2011 case against New Jersey's Rutgers University, which alleged that Jewish students were subjected to a hostile campus environment in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. The August 24, 2018 decision was groundbreaking. In its letter to the ZOA, OCR declared that in assessing evidence of whether students were discriminated against based on their actual or perceived Jewish ancestry or ethnicity, OCR will now use the U.S. State Department's working definition of anti-Semitism.

This definition is excellent. It accurately reflects the many ways in which anti-Semitism is expressed today and recognizes that Jew-hatred can be camouflaged as anti-Israel or anti-Zionism.

OCR informed the ZOA that in the Rutgers case, it is not only reassessing the evidence in the record, but it is also going to determine whether a hostile environment for Jewish students currently exists at Rutgers. In response, ZOA provided information to OCR that should be useful in making that determination and also assured OCR of its continued cooperation.

The ZOA is extremely proud that our work continues to lead to important governmental decisions affording stronger protections to Jewish students from anti-Semitic harassment and discrimination. It was also the ZOA's work that led to OCR's momentous decision in 2010 to reinterpret Title VI to protect Jewish students.

The ZOA is extremely proud that our work continues to lead to important governmental decisions affording stronger protections to Jewish students from anti-Semitic harassment and discrimination.

After ZOA Intervenes, Williams Sonoma Finally Addresses Anti-Semitism

A Jewish employee at a Williams Sonoma store in Manhattan was subjected to anti-Semitic threats, harassment and abuse by a customer. The employee, Devra Block, made repeated efforts to get the company to take corrective measures. But it was not until she enlisted the ZOA's help that Williams Sonoma finally effectively addressed the problem.

Last May, Ms. Block – who wears a Star of David necklace – was assisting a customer who repeatedly harassed her about her Jewish identity and made false and hateful accusations about Jews generally. In front of several witnesses, the customer cursed and shouted at Ms. Block, using such words as "I hate you. You f—king Jew. I hope you die."

After Williams Sonoma management learned about what Ms. Block endured, not a single company official followed up or informed her of the remedial steps that the company planned to take. Ms. Block's reasonable request that Williams Sonoma notify the anti-Semitic customer,



The Williams Sonoma store in Manhattan where Devra Block was harassed and abused because she is Jewish

in writing, that she was banned from Williams Sonoma and its sister stores, was ignored. When Ms. Block asked about Williams Sonoma's policy on customer abuse, the district manager told her that no such policy existed, but that the company was working on one.

Shockingly, the only comment from management was one that Ms. Block overheard in the store. An assistant manager told another employee that Ms. Block's Star of David necklace was "a provocation" – outrageously blaming Ms. Block's pride in her Jewish identity for the threats and abuse she suffered. When Ms. Block reported the comment to management, no action was taken.

It was only after the ZOA intervened on Ms. Block's behalf that Williams Sonoma finally took the necessary remedial steps:

- The CEO sent an apology letter to Ms. Block for the company's failure to respond promptly and appropriately to the anti-Semitism she endured.

- Williams Sonoma sent a certified letter to the anti-Semitic customer (whom Ms. Block helped identify), emphasizing the company's zero tolerance for anti-Semitism, and banning the customer from shopping at all Williams Sonoma stores and websites, including its other brands (Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, and West Elm).
- Williams Sonoma provided training to employees on how to recognize and effectively respond to anti-Semitic harassment, whether engaged in by customers or anyone else.
- Williams Sonoma terminated the employee who blamed Ms. Block for "provoking" the anti-Semitism by wearing a Star of David.

The ZOA commends Ms. Devra Block for standing up strongly to anti-Semitism in the workplace, and also commends Williams Sonoma for rectifying its wrongdoing and taking corrective action.

It was only after the ZOA intervened on Ms. Block's behalf that Williams Sonoma finally took the necessary remedial steps.



When the chief investigator interrogated a witness and wrote up his report, he did not refer to Professor Melamed by his name or title. Appallingly, he referred to Professor Melamed as “der Jude” – the Jew. This alone tells us much about whether anti-Semitism has infected this whole matter and the way in which it has been handled.

ZOA Fights for the Rights of a Jewish Professor Viciously Assaulted in Germany

The ZOA has been fighting for justice for Yitzhak Melamed, a professor at Johns Hopkins University, who was subjected to two vicious and unjustified physical attacks when he was in Germany last July to deliver a keynote address at Bonn University.

Professor Melamed was first attacked because of his Jewish identity by a self-identified Palestinian Arab man. The professor was wearing a yarmulke at the time and the man shouted anti-Semitic comments at him.

As Professor Melamed ran after his attacker, police officers – running from the opposite direction – ran past the attacker and tackled Professor Melamed instead. They pushed his head into the ground and, while he was totally incapacitated and barely able to breathe or move, they began punching his face. They cuffed his hands behind his back, as he was shouting that they had the wrong person.

It is possible that the police mistook Professor Melamed for the attacker. But that does not excuse their brutality against him.

When Professor Melamed insisted on filing a complaint against the policemen who physically assaulted him, the police retaliated with a complaint of their own, falsely accusing him of resisting arrest and attacking the police.

Several German authorities, including Germany’s Ambassador to the U.S., apologized to Professor Melamed. Yet rather than put an end to his ordeal, German authorities are allowing it to continue. As of this writing, several troubling developments were recently reported to us, including:

- Investigative files that Professor Melamed requested and received include the detailed testimony of a witness to the beating – a Berlin resident who was visiting Bonn and had no reason to distort the truth. This witness described the police beating of Pro-

fessor Melamed as brutal and unjustified.

- Without considering all the evidence, the prosecutor may close the case against the policemen who physically assaulted Professor Melamed, and may also close the case against the policewoman who threatened Professor Melamed with a frivolous and retaliatory complaint. Professor Melamed has repeatedly offered to go to the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. to give testimony about what happened last July – offers that the German authorities should welcome and require, so that all claims are resolved based on all the available evidence. Despite these efforts, German authorities have rebuffed Professor Melamed’s offers.
- Two of the four policemen who attacked Professor Melamed were recently investigated – one for alleged police brutality (reportedly, this case was closed), and a second for a neo-Nazi affiliation (he was part of a group of policemen sending Nazi slogans on the police radio).
- When the chief investigator interrogated a witness and wrote up his report, he did not refer to Professor Melamed by his name or title. Appallingly, he referred to Professor Melamed as “der Jude” – the Jew. This alone tells us much about whether anti-Semitism has infected this whole matter and the way in which it has been handled.

Professor Melamed is a highly-respected scholar and member of his community. His grandparents, aunt and uncle were killed by German police, all in one day, in 1942. It is frightening and unacceptable that German police can continue to scapegoat, victimize and brutalize Jews today.

Once alerted to Professor Melamed’s plight, the ZOA sprang into action, enlisting the help of Richard Grenell, the U.S. Ambassador to Germany. The Ambassador’s staff met with German authorities and is continuing to monitor the situation, to ensure that justice is

Professor Melamed's grandparents, aunt and uncle were killed by German police, all in one day, in 1942. It is frightening and unacceptable that German police can continue to scapegoat, victimize and brutalize Jews today.

done. In addition, Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) sent a letter to Ambassador Grenell, and Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) sent a letter to Emily Haber, Germany's Ambassador to the U.S., on Professor Melamed's behalf. The ZOA also wrote to Ambassador Haber, urging her to intervene and ensure that the wrongs against Professor Melamed are finally corrected.

The charges against Professor Melamed should be dropped. His name and reputation must be cleared. The police should admit their culpability and apologize to Professor Melamed. And the police should be held accountable by the German authorities for their physical attack and their false and retaliatory charges.

ZOA's Ongoing Educational Efforts in Local Communities

Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, recently spoke at several venues about campus anti-Semitism and the ZOA's leading role in fighting it: Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA (October 2018); Dix Hills Jewish Center in Dix Hills, NY (November 2018); and a parlor meeting graciously hosted by Sandy and Mark Gold in Kings Point, NY (December 2018).

In December 2018, Susan and Deborah Peretz, regional director of Long Island and associate director of the NY Metro region, conducted four interactive sessions with high school seniors at North Shore Hebrew Academy in Great Neck, NY, to arm them with tools to fight campus anti-Semitism.

In February 2019, Susan and Alan Jay, director of the NY Metro region, presented a program on campus anti-Semitism to parents and high school seniors at the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies.

BCHSJS
Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies

Annual Gala Dinner

Mazel Tov to Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., who was the L'Dor V'Dor honoree at the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies' annual gala on June 5 at Congregation Beth Sholom in Teaneck.



The ZOA is so proud of you and your accomplishments and we wish you much continued success.



2019 ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel

"The highlight for me was visiting the American Embassy and meeting with Ambassador Friedman. To see the emblem with the names of the president, vice president and ambassador on a structure in the eternal, undivided capital of Jerusalem was thrilling."

-Eve Bazer, trip participant, 2019 ZOA Mission to Israel

ZOA leaders in Jerusalem



Meeting with MKs



Showing support for our troops



Israel turns terror into art



"Fabulous. What an experience. We laughed, ate, stayed at a luxury 5 star hotel but most important we learned. The Israelis made us feel at home. We learned from Israeli officials and experts...how highly regarded Mort Klein and the ZOA is in Israel. How they need us to go back to the America and tell our families and friends how much Israel needs their support. ZOA is highly regarded in the fight to keep Jerusalem undivided and Israel a Jewish State for all time....

It was a truly inspiring experience. I could go on and on. I'll end by saying Fabulous."

- Morton Gleit, trip participant, 2019 ZOA Mission to Israel

"No matter how many times you have been to Israel, this trip trumps all! The professional guides through areas you could never visit as a regular tourist make for once in a lifetime experiences. What an uplifting and inspiring month squeezed into one week!"

- Kayla Friedman, trip participant, 2019 ZOA Mission to Israel

In 2018 There Were:



1,841,206
people
reached on
Facebook

India
Brazil
Australia
Canada
United States
Germany
Philippines
United Kingdom
Israel



505
Facebook
posts



987
new Twitter
followers



6,907
comments
on Facebook



19,324
shares on
Facebook



49,760
likes on
Facebook



124,263
followers
on our
Facebook
page (*on
avg.)



287,994
engage-
ments on
Facebook



350,800
Twitter
impressions

ZOA'S FUEL FOR TRUTH

The Messenger is as Important as the Message.

A NEW MODEL OF ISRAEL ADVOCACY

When you hear someone say something about Israel that challenges your perception of reality, rather than ask yourself how to tell the person they're wrong, first ask yourself why they think they're right.

This statement best summarizes the methodology behind ZOA's Fuel For Truth (FFT) and our Israel advocacy Boot Camp program for young professionals. All too often, when people attempt to change hearts and minds relative to Israel, they focus exclusively on their own value system, knowledge level and prior experience to guide their talking points. They rarely think about how the other person's value system, knowledge level and prior experience might be different.

All of us are different. Even the most avowedly pro-Israel individuals don't have exactly the same opinions about every issue, so we need to understand that the facts we selectively prioritize in our advocacy may not align with everyone who's listening.

Only by truly understanding where someone is coming from and how they came to their current conclusions can you effectively begin to address and change their views on the subject. Persuasion is a process, and it begins with knowing, appreciating, and creating positive experiences with your audience.

IF YOU WILL IT, IT IS NO DREAM (COAST TO COAST)

Those famous words, uttered by Theodor Herzl when he dedicated his life to reconstituting Jewish sovereignty in the land of Israel, have special meaning to us outside of their original context. For years we heard from people across the country, begging us to bring Boot Camp to their home cities because there was no local program that accomplishes what Boot Camp does. As a result, our biggest goal became bringing Boot Camp to every major market in the U.S. and providing the education and community so desperately needed.

We are now getting closer to accomplishing that special goal. ZOA's FFT has begun taking steps toward establishing Boot Camp in Los Angeles and Chicago - the second and third largest U.S. markets. We are optimistic that our fifth and sixth chapters will launch in the spring/summer 2019, joining New York, Washington, D.C., Miami and Boston.



Justin Ellis

Director, ZOA's Fuel For Truth

Justin Ellis lecturing at an FFT Boot Camp session in NYC



Proud ZOA's
FFT Boot Camp
alumni cele-
brating their
graduation at
Party
For
Truth



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES WITH BOOT CAMP 2.0

More than 800 young professionals have graduated from Boot Camp in four cities, and many of them have requested ongoing education in order to continue learning about Israel and developing their Jewish identity. So, due to popular demand, we are in the process of rolling out Boot Camp 2.0! Featuring presentations, discussions, and workshops, these sessions will dive deeper into content covered during Boot Camp, address pressing issues and current events, as well as offer participants practical experience in ways to apply their activism.



A FAMILIAR FACE JOINS THE TEAM

As part of our increased engagement in established markets and westward expansion, ZOA's FFT hired Daniel Brooks - a Boot Camp graduate and long-time volunteer - to join as a part-time associate director.

Born and raised in Queens, New York, Daniel received his bachelor's degree in communications from Boston University, and is currently a human resources manager at a Manhattan law firm. Daniel is the founder and current Vice President of 3GNY, an educational non-profit organization for grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, whose mission is to educate diverse communities through sharing family histories and lessons of the Holocaust. He has extensive experience as an Israel advocate, having organized pro-Israel demonstrations, spoken on panels and written for the organization Artists4Israel. Daniel is also a frequent op-ed contributor to the Times of Israel. We welcome him to ZOA's FFT team! 🇺🇸



Daniel Brooks,
ZOA's FFT Associate
Director



ZOA CAMPUS

ZOA Campus propelled energetically through the fall 2018 semester, hosting over 214 events at 75 campuses, with over 145 pro-Israel student and campus organizations.

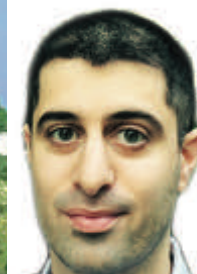


ZOA student leaders
on biannual ZOA trip
to Israel/Judea/Samaria
(featured on cover)



Leore Ben-David

Managing Director,
ZOA Campus,
So-Cal Campus
Coordinator



**Jonathan
Ginsburg**

Associate Director
ZOA Campus,
New England
Campus
Coordinator



Or Taylor

Mid-Atlantic
Campus
Coordinator



**Benjamin
Schine**

Southeast
Campus
Coordinator



**Antar
Davidson**

Southwest
Campus
Coordinator



Nadav Alkoby

Midwest Campus
Coordinator



Ari Fuld's tragic death inspired many students to unite and launch a social media campaign that not only exposed the media's anti-Israel bias, but also honored a man taken way before his time, whom they saw as a role model and fellow Zionist.

ZOA student leaders
with the late Ari
Fuld (z"l)

The ZOA's Campus department, better known as ZOA Campus, propelled energetically through the fall 2018 semester, hosting over 214 events at 75 campuses, with over 145 pro-Israel student and campus organizations. Our six dedicated professional campus coordinators are based in major cities throughout the country. They guide over 25 esteemed ZOA Campus Fellows, who are student leaders at their respective universities and work with us to build knowledge of and support for Israel.

Honoring a Lion of Zion

Thanks to the continued generosity of the Myron Zimmerman Foundation, ZOA was privileged to guide over 70 student leaders from campuses across the nation on two separate student leadership missions to Israel in 2018. The trip in June took place at the height of escalating violence on the Gaza border. Students saw a terror kite firsthand and the extent of the damage that the incendiary device causes in the region.

Students also heard from expert speakers, including Ari Fuld (z"l), a resident of Efrat. Ari shared his life story – why he was a Zionist, and why it is important to fight to be a free Jew, no matter where you are physically located, whether it be in the IDF, in France, on a college campus, or online. The students were so invigorated by Ari's charisma and philosophy that many began working with him to schedule a fall U.S. campus tour.

On September 16, about two months after the students from the ZOA summer mission

said goodbye to Ari and to each other, Ari was murdered by a Palestinian Arab terrorist. In that instant, our students were personally affected by the wave of Palestinian Arab terror that most Israelis experience and struggle with each day.

Now, these students can honestly say they knew a hero who died in defense of the Jewish state. Ari's tragic death inspired many students to unite and launch a social media campaign that not only exposed the media's anti-Israel bias, but also honored a man taken way before his time, whom they saw as a role model and fellow Zionist.

The students on the ZOA's summer mission created a photobook with pictures of Ari and selected posts by students who knew and loved him. The book was displayed at the 2018 ZOA Gala and delivered to Ari's bereaved parents in Israel a few days later. The students also adapted Ari's logo – the profile of a lion with a Magen David and map of the State of Israel – with the Hebrew words, "Gibor K'Ari" (a hero like a lion), into a pin. Students wore the pins at the ZOA Gala and they continue to wear them with pride on their campuses, to honor Ari.

To carry on Ari's legacy, alumni of the ZOA summer mission gave these pins to the students who participated in the ZOA's winter 2018-19 Student Leadership Mission to Israel. Additionally, these participants visited Ari's grave in Gush Etzion. ZOA Campus staff, who knew Ari personally, encouraged these students to be inspired by Ari's pro-Israel advocacy when they return to their campuses.





Like us on Facebook: ZOA Campus Launches Its Facebook Page; Help Us Go Viral!

In the fall of 2018, ZOA Campus launched its own Facebook page to engage and encourage students to expand their Zionist activism on campus. We post information about Israel, as well as original content by our ZOA Campus Fellows. This includes blogs from the students on the ZOA Student Leadership Missions to Israel, photos and videos from Zionist events and tablings that ZOA Campus Fellows host on their campuses, and content generated during the ZOA Campus summer internship program.

The ZOA Campus Facebook page is the place for Zionist students to find all their hard work posted, liked, and shared. This space will continue to grow as we create new content geared to young American Zionists who are often the sole voices on their campuses speaking up against BDS and other forms of anti-Semitism.

New Additions to the ZOA Campus Family

In the fall, ZOA Campus established a new regional presence in the southwest by adding Southwest Campus Coordinator Antar Davidson to the team. Antar brings Zionist activism to Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. He is no stranger to ZOA Campus. Antar began his college activism with ZOA as a summer intern in the Bay Area, then became a Campus Fellow at the University of Arizona, and participated in the ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel.

ZOA Campus rapidly established itself in the southwest region. Partnering with groups such as the Young Conservatives of Texas at the University of Texas at Austin, ZOA Campus brought ZOA National President Morton A. Klein to speak at an event, which helped

build bridges with the Christian community and strengthened the Judeo-Christian pro-Israel alliance.

Under the leadership of Associate Director and Northeast Campus Coordinator Jonathan Ginsburg, ZOA Campus brought critically-needed Zionist programming to New England.

Jonathan (who, with his wife, recently welcomed their first baby, Ilan) presented an Israel 101 seminar at Northeastern University, sharing details of Israel's rich history, as well as its current geo-strategic challenges.

ZOA also proudly co-sponsored a variety of events, including Krav Maga self-defense seminars at City College and the Fashion Institute of Technology; a presentation by Professor Richard Landes at Boston College; Shabbat dinners at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; and speaking engagements by Noam Bedein, director of the Sderot Media Center, at Ithaca College and Binghamton University.

Under the leadership of Mid-Atlantic Coordinator Or Taylor, ZOA Campus continues to bring strong Zionist programming to the region, including expert speakers, educational initiatives, and celebrations of Israeli heritage on campus.

The most recent addition to ZOA Campus is Midwest Campus Coordinator Nadav Alkoby. A Florida native and former AEPi Israel engagement professional, Nadav hit the ground running and helped our students in the Midwest, who were facing a campus climate harshly critical of Israel. Our ZOA Fellows refused to let hate paralyze them. They applied for ZOA Campus grants, which support campus initiatives, to counter the anti-Israel sentiment. They tabled to showcase Israel's humanitarian aid efforts and hosted an event featuring Ohad Roisblatt, an injured IDF soldier. Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and anti-Israel activists attended and tried to disrupt the event, in an unsuc-

ZOA Campus Associate Director Jonathan Ginsburg gives an Israel 101 Seminar to Northeastern University students.



ZOA Fellows proudly serve as our student ambassadors on campus, hosting important Zionist events and programs, and standing up to anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment.

successful effort to intimidate the student hosts and their guest speaker.

The Pacific Northwest region has grown to include campuses around the Bay Area, in California, Washington, and Oregon. The Pacific Northwest Campus Coordinator continues to engage in pro-Israel and Zionist programming on the campuses in the region, including Krav Maga events, SodaStream tablings, and speakers from the ZOA Campus Speakers Bureau.

ZOA Campus works with students from a variety of clubs and backgrounds to build their knowledge of and support for Israel. Fun and engaging events, such as “Fauda and Floats” and “Israel 101 and Ice Cream,” help us connect with many different students and educate them about Israel and Zionism.

In Southern California, under Managing Director Leore Ben-David, ZOA Campus stood with Jewish and Zionist student leaders at UCLA and the Jewish community in Los

Angeles to demand that UCLA disallow National SJP from holding its annual conference on the campus.

The conference took place – despite calls to shut it down from the mayor and city council – which renewed our commitment to expose the hate and bigotry of SJP and to build knowledge and support for Israel on the campus.

ZOA Campus Fellows Organize Pro-Israel Events on Campuses Across the Country

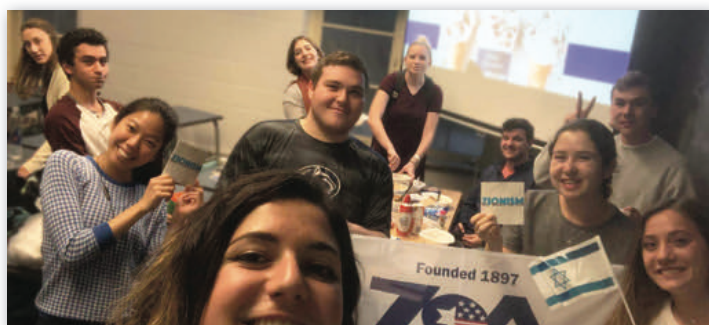
The ZOA Campus Fellowship program continues to expand. Our Fellows proudly serve as our student ambassadors on campus, hosting important Zionist events and programs, and standing up to anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment. Our ZOA Fellows come from such campuses as UC Berkeley, UCLA, Harvard, Brandeis, Cornell, NYU, and many more. 🇺🇸



Students Supporting Israel (SSI) at City College of New York hosts a joint self-defense training workshop with public safety team members.



ZOA Fellow at California State University San Marcos Sophie Nadler proudly displays the ZOA Campus banner while tabling with Soda Stream root beer floats.



Penn State University SSI students host a fun “Zionism & Ice Cream Sundaes” educational event.



ZOA Fellow at East Carolina University Chloe Greenfield tables on Campus for her pro-Israel club, Pirates for Israel.

OPPORTUNITY AMID POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

With yet another confusing, sometimes turbulent, Israeli elections season capturing everyone's attention, ZOA Israel has been using this as a golden opportunity, having recognized from past campaigns that candidates can be especially receptive when aiming to please voters. Assisted by ZOA Israel efforts, voters are becoming markedly more vocal concerning international threats to Israel's lawful rights, and on related matters of security, as the number of victims of Arab aggression and terror continues to rise.

Polling the Electorate

ZOA has long maintained that creating a Palestinian sovereign state means existential danger for Israel. With this in mind and against the backdrop of recent local and upcoming national elections, ZOA Israel's Legal Grounds Campaign commissioned a poll by the prestigious Rafi Smith Institute, a public opinion organization offering Palestinian statehood and four two-state alternatives as possibilities.

Our poll has featured prominently in mainstream and social media because of its remarkable finding that only 10% of Israelis favor the Palestinian state option. The other options are, in order of preference: incentivized emigration/annexation (30%); Area A & B autonomy with Jordanian linkage (26%); Area C annexation with full autonomy in A & B (22%); and full annexation with Israeli citizenship (12%). Boding well for Israel's future, the predilection for two-states is distinctly in decline among the younger demographic.

We have noted intense interest in the changing voter attitudes signaled by these results, including from popular former minister and close friend of ZOA Gidon Sa'ar (Likud), who is himself opposed to Palestinian statehood. Members of Knesset ("MK") Bezalet Smotrich (Bayit Yehudi), Avraham Neguise

(Likud), Oded Forer (Yisrael Beteinu) and Yoaz Hendel (Israel Resilience), and former MK Orit Struk (Bayit Yehudi), attended the two-state alternatives Yisrael Sheli conference, where we pitched our groundbreaking data. They are also impressed by the change in voter attitudes.

ZOA Israel's elections engagement has included clarifying leadership attitudes for the voters in parallel (e.g., as part of an Emunah Jerusalem lecture series), especially for Anglo Israelis, who, as a voting bloc, would have disproportionate potential to influence. Our process of organizing Anglo and like-minded native Israelis into a cohesive voice, to encourage newer candidates and incumbents to speak confidently on ZOA issues, continues apace. Toward this end, we prepared a Knesset primer, spelling out Israel's rightful presence in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. Once the next government is formed, we plan on distributing copies widely in the Knesset to keep the momentum going.

The now-concluded Jerusalem mayoral and city council elections also afforded nascent opportunities to spotlight our issues. Making the rounds at numerous debates and





Since 2013, ZOA Israel's Legal Grounds Campaign has been advancing an interpretation of international law that does not view building and residing in Israel's post-1967 territories as a "belligerent occupation" or "flagrant violation."

parlor meetings, we asked the candidates to work with us to establish facts on the ground, prevent Palestinian Authority (PA) encroachments, and enhance security — all towards rendering division of Israel's capital impossible, though by most accounts this already is Jerusalem's reality.

Our collaboration with the International Committee for Har Hazeitim (ICHH) — to protect and restore the Mount of Olives, the oldest and holiest Jewish cemetery — netted us the very first post-election meeting granted by Mayor of Jerusalem Moshe Lion. We also had a productive meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu's Chief of Staff Yoav Horowitz and a chat with Bibi himself. In addition, we met with MK Yoav Ben-Tzur (Shas), head of the Mount of Olives 67-member Knesset caucus, to plan a conference devoted to our eastern Jerusalem goals and how to achieve them.

Cancelling Hansell

In mid-2018, MK Nissan Slomiansky (Bayit Yehudi), chair of the Knesset Law Committee, wrote a letter to U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, requesting help on revoking the 1978 Hansell Memorandum. He also reached out to ZOA Israel to assist in moving his initiative forward.

During the Jimmy Carter administration, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance asked the State Department's chief legal counsel, Herbert Hansell, to draft a legal opinion regarding Israel's Judea and Samaria communities. While Hansell concluded that establishing civilian settlements in these areas was inconsistent with international law, he himself believed his ruling was controversial, as it negated the opinion of American legal experts, such as Yale Law School Dean Eugene Rostow.

Though President Ronald Reagan distanced U.S. government policy from treating settlements as a legal matter, the Memorandum was not officially rescinded. Rather, it has contin-

ued to serve as a cudgel to censure and delegitimize Israel. For example, President Barack Obama failed to extend the veto that would have thwarted Security Council Resolution 2334; reportedly, Ambassador Samantha Powers and Secretary of State John Kerry invoked the Memorandum's principles to validate this infamous decision. In addition, J Street relies on the Memorandum to justify its militancy against tax deductibility for pro-Israel causes. It has been suggested that the Memorandum could be deployed to hold Israel to account in The Hague, turning the building of houses and nurseries into a war crime.

Since 2013, ZOA Israel's Legal Grounds Campaign has been advancing an interpretation of international law that does not view building and residing in Israel's post-1967 territories as a "belligerent occupation" or "flagrant violation." When approached last year, ZOA Israel gladly took up the promotion of Slomiansky's letter with the U.S. Embassy, with other State Department officials, and with U.S. lawmakers, including Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Mike Lee (R-UT), Congressmen Lee Zeldin (R-NY), Dr. Andy Harris (R-MD) and Andy Barr (R-KY), and then-Congressman (now-Governor of Florida) Ron DeSantis, when each was visiting Israel.

More recently, senior Israeli officials and Israeli activists who back the revocation of the Hansell Memorandum have urged us to convey their concern that the Memorandum will be used to Israel's detriment, unless it is proactively revoked during the Israel-friendly Trump administration. ZOA Israel re-ignited interest in this idea while on Capitol Hill last January and presently, a number of senior U.S. officials are discussing the best ways to pursue it. Congressman Doug Lamborn (R-CO) was among those who asked ZOA Israel to draft a Sense of Congress letter addressed to President Trump, in favor of the revocation.



Mobilizing for Victims

Looking back over the horrific violence of recent months, most painful for us was the coldblooded murder of our friend and ally, Ari Fuld, who represented all that is good about Israel and Zionism. The ZOA student leaders visiting Israel last July met with Ari and were inspired. Unfortunately, tragedy struck before the next ZOA student group could meet him.

ZOA Israel coordinated meetings at the homes of Ari's parents and widow, where ZOA Campus Managing Director Leore Ben-David presented heartfelt student tributes in a beautifully arranged album keepsake. The strength and grace evinced by Ari's family, who desire only to perpetuate his good works, should have us all redoubling our Israel efforts.

ZOA Israel's advocacy for American victims of Palestinian Arab terror did not start or stop with Ari. Besides mobilizing community support and exposing the PA incitement factor, our role has involved opening and maintaining lines of communication between victims and key U.S. interlocutors.

For example, our joint battle continues for the extradition from Jordan of Ahlam al-Tamimi, responsible for the 2001 Sbarro bombing that killed 15 and wounded 130. While previous U.S. administrations dithered, despite the 1995 U.S.-Jordan extradition treaty, the Trump administration at least issued the extradition request in February 2017. Recently, ZOA Israel secured an assurance that Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) — the mother of then 15-year-old Sbarro bombing victim Malki Roth is her constituent — would pursue this further.

With thanks to the good offices of Ambassador David Friedman, ZOA Israel is also advancing an array of requests for other still-grieving families, such as Binyamin and Talya Kahane in a December 2000 ambush near Ofra, that left five of their six children who were injured.

Despite Herculean efforts by the attorneys for the terror victims and their families in the Sokolow v. PLO case, facilitated by ZOA's own Government Relations Department Director Dan Pollak, Center for Law and Justice Director Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., and National Board Member Clifford Rieders, Esq., justice for these victims and their \$655.5 million judgment remains elusive. Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) led a broad bipartisan move to eliminate the loopholes used to deny proper redress to the victims. President Trump then signed the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act that accomplished this objective. But the State Department, fearing such suits would bankrupt the PA, has asked that the law be modified.

Alan Joseph Bauer and his son Jonathan, plaintiffs in the Sokolow case who were seriously injured in a 2002 Jerusalem bombing by a PA security officer, have come to rely on ZOA Israel in their quest for justice and closure. We continue to convey their recurring pleas to U.S. diplomatic, elected, and Department of Justice officials, as we are doing for more recent victims of PA-orchestrated terrorism. 🇺🇸



ZOA campus leaders at Ari Fuld's gravesite

ZOA Israel coordinated meetings at the homes of Ari Fuld's parents and widow, where ZOA Campus Director Leore Ben-David presented heartfelt student tributes in a beautifully arranged album keepsake.

AROUND THE COUNTRY



Talya Messeri, Director of Outreach and Engagement, has been working with the regional directors to fine-tune the model for their particular regions, and Donor Society events have already taken place and are continuously being scheduled around the country.

Meet ZOA's Regional Directors

Steve Feldman
Philadelphia



Sharona Whisler
Florida



Stuart Pavilack
Pittsburgh



Kobi Erez
Detroit



David Kadosh
West Coast



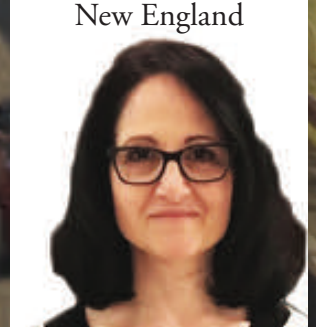
Deborah Peretz
NY Metro/Long Island



Alan Jay
NY Metro/NJ



Rabbi Jonina Pritzker
New England





Outreach and Engagement

Building Out the National ZOA Community – A New Approach

To inspire new and existing donors to support ZOA's important work to their greatest ability, ZOA has built and launched its new donor appreciation program, or "Donor Societies," to offer our loyal ZOA membership the opportunity to be part of a new and exclusive giving community.

Since its inaugural kickoff in the New York metro area in September 2018, ZOA's national donor appreciation program continues to thrive and expand. The roll-out of ZOA's Donor Societies across the country is well on its way, and our national ZOA community can look forward to increased engagement opportunities throughout 2019 and onward.

This effort is both "outreach" and "engagement." Part of its purpose is to provide current ZOA supporters with the increased engagement they've been asking for, and to keep our national community connected and on top of the important issues that concern us all. The Donor Societies are also a draw for individuals new to ZOA, with the promise of consistent, quality programming, available around the country. With the great success of our first few months of events and overwhelmingly positive support and praise from our constituents, we're very excited for the future.

Where it All Began

The Donor Society programs, launched in the New York metro area in fall 2018 served as a starting point. The second phase began in early 2019 with a roll-out to the ZOA regions.

Talya Messeri, Director of Outreach and Engagement, has been working with the regional directors to fine-tune the model for their particular regions, and Donor Society events have already taken place and are continuously being scheduled around the country. We're expanding our speaker pool and listening to

your feedback; we are looking forward to providing you with an even fuller calendar of offerings into 2020 and beyond.

To date, Donor Society events have consisted of in-person lectures, seminars and call-in briefings with prominent American and Israeli officials, authors, journalists, political advisors and ZOA staff experts and campus Fellows. Please see the "Around the Country" section of this report to learn more about ZOA regional events.

Donor Societies At a Glance

Supporters who give at the designated levels (page 43) become members of the corresponding Donor Society, and are offered exclusive events and privileges, increasing in quantity and access. In addition, the Donor Society program is a national program, meaning that a member of a particular society in one region is also a member of the same society in all regions around the country.

Even this past fall, when Donor Society programs took place in the New York metro area only, the excitement had already grown across the country! The Pre-Gala Reception, which took place on November 3, 2018 – the night before ZOA's Annual Gala – was an exclusive evening for our Menachem Begin, Brandeis, Jabotinsky and National Leadership Societies. It was well-attended by individuals from all over the country, including the New York Tristate area, Florida, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. We're looking forward to seeing even more ZOA national Donor Society representation at the Pre-Gala Reception next year!

Not only do Society member privileges include invitations to exclusive events, receptions, insider briefings and more [see full list of privileges on page 43], but also Donor Society members will continue to be recognized with special ribbons at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala and at all major ZOA events.



Talya Messeri at a Donor Societies event in ZOA's NYC office



Talya Messeri with ZOA regional directors at pre-gala Donor Societies event



ZOA national headquarters in NYC

To encourage engagement by young ZOA members, ZOA's Fuel For Truth participants and alumni, and young professionals under 40, are offered special Donor Society giving level rates. Please ask your regional director or ZOA's Fuel For Truth staff for more details.

Additional Outreach Efforts – You Can Help!

Along with our new Donor Societies, outreach efforts across the country are in full swing. Since the fall of 2018, ZOA's regional directors have been busy organizing parlor events for their communities to introduce new individuals to ZOA. Many of you have asked for ways to get involved, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to ask for your help in growing ZOA!

Please volunteer to host a parlor event at your home or office, and we will bring a program to you that will showcase our important work. If that's not possible, invite friends to a Donor Society event as your guests, or introduce them to us, and let's sit down together over a cup of coffee to discuss ZOA's work and how your friends can become involved.

Looking Forward to the Future

There is much work to do, and so very much to look forward to. We are excited to keep you updated on our outreach and engagement efforts as the Donor Society roll-out continues through 2019 and beyond. We hope you will join us in one of our Donor Societies, and we look forward to your continued involvement in helping to shape and grow our rapidly expanding national community.

For Donor Society questions, or if you would like additional information, please contact Talya Messeri at TMesseri@zoa.org.



Zionist Organization of America

ZOA Donor Societies

Zionists are encouraged to engage with ZOA and take advantage of exclusive privileges*

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP (Under \$1,000)**	HERZL SOCIETY(\$1,000-\$2,499)**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular emails from ZOA that include press releases, op-eds and important communications on timely issues • Spring and Fall issues of the comprehensive ZOA Report • Invitation to attend the superstar ZOA Annual Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes General Membership benefits plus... • Invitations to select, exclusive Herzl Society events (regionally and nationally) • Ability to invite as your personal guests up to two <u>new</u> Herzl Society prospects to each event • Prominent ribbon indicating Herzl Society status to be worn at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission • Recognition as Herzl Society member in the Spring ZOA Report (beginning in 2019)
MENACHEM BEGIN SOCIETY (\$2,500-\$4,999)**	BRANDEIS SOCIETY (\$5,000-\$9,999)**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes Herzl Society benefits plus... • Invitation to at least one <u>additional</u> exclusive Menachem Begin Society level program • Invitations to select insider briefing calls • Invitation to an exclusive reception on the evening before the superstar ZOA Annual Gala • Prominent ribbon indicating Menachem Begin Society status to be worn at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission • Recognition as Menachem Begin Society member in the Spring ZOA Report (beginning in 2019) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes Menachem Begin Society benefits plus... • Invitation to at least one <u>additional</u> exclusive Brandeis Society level program • Two <u>non-transferable</u> complimentary tickets to the superstar ZOA Annual Gala • Prominent ribbon indicating Brandeis Society status to be worn at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission • Recognition as Brandeis Society member in the Spring ZOA Report (beginning in 2019) • Exclusive donor society pin (beginning in 2019)
JABOTINSKY SOCIETY (\$10,000-\$24,999)**	NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SOCIETY (\$25,000+)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes Brandeis Society benefits plus... • Personal phone call with ZOA National President, Mr. Mort Klein (subject to availability) • Exclusive access to government and/or congressional events as opportunities arise • VIP reception with ZOA National President, Mr. Mort Klein, and ZOA Executive Committee Board Chair at the Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission • Prominent ribbon indicating Jabotinsky Society status to be worn at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission • Recognition as Jabotinsky Society member in the Spring ZOA Report (beginning in 2019) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes Jabotinsky Society benefits plus... • One complimentary table at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala • Private cell phone number of ZOA National President, Mr. Mort Klein • Ribbon indicating National Leadership Society status to be worn at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission • Recognition as National Leadership Society member in the Spring ZOA Report (beginning in 2019)

* *Subject to change*

***Special minimum giving levels for those who are under 40, and ZOA's Fuel For Truth (FFT) members*

Note: Membership in all societies is based on annual giving



[1] Sharon and Jeff Resnick (fourth from left), who both received ZOA Greater Philadelphia's The Future Is Now Award. With the Resnicks (from left) are Greater Philadelphia Chapter Co-President Lee Bender, Treasurer Len Getz, Co-President Kevin Ross and Executive Director Steve Feldman.

The Gala featured moving and inspiring speeches by our honorees, plus an overview of ZOA's work by ZOA National President Morton Klein.

Greater Philadelphia Emphasizing Awareness, Advocacy and Activities

ZOA's Greater Philadelphia Chapter has had a busy and productive period since our last report. We held our eighth annual Gala, made a number of media appearances, and devoted a lot of attention to exposing and combatting a vile anti-Israel and anti-Jewish professor at a major Philadelphia university.

Another Successful Gala

Some 250 people attended our Gala on October 17, as we honored Drs. Sharon and Menachem Meller with our Pillars of the Community Award, Bill and Cindy Wanger with our new Defenders of Israel Award, and Sam Rohrer with our Friend of Zion Award. For only the second time, we presented The Future Is Now Award to Sharon and Jeff Resnick, recognizing the pro-Israel work of young professionals.

The Gala featured moving and inspiring speeches by our honorees, plus an overview of ZOA's work by ZOA National President Morton A. Klein. There were also stirring renditions of "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Hatikvah," "G-d Bless America" and "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav." Rounding out the evening were thoughtful and timely prayers from two rabbis. The ceremony is available to watch on YouTube.

Increasing Awareness About Jerusalem's Importance to Jews and Israel

On February 4, our quarterly meeting focused on Jerusalem – specifically on the theme, "What You Never Knew About Jerusalem . . . and Why It Matters." Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Rosenbaum, President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Jewish Studies at Gratz

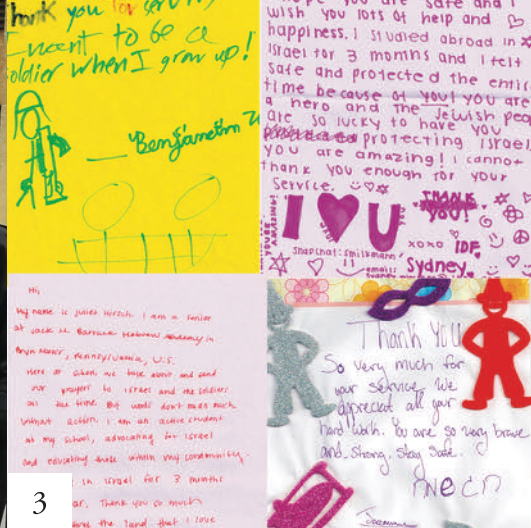
College, and Visiting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania, guided attendees through an exploration of the city and its centrality and significance to the Jewish people and Israel. As the status of Jerusalem continues to be the subject of debate, it is vital that we have the tools to explain why Jerusalem must remain Israel's undivided capital. Rosenbaum and ZOA leaders also offered advocacy tips and action items to help safeguard Jerusalem.

Responding to Campus Jew-Hater and Israel-Basher Marc Lamont Hill

Many ZOA members and other pro-Israel advocates from our area are graduates of Temple University, including ZOA National President Morton Klein and Greater Philadelphia ZOA Executive Director Steve Feldman. Others have children or grandchildren who attend Temple. All of us, plus the community at large, were horrified by the anti-Israel rhetoric and actions – including calls for violence – by tenured Temple Professor Marc Lamont Hill.

Hill is the Steve Charles Professor of Media, Cities and Solutions at the Klein College of Media and Communication. Before Temple hired him in 2017, Hill had a long and active record of both anti-Israel activities and advocacy on behalf of two convicted murderers of police officers.

On November 28, when Hill addressed the annual anti-Israel hatefest known as the United Nations (UN) International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, many more people became familiar with Hill's hostility toward the Jewish people. In a 22-minute speech, Hill advocated for violent Arab "resistance" against Israel, and called for a state of "Palestine" extending "from the river to the sea" – the PLO and Hamas phrase chanted at countless anti-Israel rallies throughout the



world, calling for the destruction of the Jewish State of Israel.

Temple University officials issued a weak response a few days after the speech, and Temple's trustees issued a weak statement of their own about Hill. CNN – where Hill was a frequent commentator – severed its relationship with Hill immediately.

In response to a rally supporting Hill, Greater Philadelphia ZOA hastily organized a well-attended counter-demonstration on Temple's campus, which included about a dozen students. We also reached out to Temple trustees and other officials, and released two statements condemning both Hill and Temple's weak responses to Hill's actions and rhetoric. In addition, we were quoted in a variety of media outlets, and the *Jewish Exponent* published a comprehensive op-ed by Feldman. Feldman was a guest twice on "The Dom Giordano Show" on talk-radio to discuss the matter and ZOA's response.

Other anti-Jewish/anti-Israel attacks by Hill prior to the speech – including accusing "greedy" Jews of "stealing" the land (in a video taken in Nazareth) and claims that Israel is intentionally poisoning Palestinian Arab drinking water – came to light. There were also outrageous claims by Hill afterward – including that Israeli officials were training New York City police officers to murder African Americans on the streets of New York.

We are continuing to call for Hill to be fired, and for an investigation into how he was hired in the first place, given his record. Morton Klein has also spoken out and written strongly against Hill and Temple and called for Hill's firing. We have regularly issued Action Alerts calling on our members and friends to contact Temple administrators and trustees about Hill

and to withhold all donations to Temple until Hill is fired.

Positive Notes

We solicited hundreds of beautiful and heartfelt cards and letters from students at a dozen schools and congregations throughout our region, thanking the men and women of the Israel Defense Forces for their service to our homeland. The cards and letters were delivered to the soldiers and border police officers in Israel in February 2019 by participants in ZOA's Leadership Mission to Israel. Many of the letters are extremely touching, with young Jews expressing their admiration of and gratitude for those who keep Israelis safe.

Feldman, Chapter Co-President Lee Bender, Vice President Naphtali Perlberger, Treasurer Len Getz and Media Committee Chairman Jerry Verlin had a number of articles, op-eds and letters published by an assortment of media outlets. Feldman, Bender and Verlin also gave a number of speeches and presentations throughout the area.

In the months leading up to the congressional elections, Greater Philadelphia ZOA reached out to both Democratic and Republican candidates vying for office in a half-dozen closely contested House races. We met with a few candidates to introduce ourselves, give an overview of the Middle East and the history of the peace process, and to offer our help if the candidates needed any further information about Israel or the broader region.

About 30 people from our region attended the ZOA's spectacular 120th Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner in November 2018.

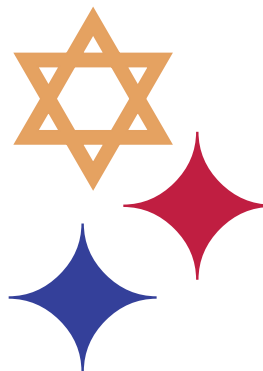
We look forward to a large local contingent attending the annual ZOA Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission later this spring.

[2] Participants who took part in ZOA's pro-Israel counter-demonstration to oppose an anti-Israel rally in support of Temple University anti-Semitic Professor Marc Lamont Hill

[3] Four of the hundreds of beautiful and heartfelt cards and letters from student thanking the men and women of the IDF that will be delivered to the soldiers

In response to a rally supporting Marc Lamont Hill, Greater Philadelphia ZOA hastily organized a well-attended counter-demonstration on Temple's campus, which included about a dozen students.

STRONGER THAN HATE



Shouting anti-Semitic slurs, a gunman killed 11 worshipers at the Tree of Life synagogue complex.

Pittsburgh

October 27, 2018 is a date that will never be forgotten in Pittsburgh. In the normally quiet Squirrel Hill neighborhood – home to more than a dozen synagogues, the Jewish Community Center, Jewish senior housing and long-term healthcare, a host of Jewish organizations, including ZOA's Pittsburgh office, and the epicenter of Jewish Pittsburgh – the worst act of violence against Jews in American history took place. Shouting anti-Semitic slurs, a gunman killed 11 worshipers at the Tree of Life synagogue complex.

ZOA Pittsburgh Executive Director Stuart Pavilack happened to be headed to the ZOA office that morning, which is roughly 800 feet from the synagogue complex. There was work to be done for the annual ZOA Awards Dinner on October 30. After learning about what was transpiring at the synagogue complex, Pavilack approached a police road block and overheard the police radio report that “the police had the suspect cornered on the third floor,” and then, minutes later, that they “had captured the suspect.”



Memorial in honor of the victims in front of the Tree of Life Synagogue Complex



Eitan Behar (L) and Yaakov Hagoel in front of the Tree of Life Synagogue Complex on Oct. 31

The following day, Pavilack attended a community safety meeting with the city police, FBI, mayor, governor, and others. The FBI assured that all Jewish sites and events for the next week would be provided with additional security. The community planned 11 funerals; nine of them were performed by the one Jewish funeral home in the area. Non-Jewish funeral homes lent additional hearses and other needed vehicles, and Jewish funeral directors traveled hundreds of miles to assist.

On October 29, ZOA's national office informed Pavilack that two members of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) were coming to Pittsburgh from Israel and would need assistance. On October 31, Yaakov Hagoel, WZO Vice-Chairman, and Eitan Behar, Director of WZO's Center for Diaspora Communications and Countering Anti-Semitism, arrived at the ZOA office. Pavilack and his guests attended two funerals for the victims. Hagoel and Behar spoke to the bereaved families and offered condolences on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people. Pavilack accompanied his guests to the Tree of Life building to see the makeshift memorials to the deceased created by people of all faiths.

ZOA Awards Dinner

ZOA Pittsburgh held its annual Awards Dinner on October 30, just three days after the massacre. Jeffrey L. Pollock, President of ZOA Pittsburgh, was determined that the event would proceed as planned, stating that “anti-Semitism and hatred will not dictate how Jews will run our lives.”

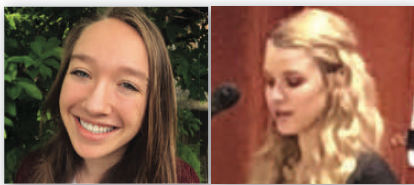
ZOA Pittsburgh honored three outstanding members of the community at the gala. In addition, a student spoke from each of ZOA Pittsburgh's longstanding youth programs – our Israel Scholarship Program and Tolerance Education Program.

Each year, ZOA Pittsburgh awards three \$1,000 scholarships to help Pittsburgh-area Jewish youth visit Israel on structured study

ZOA Pittsburgh honored three outstanding members of the community at the gala. In addition, a student spoke from each of ZOA Pittsburgh's longstanding youth programs.

trips. Elana Eydelman, a scholarship recipient, spoke at the dinner about her first trip to Israel last summer and how meaningful it was.

Bianca Dunay, a student from the Creative and Performing Arts Magnet school, also spoke at the dinner and described the personal impact of a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. She is an alumna of our Tolerance Education Program that takes over 500 Pittsburgh public school students to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Students then participate in an essay contest, to describe how the visit to the museum affected them. Bianca is a first prize winner of the contest.



Elana Eydelman & Bianca Dunay,
ZOA Pittsburgh award recipients

ZOA Pittsburgh presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Charles H. Saul, Esq. The award recognizes exceptional leadership and is given to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication in service to Israel, the Jewish people, and the Jewish community.

Charlie's impact on Jewish Pittsburgh is felt in almost every corner of the community. He is currently President of the Lubavitch Center and Vice President of Yeshiva Schools of Pittsburgh. Charlie is also on the boards of ZOA Pittsburgh, the Jewish Chronicle, and the Aleph Institute.

Charlie is a graduate of Washington and Jefferson College and the George Washington University Law School. He is a partner in the law firm of Margolis Edelstein and specializes in employment and civil rights law. He was counsel for Chabad in the landmark case of

Allegheny County v. ACLU, in which the U.S. Supreme Court held that the display of a menorah just outside the City-County Building in downtown Pittsburgh was permissible.

Charlie also represented and counseled many Pittsburgh Jewish agencies, synagogues, and temples. He served on many boards, including the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, and is a past president of numerous Jewish agencies. He and his wife Sharon, a psychologist, have seven children and over 24 grandchildren.

ZOA Pittsburgh presented Meyer "Skip" Grinberg with its Israel Service Award, given to an individual with strong leadership, ethics, results-driven qualities, and a passion for the Jewish homeland. Skip has been a community activist and a tireless advocate for Israel for over 30 years, inspired by his parents, Allen and Edith Grinberg.

Skip helped forge the merger of the Community Day School, where his children were students, and the Solomon Schechter School, and he became its first president. In 1991, Skip was instrumental in the formation of the Jewish Education Institute, where he served as its executive director for 13 years.

A graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, Skip received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his MBA from George Washington University. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard for 5 years.

Skip has served in numerous leadership positions, including at the Jewish Council of Public Affairs and the Maccabi Youth Games, and currently, at the Jewish Assistance Fund and the Repair the World Advisory Committee. He also serves on the boards of the Melanoma Action Coalition and the Northern Israel Center for Art and Technology.

The recipient of numerous community service awards, Skip lives in Squirrel Hill with his wife, Mary. They have three sons and six grandchildren.



Charles H. Saul,
Esq., recipient of
the ZOA Pittsburgh
Lifetime Achievement Award



Meyer "Skip"
Grinberg, recipient
of the ZOA Pittsburgh
Israel Service Award



Winter 2019 at Carnegie Mellon University

Israel's War And Peace: Past, Present, Future

Study Leader: Michael Vanyukov, Stuart Pavilack, Richard Wice



Michael Vanyukov, PhD, tenured professor at CMU



Katie Warren Whitlatch (right) received ZOA Pittsburgh's Ivan & Natalie Novick Community Leadership Award, which was established in memory of the Novicks' lifetime of service and leadership in many Jewish organizations in Pittsburgh. Ivan Novick was a past ZOA National President. Recipients of this award represent the spirit of community leadership in Jewish and humanitarian causes.

Katie, a New Jersey native, moved to Pittsburgh to attend Carnegie Mellon University and has been an active member of the Pittsburgh Jewish community ever since. While attending the University of Pittsburgh Law School, Katie was a founding member of J'Burg, the graduate student and young adult group run through Hillel/Jewish University Center.

Since then, Katie has been a member of the Jewish Federation of North America's National Young Leadership Cabinet, where she served in a number of leadership roles. She has also served on the national boards of Hillel International and the Jewish Federations of North America.

Locally, Katie serves on the boards of the Jewish Association on Aging and Temple Sinai, and she just finished a term as Chair of Hillel/Jewish University Center. Katie also served on the advisory board of the Holocaust Center of Greater Pittsburgh and on the steering committee of the Volunteer Center of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

After eight years as a full-time mom to her two sons, Katie returned to work at the Jewish Community Center. She is the Assistant Director of the Children, Youth, and Family Division and JCC Day Camps.

ZOA Develops Osher Course on Israel at Carnegie Mellon University

Osher is a life-long learning program on 120 college campuses across the country. It offers its members "rich opportunities to increase their knowledge, enhance their skills, interact with their peers, and increase their social and cultural awareness."

Last summer, Director Pavilack learned about an Osher class at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), entitled "The Palestinian Story: Hope in the Absence of Hope." Described as providing a "Palestinian perspective," the class focused on the so-called right of return, "settlements," boundaries, and Jerusalem.

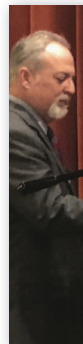
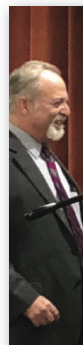
Pavilack researched the instructor for the course, who has a long history of volunteering in the "West Bank," and working with anti-Israel groups. Pavilack also contacted Osher's Executive Director at CMU to find out how courses are proposed and selected for the program.

Pavilack then met with two passionate Zionists and dedicated ZOA members – both scientists – to develop and teach an Osher course that would tell the truth about Israel: former ZOA Vice President Michael Vanyukov, PhD, a tenured professor at the University of Pittsburgh, and Richard Wice, who has served as an adjunct professor at CMU.

Vanyukov developed and pitched a class entitled "Israel's War and Peace: Past, Present, Future." The Curriculum Committee accepted the course, which began in January 2019, and met for five consecutive Wednesdays. Registration for the class was full, with 36 students and four others on the waiting list.

Taking a scientific approach as he does with his professional endeavors, Vanyukov described the class in the local Jewish press: "I'm not teaching the course from either an Israeli or Palestinian or balanced perspective," he explained. "The perspective I'm doing it from is the perspective of the facts – the facts and nothing else."

Pavilack met with two passionate Zionists and dedicated ZOA members – both scientists – to develop and teach an Osher course that would tell the truth about Israel.





David Ainsman (C) presenting Skip Grinberg (R) with the Israel Service Award with Stuart Pavilack (L)



Meryl Ainsman (L) presenting Katie Whitlatch (C) with the Novick Community Leadership Award and Stuart Pavilack holding the crystal menorah



Hirsh Diinn (R) presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to Charles Saul (C) with Stuart Pavilack (L)

Florida

ZOA Florida's Heroes for Israel Dinner

ZOA Florida is very proud to have hosted its first-ever fundraising dinner on December 16, 2018, honoring heroes for Israel. The sold-out event, which took place at the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center, honored then-Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who received the Zionist Hero Award; Rabbi Eliot and Judy Pearlson of Temple Menorah, who received the Pillar of the Community Award; and young professional, Daniel Davis, who received ZOA's Fuel For Truth Leadership Award. The evening featured a special address by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and was emceed by David Webb, host of Fox Nation's "Reality Check with David Webb" and "The David Webb Show" on Sirius XM.

Special Guests and Recognition by Lawmakers

Additional special guests at the dinner, some of whom were also presenters, included ZOA National President Morton A. Klein and ZOA Executive Vice President John Rosen, Israeli Consul General in Miami Lior Haiat and Deputy Consul General Guy Giladi, Deputy Head of the North America Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel David Roet, Mayor Josh Levy from the City of Hollywood, and Florida State Representative Randy Fine.

Although unable to attend, several other lawmakers sent congratulatory letters which were distributed to guests. Senator Marco Rubio wrote that "for over a century, ZOA has dedicated itself to promoting Jewish values and defending the State of Israel . . . On behalf of the people of Florida, I congratulate tonight's honorees and commend the Zionist Organization of America for its leadership." Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart wrote, "For decades, ZOA has advocated for a strong Israel, and a strong U.S.-Israel relationship, throughout key sectors of U.S. society, partic-

ularly within institutions of higher education, and the judicial system through its Center for Law and Justice."

Several lawmakers praised the ZOA's honorees. Congressman Ted Deutch wrote, "As her Democratic counterpart on the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, I have had the honor of working side-by-side with Ileana, and I can assure you there has been no greater 'Hero for Israel' in Congress." Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz wrote, "Ileana is someone whose life's work leaves an indelible impact not only in the House of Representatives, but in her home state of Florida and the nation . . . It is fitting that she be honored with the ZOA's first ever 'Zionist Hero' award." Of the ZOA's Pillar of the Community Award recipients, Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz wrote, "We need more 'Heroes for Israel' like the Pearlsons in our world. I am grateful to Eliot and Judy for being vocal advocates for Israel and congratulate them on being honored tonight."

Mayor Gabriel Groisman of Bal Harbour also sent a letter commending ZOA, stating, "With your allegiance and zeal, you continue to inspire pride and activism, which has been instrumental in the fight against BDS and anti-Semitism."

An Unforgettable Program

The evening began with a VIP reception for the honored and special guests that included an elaborate buffet and open bar. Shortly thereafter, ZOA National President Morton Klein introduced Governor Ron DeSantis from the podium, listing the many examples of the former representative from Florida's pro-Israel leadership in Congress, including his successful efforts and collaboration with the ZOA in moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. The wall-to-wall filled room of guests, ranging in age from high school students to Holocaust survivors, welcomed the governor with a standing ovation and cheers, which continued throughout his speech and throughout the



Paul Kruss, David Webb, ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler, Former Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Judy Pearlson, and Rabbi Eliot Pearlson



Sharona Whisler, Governor Ron DeSantis and ZOA National President Morton Klein



Consul General of Israel in Miami Lior Haiat, Daniel Davis, Esq. and Sharona Whisler

The wall-to-wall filled room of guests, ranging in age from high school students to Holocaust survivors, welcomed the governor with a standing ovation and cheers, which continued throughout his speech and throughout the night.

night. In his presentation, Governor DeSantis stated that his first trip abroad as governor will be to Israel. He also proudly stated that when looking into investment or collaborative opportunities for the State of Florida, he makes no distinction between the Israelis who live in Tel Aviv and the Israelis who live in Judea and Samaria. While guests continued to enjoy their dinner, the evening's emcee, David Webb, welcomed everyone, giving special recognition to the Holocaust survivors who were present. He invited the crowd to rise for the singing of the national anthem and Hatikva, led by Temple Menorah and ZOA member Dr. Lila Chertman.

Honoree Rabbi Eliot Pearlson took the stage to give the invocation, ending with a story about a Jewish billionaire who, on his deathbed, requested to be buried in his favorite socks, a request that was refused by the chevra kadisha (Jewish burial society) after he died. Later, the billionaire's last will and testament revealed a lesson to his family that you can have anything money can buy, but you can't take even a pair of socks into heaven. His message called for action while we are here on this earth; he ended his address by saying, "We must ensure that the land of Israel is forever free and proud and forever strong, and therefore, I challenge you to support the land of Israel and support ZOA."

ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler then gave a summary of ZOA's important work and invited Consul General Lior Haiat to the stage to present the first award of the night, ZOA's Fuel For Truth Award – an inscribed red glass flame – to Daniel Davis. In his presentation, the Consul General talked about the significance of having young people like Daniel advocate on behalf of Israel. Directing his words to Daniel, who was standing

beside him, he said, "Thank you for being one of these visionary leaders, who will continue to lead the Jewish people." Daniel talked about the impact that ZOA's Fuel For Truth (FFT) had on him, describing in detail the way in which the program provides the necessary tools in order to effectively engage in advocacy and conversation on behalf of Israel. Daniel encouraged his peers to participate in ZOA's FFT, and thanked its Miami founders, Jennie and Elliott Rimon.

ZOA National President Morton Klein was introduced by David Webb and gave the keynote address. He shared several examples of how ZOA stands out in its support for the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, and how the ZOA has been victorious in overcoming the challenges facing the Jewish people. In his final remarks, Mr. Klein gave a fiery delivery of G-d's promise from the Torah: "And the People of Israel shall dwell in their Holy Land for eternity in peace and prosperity. We will prevail!" His speech received a standing ovation.

Temple Menorah President Jeffrey Levine presented the second award of the evening, the Pillar of the Community Award – a colorful cut-out piece of artwork depicting the world's three pillars of charity, prayer, and Torah – to Rabbi Eliot and Judy Pearlson. Rather than give an acceptance speech, the Pearlsons were seated on stage while community leader Paul Kruss presented then-Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen with the Zionist Hero Award, a beautiful cut-out piece of artwork with the word "shalom" in Hebrew, which means peace.

Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen joined the Pearlsons in a "fireside chat" on stage and David Webb engaged the honorees in a discussion of take-away messages about Israel



Jeffrey Levine, Rabbi Eliot Pearlson, Judy Pearlson and ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler



ZOA National President Morton Klein, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, David Webb, Astrid Marten, Sharona Whisler, Judy Pearlson and Rabbi Eliot Pearlson

and Zionism for future generations. In her remarks, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen shared why Israel became one of her chief issues throughout her career in Congress: “We [the U.S. and Israel] share the same heritage. We share the same feelings of freedom and passion for democracy. That’s what makes Israel, in this land of despots. All over Israel’s neighborhood, Israel stands alone.”

Throughout the dinner, guests were invited to participate in a silent auction on luxurious vacation packages to Israel, Tuscany, Alaska, Ireland, and Greece, to name a few. The packages were sponsored by AmFund.

Summary of Success

ZOA Florida’s first fundraising dinner was a triumph. It doubled the number of anticipated attendees and almost doubled its fundraising goal for the event. Consul General of Israel in Miami Lior Haiat commended ZOA on its success: “I want to congratulate ZOA for an incredible event that brought together key elected officials and community leaders that are the reason Florida is, as Governor Ron DeSantis said, the most pro-Israeli place on earth. As an Israeli consul general, it was pure pleasure to feel the love and support, and to see the amazing work ZOA is doing in Florida.”

Much of the fundraising success of the dinner is attributable to the major sponsors: Perry Ellis International, Dr. Paul and Jodi Tartell, Steven Perles, Esq., Rabbi Eliot and Judy Pearlson, Joel and Liz Brauser, Dr. Craig Delgidish, and Robert and Jennifer Olemberg. Event chair and ZOA Florida board member Liz Brauser, along with the event committee, the board, the Temple Menorah community, and the honorees themselves, contributed enormously to making the event a smashing success.

West Coast

Educating the Jewish Community and California Legislators

ZOA was honored to host the acclaimed human rights champion and executive director of UN Watch, Hillel Neuer, for a Bay Area address on the United Nations’ (UN) bias towards Israel and current problems within the global human rights movement. Mr. Neuer spoke before a sold-out crowd in Palo Alto and was greeted by the highest ranking representative of the Israeli government in the region, the Israeli Consul General to the Pacific Northwest, Shlomi Kofman.

“We must ensure that the land of Israel is forever free and proud and forever strong, and therefore, I challenge you to support the land of Israel and support ZOA.”

– Rabbi Eliot Pearlson, ZOA honoree

UN Watch is an NGO which monitors various projects, confronts the blatant anti-Israel bias of many member nations, and highlights human rights violations that are being ignored by the UN Human Rights Council. Mr. Neuer explained how various UN agencies have strayed from the founding democratic principles in the UN Charter, which promoted freedom throughout the world. He shared data showing that the UN Human Rights Council issued more condemnations against Israel than against all other nations of the world, combined. Mr. Neuer’s address came just after the Trump administration cut U.S. funding to UNRWA, the corrupt UN agency which perpetuates and inflates the Pal-



Edwin Black demonstrates that before 1948, the term “Palestinian” referred only to the Jewish residents of the land, with an old copy of a *New York Times* headline.



Palestinian Arab refugee population. His visit was also a celebration of the recent progress the U.S. has made in holding the Palestinian Authority and the UN accountable. Mr. Neuer inspired the audience with his message that although the path to accountability and justice is difficult, there are capable voices that will not be silenced.

In 2018, ZOA West Coast embarked on a mission to regularly engage with California state legislators on issues of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias. The pilot program was a lunch reception hosted by the CA Legislative Jewish Caucus in the State Capitol, with guest speaker Itamar Marcus of Palestinian Media Watch. Mr. Marcus addressed the persistent incitement to violence rampant in Palestinian Arab society.

Continuing on this track, ZOA West Coast organized a speaking tour for *New York Times* best-selling author and investigative journalist, Edwin Black. Mr. Black delivered three presentations – to the Jewish community in Walnut Creek, to the Sacramento Jewish Federation, and to CA state legislators and Jewish community leaders at a private reception. His presentations provided a detailed historical account of the widespread support for Israel’s founding.

During Mr. Black’s visit, ZOA West Coast cultivated a new relationship with the Sacramento Jewish Federation and made outreach to the Sacramento region a priority in 2019. Based on the success of Mr. Black’s speaking tour, ZOA Campus brought him back to the region later in the fall for presentations at UC Berkeley and UC Davis. One of the highlights of his presentation is his demonstration that before the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948, the term “Palestinian” referred only to the Jewish residents of the land. Mr. Black demonstrates this with a copy of a *New York Times* headline stating, “Arabs to Boycott Palestinian Goods” – of course referring to the Arab boycott of Jewish businesses in pre-1948 Israel. Mr. Black’s presentation is

a must-see for anyone interested in the historical underpinnings of Israel’s legitimacy under international law.

ZOA West Coast also coordinated a visit to the region for Raymond Ibrahim to coincide with the release of his latest book, *Sword and Scimitar: Fourteen Centuries of War Between Islam and the West*. Mr. Ibrahim was born in the U.S. to Coptic Christian immigrants from Egypt. He is currently a Writing Fellow at the Middle East Forum and specializes in military history and medieval Islamic history. Mr. Ibrahim addressed a ZOA parlor meeting in Menlo Park and delivered a comprehensive presentation on the long history of conflict between the Islamic world and Christendom. As an expert in Islam, Mr. Ibrahim explained that Islam is, by nature, a political movement and was founded as such. He also addressed the problems that Europe is experiencing due to the influx of immigrants from the Muslim world.

Addressing Anti-Semitism in Northern California

For more than a year, ZOA West Coast has been working with ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice to help a family in Alameda, CA whose daughter was subjected to repeated anti-Semitic bullying and harassment from fellow students. ZOA advised the family, testified before the Alameda Unified School District’s (AUSD) Board of Education, and met with the board in private session, advocating for a more effective response to anti-Semitism.

The AUSD assigned a dedicated administrator to monitor and address anti-Semitism within the district and recommended collaboration with ZOA as a resource. To that end, ZOA compiled a report to help district administrators identify contemporary forms of anti-Semitism, including when it is masked as anti-Israelism or anti-Zionism. The ZOA report can be shared with other schools in the country and is a helpful tool for understanding anti-Semitism.

Throughout the fall of 2018, the ZOA’s West Coast chapter organized strategic, educational programs for communities across Northern California, and directly confronted three major anti-Semitic incidents affecting the Jewish community.



Hillel Neuer, Director of sold-out audience at the

Shortly after the ZOA letter and outcry from the local Jewish community, the BART system announced that it was reviewing its advertising policies and would be making changes to disallow any future ads that give a platform to hate speech.

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish community was outraged to find ads from a Holocaust-denial group posted at BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) stations. The ads were paid for by the Institute for Historical Review, which was founded by white supremacists and neo-Nazis in 1978 and has since published pamphlets and perpetuated lies about the Holocaust on its website. The ads contained the statement, "History Matters!" and provided the group's name so that interested commuters could seek out the propaganda on the group's anti-Semitic website.

ZOA wrote to the BART board of directors and general manager, urging them to remove the ads because they violated BART's own advertising guidelines and created a hostile environment for BART passengers. Shortly after the ZOA letter and outcry from the local Jewish community, the BART system announced that it was reviewing its advertising policies and would be making changes to disallow any future ads that give a platform to hate speech.

Across the Bay, in Berkeley, a radical BDS activist named Cheryl Davila, who was elect-

ed to the Berkeley City Council, abused her power by nominating Hatem Bazian as her standby officer in the event that she is unable to be present for a city council vote. Bazian, a lecturer at UC Berkeley, is the founder of the anti-Israel hate group Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), and a leader in the anti-Israel BDS movement. He regularly spews anti-Semitic hate speech at campus protests. On Twitter, he has denied Israel's right to exist and has promoted propaganda depicting a stereotypical image of an Orthodox Jew with the caption, "I can now kill, rape, smuggle organs, and steal the land of Palestinians." His hate speech does not differentiate between Judaism and Israel, and he regularly conflates the two.

The City Council denied Bazian's appointment as a standby officer, at least for the time being. But Councilwoman Davila worked behind the scenes to have Bazian appointed to the Peace and Justice Commission, a smaller committee within the City Council. The Council was not able to block this ironic and highly inappropriate appointment.

Prior to Davila appointing Bazian to the



UN Watch, addresses a JCC in Palo Alto, CA



Investigative journalist, Edwin Black, analyzes the widespread support for Israel's founding for the Jewish community in Walnut Creek, CA



Edwin Black lectures on Israel's legitimacy under international law at the University of California, Berkeley



With Bazian's appointment to the commission, the ZOA charged – in an op-ed published in the *J., The Jewish News of Northern California* – that the Mayor and City Manager were turning a blind eye to anti-Semitism within city government.

Peace and Justice Commission, the ZOA wrote to the city manager and the mayor of Berkeley, urging them to address other efforts by Davila to use someone's views on Israel as a litmus test for serving the city. Neither official responded. With Bazian's appointment to the commission, the ZOA charged – in an op-ed published in the *J., The Jewish News of Northern California* – that the mayor and city manager were turning a blind eye to anti-Semitism within city government.

Thanks to ZOA pressure, Mayor Jesse Arreguin issued a statement that he does not support Bazian's appointment to the commission and is frustrated that he does not have the authority to block Bazian's appointment. He went on to say that Bazian is not qualified to serve as a public official due to his "anti-Semitic statements and actions." ZOA will continue to work with community activists in the East Bay to oppose BDS and all other anti-Semitic and anti-Israel activities.

Long Island

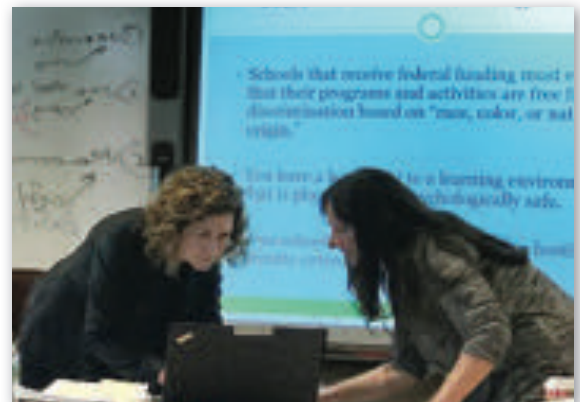
It's official – ZOA Long Island has been rebooted! As 2018 was coming to a close, ZOA Long Island was getting a reboot, and it started on the North Shore.

Bringing ZOA to the Classroom

In anticipation of ZOA Long Island's kick-off event in Kings Point, Deborah Peretz, the associate director of the NY Metro region, and Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, led a program about campus anti-Semitism for high school seniors at the beautiful North Shore Hebrew Academy High School in Great Neck, New York. The program's goal was to arm high school seniors with the tools they will need if they face anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on their prospective college campuses.

Vice Chair of ZOA National Board and Chairman of ZOA's Long Island region Dr. Alan Mazurek was the driving force behind this program and connected the ZOA to the school. North Shore Hebrew Academy is a beautiful and impressive facility, both physically and spiritually. The school is already preparing students for the future, committing resources to building students' Jewish identities and their connections to Israel, and giving them the tools they need to advocate for Israel.

Our program was both educational and interactive. We gave students a framework for identifying when criticism of Israel crosses the line into anti-Semitism and when anti-Semi-



Susan B. Tuchman, Esq. and Deborah Peretz giving a presentation at a Long Island event





tism becomes a hate crime. We educated students about an important legal tool – Title VI of the Civil Rights Act – which is there to protect them if they experience a hostile learning environment that their colleges and universities fail to effectively address. We presented four different scenarios of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel activity, based on real-life events, and showed them short videos of actual events, so that the campus problems would come alive for them. Then we discussed effective ways in which to respond to each scenario.

The students were smart, thoughtful and engaged. The challenge was keeping the program to just 40 minutes, the length of the class period, because students had so much to say. In fact, the final session took place during the last class period of the day and we had not finished the program when the class period ended, but many students stayed on until the presentation was completed!

We received excellent feedback on the ZOA program. Gabriela Rozanski, a Judaic Studies instructor who teaches seniors about Jewish identity and advocacy for Israel, sent a thank-you email in which she wrote: “Students came back again today to share their excitement about your program. A few also mentioned that they told their parents about the great work your organization does and how much

they enjoyed yesterday’s program.”

It was our pleasure to work with this wonderful school and with students so committed to their Jewish identity and to Israel. We look forward to collaborating further with North Shore Hebrew Academy and we thank Dr. Mazurek for all his efforts in making this program happen.

Long Island Kickoff Event!

On December 13, ZOA Long Island sponsored its first in a series of dynamic events, entitled *Anti-Semitism and Israel-Bashing on Campus: What You Need To Know and How We Can Fight It!* The event was generously hosted by Mark and Sandy Gold in the beautiful enclave of Kings Point. More than 50 people attended.

Long Island Regional Director Deborah Peretz welcomed the guests and introduced Dr. Alan Mazurek, who explained why he has so enthusiastically supported the ZOA for more than 25 years. “The ZOA gets things done,” he said, giving example after example of ZOA’s many achievements.

Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., director of ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, described the anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation that many Jewish students are facing on their college campuses, and the important legal tool – Title VI of the Civil Rights Act – that is now

LI Kickoff: Dr. Mazurek explained why he has so enthusiastically supported the ZOA for more than 25 years. “The ZOA gets things done,” he said, giving example after example of the ZOA’s many achievements.



At Columbia University, this is a typical demonstration of anti-Israel activity on campuses, aimed at intimidating Jewish students. ZOA works closely with these students across the country to provide them with legal assistance and full knowledge of their civil rights.

(Photo credit: Uriel Heilman)



Sandy Gold with daughters, Nikki Shoshani and Brittaney Kamel at the Long Island Kickoff Event



Dix Hills Jewish Center (photo credit: Facebook/dixhillsjewishcenter)

Following the film and Susan's presentation, there was a spirited Q and A session. Many stayed after the program to talk until we were informed that the synagogue had to close for the evening.

available to help protect Jewish students, as the result of the ZOA's legal efforts. Susan also explained how this legal tool should now afford better protection to Jewish students, after the Office for Civil Rights recently reopened the ZOA's Title VI case against Rutgers University and decided that it will now use the U.S. State Department's excellent definition of anti-Semitism when it assesses and decides Title VI cases.

Susan gave parents and students several practical tips for responding to campus anti-Semitism when it arises. Those in attendance were riveted and asked many questions after the presentation, including about the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, and about Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), one of the groups largely responsible for creating a hostile campus environment for Jewish students.

This was a wonderful opportunity for people to learn in greater depth about ZOA's legal efforts and achievements to protect Jewish college students, as well as for ZOA staff to meet our constituents on the beautiful North Shore of Long Island. Thank you to Mark and Sandy Gold for their generosity on so many levels in making this very important Long Island kickoff event come to fruition!

ZOA Long Island Makes Inroads Further East

Earlier in the fall, following the success of the ZOA's 120th Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner, Susan Tuchman and Deborah Peretz presented an educational program at Dix Hills Jewish Center, a Conservative synagogue, further east on Long Island.

Despite it being a Sunday night of a holiday weekend, the event was well attended by parents, grandparents and even students. Deborah gave an overview of the ZOA and the work we do. Susan introduced the evening's topic, and then showed an excerpt from the full-length documentary called "Hate Spaces: The Poli-

tics of Intolerance," which depicts the campus problems in graphic detail and also features the ZOA. Following the film and Susan's presentation, there was a spirited Q and A session. Many stayed after the program to talk until we were informed that the synagogue had to close for the evening.

Dix Hill's Jewish Center is strongly committed to building up its Israel education programs and is looking forward to continuing to work with the ZOA. Both Rabbi Howard Buechler and Cantor Steven Hevenstone attended the program and expressed their appreciation of ZOA's work.

Thanks to Dr. Robert Gluck and Dr. Harvey Finkelstein for their efforts in working with us to organize this program.

Looking Toward the Future

As of this printing, the region is planning a follow-up program in Great Neck for ZOA Donor Society members, as well as other engagement programs throughout Long Island. As part of the NY metro area, Long Islanders are encouraged to take part in programs available to them at ZOA's national headquarters in NYC.

ZOA Long Island is excited to hear from you! For comments, ideas, or questions, please contact Deborah Peretz at dperetz@zoa.org. Stay tuned for upcoming programming and events!

New England

ZOA New England Launches Israel Ulpan – Teaches and Celebrates Jewish Roots in the Land of Israel

After receiving requests from a number of constituents following regional parlor meetings, Rabbi Jonina Pritzker, executive director of ZOA New England, launched a comprehensive Israel Ulpan. This intensive class was designed to provide participants with the actual history of Israel, presented in ways to engage with students with a variety of backgrounds and knowledge levels.

The goal of ZOA New England's Israel Ul-



ZOA New England Ulpan classes

pan is to equip participants with the facts and to provide them with an understanding of real events and the real history of Israel, not an abridged and falsified version that people often like to cite as the truth. Many courses on the history of Israel shockingly start in 1947, but not ours – ZOA's Israel Ulpan begins about 4,000 years ago – as we value the importance of providing students with a thorough and true understanding of how modern day Israel and Zionism actually came into being. After completing this multi-week course, participants felt more comfortable to stand up and tell the truth, as they were finally confident in their knowledge and their ability to effectively advocate.

Israel Ulpan Addresses the Biblical History in the Land of Israel

David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister of the State of Israel, said, "Three cities hold a great and unique place in the ancient history of our people: Shechem, Hebron, and Jerusalem...Hebron is worthy to be Jerusalem's sister."

There has been a continuous Jewish presence in the Land of Israel from ancient times until today, and this Jewish presence began in Judea and Samaria; this is the birthplace of the Jewish nation.

In the days of the Patriarchs, we read of our Biblical families in Shechem, which is in Samaria. "Abram passed into the land as far as the site of Shechem . . ." (Genesis 12:6).

In the third generation, the Patriarch Jacob purchased land in Shechem, at the site where his son Joseph would ultimately be buried. "Jacob arrived...at the city of Shechem . . . He bought the parcel of land . . . for one hundred kesitahs." (Genesis 33:18-19).

During the time of Joshua, the nation of Israel gathered at Shechem to renew their covenant with G-d. "Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem . . . Joshua made a covenant with the people that day . . . in Shechem." (Joshua 24:1-25).

Shechem was the place where King Solomon's son Rechoboam chose to be enthroned. "Rechoboam went to Shechem, for all of Israel had come to Shechem to make him king (I Kings 12:1). With the subsequent division of the kingdom, Jeroboam established Shechem as his capital in the northern kingdom. "Jeroboam built (up) Shechem in the Mountain of Ephraim and dwelled in it . . ." (I Kings 12:25).

The roots of the Jewish people are found throughout Judea and Samaria, each city and holy site reflecting the history of the people of Israel in the land of Israel.

The Matriarch Rachel was buried in Bethlehem, a city in Judea. "Thus Rachel died and was buried on the road to Ephrat, which is Bethlehem. Jacob set up a monument over her grave; it is the monument of Rachel's grave until this day." (Genesis 35:19-20).

Centuries later, Boaz would meet Ruth in Bethlehem and she would later give birth to the line of the Davidic monarchy. King David was their great-grandson.

For centuries, Jews have prayed in Bethlehem at the holy site of Kever Rachel, Rachel's Tomb.

In 1830, the Turks issued a royal decree recognizing Jewish rights at this Jewish holy site. The governor of Damascus instructed the Mufti of Jerusalem that "the tomb of esteemed Rachel . . . they (the Jews) are accustomed to visit it from ancient days; and no one is permitted to prevent them or oppose them (from doing) this."

This decree was a necessary response to the harassment that Jews had endured when trying to visit Rachel's Tomb. In 1841, Sir Moses Montefiore was granted permission to build a room onto Rachel's Tomb to protect both the grave and those visiting it.

Bethel, another city within these regions of Judea and Samaria, was called by the Patriarch Jacob "the gate of heaven." It was here that Jacob dreamt of a ladder reaching to heaven.

During the time of the Judges, Deborah would sit pronouncing judgments near Bethel on Mount Ephraim.

Recognizing that the history, faith, religion, culture and identity of the Jewish people have always been tied to this land which bears its name, from its ancient name of Judea to its modern name of Israel, the ZOA New England Israel Ulpan was a celebration of the people of Israel in the land of Israel.



Cave of the Patriarchs, Hebron

One of our new Herzl Society donors commented, “ZOA is one of the few pro-Israel organizations out there with vision, clarity, tenacity, and courage.”

After the Israelites re-entered the Land of Israel under the leadership of Joshua, they lived according to tribe. The tribes of Israel lived throughout the land of Israel, and they lived on both sides of the Jordan River. On the eastern bank of the Jordan River lived the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasheh.

All of the tribes of Israel would gather in Shiloh located in Samaria. Shiloh was the city of priests where the mishkan (tabernacle) was kept before it was brought to Jerusalem. Shiloh was the spiritual center of Israel for centuries. “The entire assembly of the Children of Israel gathered at Shiloh and erected the Tent of Meeting there . . .” (Joshua 18:1).

It was in Shiloh that Hannah prayed for a son and was answered, later giving birth to the prophet Samuel.

And then there is Hebron in Judea. It would be difficult to find another place with more Jewish history than the city of Hebron. Hebron was the very first place acquired by the first Jew, the Patriarch Abraham. He purchased Ma’arat HaMachpela, the Cave of the Patriarchs, in order to bury his wife Sarah. “And Abraham weighed out to Ephron...400 silver shekels...And afterwards Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah facing Mamre, which is in Hebron . . .” (Genesis 23:16-19).

The Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron is the burial place for all of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs except for Rachel.

Hebron was the first capital of the kingdom of David, where David ruled for seven and a half years before then establishing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Hebron was an important city for King Hezekiah, when the Assyrians were the world’s aggressors. Hebron was also a critical military area, both at the time of the Maccabees and during the time of Bar Kochba.

We read of Joshua in Jericho, Amos in Tekoa, and Jeremiah in Anatot. These regions of Shomron (Samaria) and Yehuda (Judea) constitute the Jewish spiritual heartland, which is

steeped in Jewish history dating back to Biblical times.

These are the deep roots and history that ZOA New England learned and celebrated at the November 2018 inaugural meeting of the ZOA New England Israel Ulpan.

Firm in the knowledge that a person who knows history will never need to memorize talking points, an enthusiastic group of participants immersed themselves in studying the 4000-year history of the Jewish people in the land of Israel. Recognizing that the history, faith, religion, culture and identity of the Jewish people have always been tied to this land which bears its name, from its ancient name of Judea to its modern name of Israel, the ZOA New England Israel Ulpan was a celebration of the people of Israel in the land of Israel.

ZOA New England Co-Sponsors a Community Event

Colonel Richard Kemp, former commander of British forces in Afghanistan, testified at the United Nations: “The Israeli Defense Forces did more to safeguard the rights of civilians in a combat zone than any other army in the history of warfare.”

These words were echoed by Israeli Christian Arab Yoseph Haddad when he was the featured speaker at a community event, co-sponsored by ZOA New England, during which he openly praised the IDF. When speaking about his commanders and the IDF in general, he referred to it as “the most moral army in the world.”

Mr. Haddad ended his presentation speaking movingly of the heroics of his former commander Roi Klein, who was a deputy commander in the Golani brigade. Mr. Haddad described the profound impact Roi Klein had on his life when Klein made the supreme self-sacrifice of jumping on a grenade during the war in Lebanon in order to save his men.

Inaugural Donor Society Event/Parlor Meeting

On Sunday, January 27, 2019, ZOA New England welcomed Daniel Pollak, the director of



ZOA's Government Relations department.

At both the Donor Society event and parlor meeting, Mr. Pollak described how the Government Relations department helps educate members of Congress, their staffs, and other government officials on the relationship between the U.S. and Israel, as well as on policy issues relating to the Middle East.

People came away with a much deeper understanding of the process in Washington, recognizing the importance of their own role in maintaining the ground that has been won, as well as appreciating the tremendous value of ZOA's permanent presence in the nation's capital.

Mr. Pollak provided ZOA New England with his wealth of information and experience, sharing fascinating personal stories about situations and personalities, and leaving the groups with tremendous insight into the challenges of accomplishing ZOA goals within the parameters of Washington, D.C. protocol. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the opportunities for national and global impact through ZOA's work.

One of our new Herzl Society donors commented, "ZOA is one of the few pro-Israel organizations out there with vision, clarity, tenacity, and courage."

Many thanks to Linda and Jason Kaufman and to Drs. Rosaline Barron and Alan Barron for graciously hosting these events.

NY Metro – West (Manhattan, Northern NJ, the Bronx, Westchester and Rockland County)

This is an exciting time at ZOA, especially here in metropolitan New York. We've taken all of the ZOA chapters in the New York metropolitan area and rolled them into one mega-region, now called NY Metro. This will enable us to make more programs available to more people. While we will still be organizing local programs, members of ZOA's NY Metro region will now be able to attend programs

throughout the New York metropolitan area.

New York Metro - West, which includes Manhattan, the Bronx, Westchester, Rockland County and Northern New Jersey, will be under the direction of Alan Jay. New York Metro - East, comprised of Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Long Island, will be under the direction of Deborah Peretz.

We have already sponsored several events attended by Zionists from all areas in the region and more events are on the horizon.

NY Metro Kickoff Event

In September we held our NY Metro kickoff event at ZOA headquarters in Manhattan. The well-attended event was called Jewish Students Under Siege: At a Campus Near You! ZOA Chooses Fight, Not Flight. ZOA Campus Associate Director Jonathan Ginsburg spoke about ZOA's work on campus, educating students about Israel and giving them the tools they need to be strong and effective pro-Israel advocates. Two students – Hendel Seif-Rosenfeld, ZOA's Campus Fellow at City College of New York and the recipient of ZOA's 2018 Myron Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Student Activism, and Adela Cojab Moadeb, a student activist at NYU – shared their personal experiences with anti-Semitism on their respective campuses, which included physical and verbal confrontations by other students. The two students also explained the lack of help or support they received from college administrators. Both of these brave Zionists described in detail the critical role ZOA played in helping them navigate the challenges they faced on campus.

Matthew Tyrmand at ZOA NY Metro Regional Event

Our second NY Metro Donor Society event – entitled Eastern, Central and Western Europe 2018, 70+ Years Post-Holocaust: Is it Safer to be a Jew and/or Zionist in Warsaw or in Paris? – featured writer, commentator and ad hoc advisor to the Polish government, Matthew Tyrmand. Speaking to ZOA Donor



Regional Directors Alay Jay and Deborah Peretz, Deputy Head of Mission of Israel to the United States of America Benjamin Krasna, Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq. and Director of Outreach and Engagement Talya Meserri at the ZOA National Pre-Gala reception



Adela Cojab Moadeb (left) and Hendel Seif-Rosenfeld (right) share their personal experiences with anti-Semitism on their respective campuses at the NY Metro kickoff event.

ZOA hosted our first annual ZOA Pre-Gala Reception last November, featuring Benjamin Krasna, the Deputy Head of Mission of Israel to the United States of America.

Society members from around the NY metropolitan area, Mr. Tyrmand shared his conclusion that despite Central and Eastern Europe's well-known history and the prevailing popular perception, these regions are in fact increasingly friendly environments for Jews.

Pre-Gala Reception

The NY Metro team also helps facilitate ZOA National events that take place in New York City. For ZOA Donor Society members around the country, ZOA hosted our first annual ZOA Pre-Gala Reception last November, entitled Israel in an Evolving Middle East: An Assessment of the Strategic Complex in the Region. The elegant, well-attended event, held at the New York Marriott Marquis the night before the annual ZOA Gala, featured Benjamin Krasna, the Deputy Head of Mission of Israel to the United States of America. Mr. Krasna shared his views about the current and future dynamics between Israel and its neighbors, the function of major world players in the Middle East, and the role of Israel and the Middle East in the broader global arena.

Other Exclusive Donor Society Events

As part of our new ZOA Donor Society programming, we also hosted several high-profile, influential people in the pro-Israel arena: Jason Greenblatt, Assistant to President Trump and Special Representative for International

Negotiations, discussed the Arab-Israeli situation and the administration's plan for a resolution; renowned author Jonathan Neumann discussed his new book, *To Heal the World? How the Jewish Left Corrupts Judaism and Endangers Israel*; and Dr. Seth Frantzman, Op-ed Editor at the Jerusalem Post, and Dr. Jonathan Speyer, a Jerusalem Post columnist and a Fellow at the Jerusalem Institute of Strategic Studies, spoke to us about *What's Next for Peace Possibilities? Iran & Russia in the Middle East: Future Implications for Israel*.

The first parlor meeting under our New York Metro-West banner was graciously hosted by Jason and Vera Kessler at their home in New Rochelle, NY. Dan Pollak, director of ZOA's Government Relations department, spoke on the topic of Fighting BDS in Washington, D.C. and in Westchester County.

As guests enjoyed a heimische spread including deli and sushi, Mr. Pollak shared in-depth insights into the Taylor Force Act (which cuts U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority until it stops funding convicted terrorists and their families), anti-BDS legislation, and issues concerning U.S. relations with Iran. The event drew a diverse crowd from the New Rochelle and Scarsdale communities. Everyone left the program with a better understanding of ZOA's significant impact in Washington, D.C. on issues of critical concern to Israel and the Jewish people. Many left the event asking for more



Alan Jay providing an overview of ZOA activities at NY Metro Donor Society event



Some of ZOA's educational booklets that are available for students, parents and ZOA Donor Society members at each event

information about other facets of ZOA's work. Stay tuned, Westchester!

On a beautiful Sunday morning in February, together with NY Metro Director Alan Jay, Susan Tuchman, Esq., director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, presented a program to high school seniors at the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies and their parents. Alan gave an overview of all ZOA activities, and Susan spoke about the problem of anti-Semitism on college campuses, the legal protections afforded to Jewish students, and effective strategies and tools that students and parents should consider using in response to anti-Jewish and anti-Israel actions on campus.

Parents and students eagerly picked up ZOA's educational materials, and students were treated to a variety of ZOA swag, including water bottles and phone wallets. Select students who correctly answered questions about what they learned in the ZOA program also received special prizes.

Parents stayed long after the program ended, sharing experiences with anti-Semitism in their communities and asking insightful questions about how to handle such situations. Everyone left with the clear understanding that ZOA is always available to help!

Our first Donor Society outreach parlor meeting in New Jersey took place at the end of March. It was generously hosted by Jacob and Lauren Poleyeff at their home in West Orange. Susan Tuchman was the featured speaker, discussing ZOA's work to safeguard the civil rights of Jewish students in their schools and on their college campuses.

At the time of this writing, NY Metro-West is planning an event for the East Brunswick, NJ community, to be hosted by the Young Israel of East Brunswick. Given its proximity to Rutgers University – where ZOA took the lead in protecting Jewish students from an-

ti-Semitic harassment and discrimination by filing a complaint against the university under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act – East Brunswick is a most appropriate location for ZOA to enhance community education. Anticipated speakers will include Susan B. Tuchman, Esq. and other ZOA professionals who will discuss the campus problems and the status of the ZOA's recently reopened Title VI case against Rutgers, and Rutgers students and/or alumni who will share their personal experiences on campus.

Everyone left the program with a better understanding of ZOA's significant impact in Washington, D.C. on issues of critical concern to Israel and the Jewish people. Many left the event asking for more information about other facets of ZOA's work. Stay tuned, Westchester!

We are looking forward to a productive year of Zionist advocacy through largely accessible regional events in the New York metropolitan area. Our goals are to provide more opportunities for proud Zionists to meet, interact, and stay current on issues concerning Israel, and to expand ZOA's impact through targeted growth.

Join one of our ZOA Donor Societies. Come to meetings and events. Mingle with others who share your passion for Israel. On behalf of the New York Metro Team, I encourage you to share your thoughts, comments and suggestions. I can be reached at ajay@zoa.org and I look forward to seeing you soon and often! 🇺🇸

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