

# ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Fall 2019 - Winter 2020

**ZOA Fights Rising Scourge  
of Anti-Semitism; Testifies  
Before Congress**

**ZOA's Justice Louis  
D. Brandeis Award  
Dinner 2019**

**ZOA's Klein Speaks  
at International Anti-  
BDS Conference**

**Join Us In Israel –  
VIP Leadership  
Mission to Israel  
2020 Led by Morton  
& Rita Klein**

**ZOA People:  
Jonathan Ginsburg,  
Managing Director  
of ZOA Campus**



**ZOA Activists  
Marching in NYC  
Celebrate Israel  
Parade**

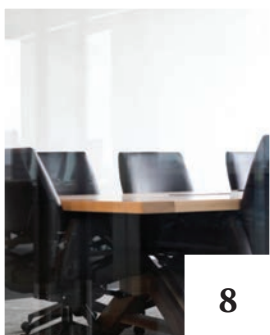




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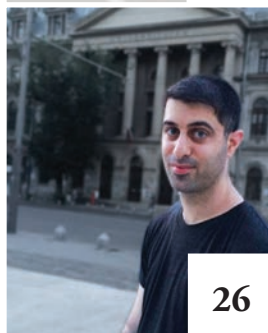
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Published by the Zionist Organization of America  
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**A LIGHT  
UNTO  
THE  
NATIONS**

# **JUSTICE LOUIS D. BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER**



**Judge Jeanine Pirro**

Mortimer Zuckerman Award for Outstanding Journalism



**Dr. Bob Shillman**

Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award



**The Honorable Danny Danon**

Israel's Ambassador to the UN  
Woo Kai-Sheng Lifetime Achievement Award



**Ambassador Richard Grenell**

U.S. Ambassador to Germany



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Emcee



**Dr. Kiron Skinner**

Former Director, Policy Planning, U.S. State Department  
(Saturday Night Lecture)



**Morton A. Klein**

National President, Zionist Organization of America

**NOVEMBER 17, 2019**  
MARRIOTT MARQUIS, NYC

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Morton A. Klein**  
National President,  
Zionist Organization  
of America

Dear Friends,

As I write this message, I'm reminded of the opening lines of *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair. . . ."

Those lines could very well apply to the season of light and season of darkness that the Jewish people are experiencing today.

On the one hand, it is a time of great strides and blessings. Over a remarkably brief period, years of persistence were suddenly rewarded.

Day after day, decade after decade, the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) — with your help — pressed for the United States to move its embassy to Jerusalem; recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights; close the PLO office in Washington, D.C.; stop funding the Palestinian Authority, which pays terrorists to murder Jews; stop funding UNRWA, which teaches hatred of Jews and stores Hamas' rockets; stand up for Israel at the United Nations; and formally recognize that Jews, too, have civil rights on college campuses. All of these critical issues that we fought for together have come to fruition.

In many respects, our people are thriving.

Unfortunately, it is also a time when the darkness of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel hatred are becoming more and more mainstreamed, right here in the United States, right before our eyes.

That's frightening.

Every day brings more heinous statements and incidents.

Major public figures, even certain U.S. Congressmembers and the media, are ramping up Jew-hatred.

Members of the so-called Squad (Congresswomen Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez) have falsely called Israel "evil" and an "apartheid regime"; falsely accused Jews of "hypnotizing the world" and committing "massacres" against Arabs; falsely accused pro-Israel Americans of dual loyalty; opposed Israel's very existence; compared Israel to Nazis; and promoted anti-Israel boycotts.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — often referred to by her initials, AOC — even openly advocated for violence against innocent Jews, claiming that Palestinian Arabs "*have no choice but*



*Unfortunately, it is also a time when the darkness of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel hatred are becoming more and more mainstreamed, right here in the United States, right before our eyes.*

to riot.” To “justify” her call for anti-Jewish violence, AOC falsely accused Israel of denying clean water to Arabs. Her lie is eerily similar to the false medieval accusation that “Jews are poisoning the wells” — an anti-Semitic blood libel that was used to “justify” murderous anti-Jewish pogroms.

Media personality and Temple University Professor Marc Lamont Hill used the very same blood libel (as well as others) to defame and inflame hatred and violence against Jews. He has repeatedly publicly called for “Palestine” to stretch “from the river to the sea” — meaning eliminating Israel.

Still, another Congressman, Hank Johnson (D-GA), referred to Jews living in the Jewish homeland as “termites.”

The *New York Times* printed *Der Stürmer*-style cartoons, and its coverage of Israel is biased.

The same sort of heinous cartoon depictions of Jews appear on college campuses, to announce anti-Israel “apartheid weeks.”

A Palestinian Arab-American doctor in Cleveland bragged that she would give Jews the wrong medicine.

On college campuses, the anti-Jewish hate group Students for Justice in Palestine calls for violence, screaming “Intifada! Intifada!” Intifadas are the violent knifing, bombing and shooting campaigns in which Palestinian Arabs murdered and maimed some 12,000 innocent Israelis.

Even the young are targeted. A New Jersey library held a public book reading of an anti-Israel children’s propaganda alphabet book, which celebrates “I Is For Intifada.”

And this is just the tip of the iceberg.



# *And this is just the tip of the iceberg.... ZOA everything we can to combat the evil for*

At the ZOA, we're working overtime to try to combat this veritable flood of hatred, and to defend the Jewish people. For instance:

- ZOA has been demanding that the Democratic House leadership censure and strip the anti-Semitic Squad members of their committee posts.
- I personally made the same demand when I recently testified before Congress about anti-Semitism. I also called out the Congressman who referred to Jews as "termites," while he was sitting right there in the hearing room.
- When I testified before Congress, some tried to silence me. But none of us at ZOA will be silenced.
- ZOA has been fighting to stop Congress from even considering the Squad's anti-Semitic resolution (H. Res. 496) to promote anti-Israel boycotts. So far, we've succeeded.
- ZOA demanded that CNN fire violence-promoting anti-Semite Marc Lamont Hill. Soon thereafter, CNN announced Hill's departure. ZOA continues to campaign for Temple University to fire Hill.
- ZOA (along with several allies) protested the *Times*' anti-Semitic cartoons in front of the *New York Times* office building. Shortly afterwards, the *Times* agreed to discontinue its cartoons. We're still combatting the *Times*' biased coverage of Israel.
- ZOA demanded the cancellation of the library book reading that would celebrate Intifadas. The library initially postponed the reading, but the author ultimately read the book on October 20, 2019 amid protests outside of the library. The ZOA provided fact sheets to expose the book's falsehoods.
- ZOA wrote to the Ohio Medical Board urging the permanent revocation of the license of the doctor who threatened to harm Jewish patients, and we successfully enlisted our wonderful advocate-members to do the same.
- ZOA's Center for Law and Justice and ZOA Campus are continually combatting anti-Semitism on college campuses throughout the country, and assisting students who face threats and harassment because they are Jews and support Israel.

In sum, the ZOA — together with you, our activists — is doing everything we can to combat the evil forces of anti-Semitism and Israel-hatred.

Our people's victories have not come easily. But we've learned that our efforts and persistence really do achieve great results. Together, we can continue to make a real difference and overcome today's many challenges.

Sincerely,



Morton A. Klein, ZOA National President 🇺🇸





– together with you, our activists – is doing  
forces of anti-Semitism and Israel-hatred.



ZOA National President Morton A. Klein testifying before the House Judiciary Committee at a hearing on “Hate Crimes and the Rise of White Nationalism,” on April 9, 2019

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**Mark Levenson, Esq.**  
Chairman of the Board

Dear Fellow Zionists,

I am very honored and proud to serve as Chairman of the ZOA Board and to be able to work with all of you. It has been a terrific year for ZOA. There are many positive accomplishments to report on as you will read about in this Fall 2019 edition of the ZOA Report. Of course, ZOA National President Mort Klein continues to do all that he does so well and it is my privilege and pleasure to work with him on an almost daily basis.

I recently returned from Israel where ZOA Director of Special Projects Liz Berney and I participated in meetings with executives from the World Zionist Organization (WZO) in connection with planning for the upcoming World Zionist Congress (WZC) elections which will take place between January 21, 2020 and March 11, 2020. The WZC elections, and increasing the number of mandates for the ZOA slate, is a major strategic imperative for ZOA. We will need everyone's participation, support and, most importantly, your vote.

While I was in Israel, I also had the opportunity to accompany Yaakov Hagoel, Vice Chairman of the WZO and Chairman of World Likud, to the Likud campaign headquarters at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds on election night in Israel, on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend the late evening (and early morning) at the Likud campaign headquarters with so many other committed Zionists from throughout Israel and several other countries as well. I was interviewed by several international media outlets that night, and the recognition and acknowledgement of the tremendous good work performed by ZOA was one of the common themes I kept hearing as I was introduced as the Chairman of ZOA to new friends and colleagues.

The accomplishments of ZOA are truly remarkable and outstanding for an organization our size. Just to highlight a few of our recent achievements:

ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, led by its Director Susan Tuchman, has been a leading force behind the recent noteworthy Department of Education, Civil Rights Division, enforcement actions and notice letters to various colleges across the country, including Rutgers University, the University of North Carolina and Duke University, relating to anti-Semitic actions or activities on their campuses.

Liz Berney has been heavily involved in and the strength behind our WZC election effort. Mort and I have also spent a significant amount of time to date on this, and we will continue doing so through the end of the WZC election period on March 11, 2020. I again want to encourage all of you to register to vote in the upcoming WZC elections and to vote for the ZOA slate.

Our Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission expanded to 1½ days this year and may have been our best Advocacy Mission ever, with appearances and presentations by over 30 Senators and Congresspersons. This amazing effort and result was coordinated by our Washington, D.C. Government Relations team, led so ably by its Director Dan Pollak and Deputy Director Joel Kassiday.



*The recognition and acknowledgement of the tremendous good work performed by ZOA was one of the common themes I kept hearing as I was introduced as the Chairman of ZOA to new friends and colleagues.*

We have also restructured our Israel office this past year, creating “ZOA in Israel Ltd.” Our Israel office, led by Jeff Daube, continues to contribute strongly to ZOA meeting its objectives and goals, and we look forward to another stellar VIP Leadership Mission to Israel this February, led by our Israel office.

I am delighted to report on the elevation of Jonathan Ginsburg to Managing Director of ZOA Campus. This is a well-deserved promotion and a recognition of Jonathan’s talents and importance to the organization. We have appointed Campus Coordinator Or Taylor to Jonathan’s previous position as Associate Director of ZOA Campus, and we are pleased to also announce the hiring of Marlene Artov as the Tri-State and Upstate New York Campus Coordinator, based in New York City. She joins Nadav Alkoby and Ben Schine in the Campus department’s vital work at over 120 universities across the U.S.

For those ZOA contributors and members who have not had the opportunity to talk to or meet our National Director of Marketing and Communications, Natalie Lazaroff, or our National Director of Development, Matthew Bennett, I encourage you to do so. They are a hugely integral part of our efforts to spread the news about ZOA’s excellent work and effort, as well as help us raise the necessary funds to do so.

I want to thank our talented regional team, led by Talya Messeri, Director of Outreach & Engagement, and regional directors Alan Jay, Deborah Peretz, Jonina Pritzker, Steve Feldman, Stuart Pavilack, Kobi Erez, Sharona Whisler, and David Kadosh.

I also want to publicly thank and recognize our Executive Vice President, John Rosen, who, in his role as our chief administrative officer, is of immeasurable help to Mort and me in carrying out the organization’s objectives and goals.

I want to express our appreciation to our Chief Financial Officer, Ravi Namakkal, and his team of Paul Basisty, Kamaala Emmanuel, and Jordan Silver. They have done a fantastic job that not only resulted in a clean audit for the second year in a row, but also helped us immensely on several important administrative initiatives.

I want to thank our National Office Manager, Nancy Hollander, Enid Roman, and Kelly-Ann Brown who help us run our operations so efficiently and smoothly all year round and also assist with the annual Gala dinner, the VIP Israel Mission, the Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission, and the innumerable Donor Society events and meetings that we hold in our beautiful New York office headquarters. I want to thank Daniel Mandel for his superb research and writing. I also want to thank our head of security, Jim Moore and his team, who help protect us every day and do so with a cheery smile.



ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson speaking at the World Zionist Organization Herzl event

# *I want to express my appreciation to our Board of Directors. Our board meetings this past year have been highlighted by the adoption of our new revised Constitution and By-laws.*

In addition, I'd like to also recognize and thank the talented Jackie Shafer, who manages all graphic design at the ZOA, including the artwork and layout for the biannual ZOA Report. Without her dedication and skill, this publication would not be possible.

This year's ZOA Gala dinner on November 17, 2019 will once again have an amazing line-up and program, with many distinguished guests and top-level officials in attendance. We encourage everyone to attend the Gala dinner and bring your friends to join us. We look to break our all-time attendance and fundraising records this year. Many thanks to our stellar team of Howard Katzoff, Nancy Hollander, Jackie Shafer, Kathy Branch, Enid Roman, Natalie Lazaroff, and all the rest who work so hard and diligently in helping to produce our amazing Gala dinner each and every year.

I want to express my appreciation to our Board of Directors. Our board meetings this past year have been highlighted by the adoption of our new revised Constitution and By-laws — thanks again to Liz Berney for her tremendous efforts and involvement — and the election of six new board members.

We are also moving ahead with a new and expanded committee structure. We encourage any of our contributors and readers of this Fall Report who want to join eligible committees to reach out to us, so that we may put you to work in helping us accomplish our myriad and ambitious goals. Our Committees and Committee Chairs are:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
Audit Committee	Tyler Korn
Budget Committee	Herman Itzkowitz
Investment Committee	Jay Knopf
Governance Committee	Ed Siegel
Nominating Committee	Michael Goldblatt
Facilities Committee	Isaac Abraham
Campus Committee	Alan Mazurek
Outreach & Engagement Committee	Rhonda Kaplan
Center for Law & Justice Committee	Cliff Rieders
Marketing & Communications Committee	Arthur Kook
Young Professionals Committee	Judy Rosen
Development Committee	Shira Lewis
Human Resources Committee	Mark Levenson
Government Relations Committee	Brian Grodman





Lastly, I want to close with a reminder that we cannot achieve the results we do without your contributions and involvement. As you consider where your charitable contributions can have the most impact, we encourage you to think about ZOA as one of your primary charitable contributions, not only as we head into our year-end, but throughout the year. Please also consider supporting the ZOA with a charitable bequest, life insurance policy, retirement asset, charitable gift annuity, charitable trust, or appreciated stock. For more information, call Matthew Bennett at 212-481-1500 or email [MBennett@zoa.org](mailto:MBennett@zoa.org).

I look forward to greeting you at our upcoming November 17<sup>th</sup> Gala dinner.

With all best wishes,

Mark Levenson  
Chairman 🇺🇸

Thanks to the hard work of ZOA's Director of Government Relations Dan Pollak and Deputy Director Joel Kassiday, hundreds of activists from more than 20 states gathered in Washington, D.C. for ZOA's annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission. The event featured a luncheon where more than 30 Democrats and Republicans from both the Senate and the House addressed ZOA supporters, followed by individual advocacy opportunities for attendees to meet with members of Congress or their top aides. At the 2019 Mission, activists encouraged politicians to increase their efforts against anti-Semitism and Israelophobia, and also promoted the need to codify and increase sanctions against Iran, to curb Iran's aggression and malign ballistic missile, terror and nuclear development activities.

## Inaugural Kickoff Dinner

This year, ZOA extended its Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission to two days, beginning with an exclusive dinner featuring **Congresswoman Liz Cheney (R-WY)** as the keynote speaker, to officially launch the event. Attendees were thrilled to hear the stirring speech of a rising star in Congress, and especially Congresswoman Cheney's powerful condemnation of anti-Semitism.

Egyptian historian and Middle East specialist **Raymond Ibrahim** described how CAIR (the Council on American-Islamic Relations), together with Linda Sarsour, successfully ran a campaign to stop his speech at the prestigious U.S. Army War College by tarnishing his reputation with false accusations of being a racist and Islamophobe. Ibrahim reminded guests of CAIR's long history of anti-Israel rhetoric; its funneling of money to Hamas; its desire to have Israel "terminated"; its calling of Israelis "Zio-Nazis"; and its

*Senator Cruz noted: "All of us are alarmed by the rise of anti-Semitism. A trio of freshman Congresswomen are engaged in deliberate, anti-Semitic attacks...The House needs to stand up and answer the same call."*

designation as a terrorist organization by the U.S. and its allies, including the United Arab Emirates.

**Dr. Jason D. Hill**, professor of philosophy at DePaul University, Jamaican immigrant and strong Zionist, greeted the crowd by saying, "I want to celebrate you and your Zionism today." He praised Israel as an "ethical state," with religious freedom for all and where LGBT persons are safe from persecution. He added, "Israel belongs to Jews and no one else. It is the Jewish State." It is comments like these, and his similar public defense of Prime Minister Netanyahu's right to annex Judea and Samaria, and the Golan Heights, that ultimately led to his unwarranted censure by DePaul University. Despite being forced to travel on campus with a police escort, Dr. Hill bravely continues to praise Israel as a beacon of light, while exposing the security threats from Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, and the recent uptick in anti-Semitism.

The dinner closed with the energetic and self-professed "huge fan of ZOA" **Dr. Paul Teller**, who serves in the White House as the Special Assistant to the President in the Office of Legislative Affairs. "It's amazing how many groups say they are pro-Israel. ZOA means it," he said, as he explained why he was so



# VOACACY MISSION 2019

thrilled when asked to address the group. While fielding a number of questions from the crowd, Dr. Teller provided an insider's perspective on the pro-Israel administration – “It's not a problem to show something pro-Israel in this White House” – and went on to assure the crowd that “there's nothing in this [Middle East peace] plan that would ever compromise the safety and security of the state of Israel.” He also highlighted the sanctions on Iran that are effectively targeting individuals' and companies' access to the U.S. financial system, in addition to recognizing the sad truth that there is more apparent anti-Semitism in the country than in years prior, and the offensive willingness to tolerate such behavior, especially in Congress.

## ZOA's Congressional Luncheon

The energy was palpable as hundreds of ZOA activists were greeted by Director of Government Relations Dan Pollak in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, especially after hearing the news that the Senate unanimously passed its resolution condemning anti-Semitism. Nonetheless, anti-Semitism in Congress and across the United States was still one of the most talked about topics by the 30 senators and House members that addressed the luncheon attendees.

**ZOA National President Morton A. Klein** welcomed the crowd via video message from Jerusalem, where he was participating on a two-person panel at an anti-BDS conference sponsored by Israel's Ministry of Strategic Affairs. Mort thanked all of the activists for their important work, and shared his sincere appreciation of the tireless efforts of **ZOA Government Relations Director Dan Pollak** and **Deputy Director Joel Kassiday**. He also expressed gratitude to **ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson** for his commitment to the orga-

nization and to the U.S.-Israel relationship. Dan Pollak and Mark Levenson then took turns at the podium, briefing the activists on the suggested talking points for the individual advocacy meetings and welcoming the distinguished guests.

**Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY)**, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, co-chair of the Israel Allies Caucus, and a member of the ZOA since the 1970's, re-affirmed the U.S. commitment to Israel. He then said, “We must provide support to help Israel defend herself...we must make sure that the U.S.-Israel relationship remains strong, no matter who the president is. It's not a one-way street. The U.S. needs Israel, and Israel needs the U.S.” Engel then concluded his address by proudly proclaiming, “Am Yisrael Chai” (The Nation of Israel Lives).

**Senator Rick Scott (R-FL)** recounted his pro-Israel work as Florida's governor, as well as his efforts to provide greater support to the Jewish community through increased security measures and strategies to combat anti-Semitism on Florida campuses. “I have a checklist of things I want to get done here [in the Senate], and one of them is to be a great ally to Israel,” said Senator Scott. “We have to stand up against anti-Semitism. Israel is a great ally, and we have to stand up for that.”

**Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)**, introduced by ZOA National Board Chairman Mark Levenson as “one of Israel's greatest friends ever,” thanked ZOA activists for their courage and their willingness to speak the truth. Regarding S. Res. 189, which condemned all forms of anti-Semitism, Senator Cruz noted: “All of us are alarmed by the rise of anti-Semitism. A trio of freshman Congresswomen are engaged in deliberate, anti-Semitic attacks... The House needs to stand up and answer the same call.”

***“We have to stand up against anti-Semitism. Israel is a great ally, and we have to stand up for that.”***

***-Senator Rick Scott (R-FL)***



*“If you can’t acknowledge the capital of a nation, then you are not in a state of mind that shows a commitment to peace. If you’re committed to terrorism, you’re not ready for peace.”*  
*- Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL)*

**Senator Tom Cotton (R-AZ)** provided fascinating insights from prior U.S. failures with Iran. He explained that ignoring the problem and then gradually ratcheting up responses to Iranian aggression was insufficient to deter Iran in the past. “Our choice should be to defend our people and nation,” said Senator Cotton. He then posed the question, “...if we don’t respond, what kind of message will it send?”

**Senator James (Jim) E. Risch (R-ID)**, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, noted that under the Trump administration, the U.S.-Israel relationship is at new heights. He cited the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, pulling out of the JCPOA (the Iran nuclear deal), and cutting sources of [anti-Israel] funding as reasons for this positive change. Senator Risch spoke of his sponsorship of Senate Bill 1, which helps assure Israel’s strength and combats anti-Semitism. He added, “The scourge of anti-Semitism has no place in the world, let alone in the United States itself.”

**Senator John Boozman (R-AR)** reaffirmed the need for bipartisan support for Israel. He assured ZOA, saying, “You have a lot of friends here,” and that he has “always been supportive in the past and will continue to do so.”

**Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)** told the audience that he had the privilege to be in Israel for the relocation of the embassy to the “historic, undivided capital of Israel.” He reflected upon “Israel’s solidarity with the cause of a free [Cuban] people,” and praised Israel’s belief in basic freedoms and human dignity. Rep. Diaz-Balart concluded, “Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East and our best friend.”

**Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE)** was the only member of Congress to call out the importance of Holocaust education for today’s youth while at the Mission luncheon. He also boldly criticized the Palestinian Authority’s “pay-to-slay” policies saying, “We should not give a penny to the Palestinian Authority while they’re paying terrorists.”

Another politician who thankfully exposes these atrocious policies is **Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL)**, who unfortunately knows the cost of terrorism too well. While stationed in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army, Rep. Mast worked as a bomb disposal expert under the elite Joint Special Operations Command. The last IED that he found caused serious injuries, resulting in the catastrophic loss of both of his legs.

In a very moving moment, Mast invited **Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX)** and **Rep. Jim**





**Baird (R-IN)** to join him at the podium, both of whom also suffered severe injuries while serving in the U.S. military. Rep. Mast explained, “The best thing we can hope for is living through those moments of difficulty, and then having times that we enjoy. In Israel, you have the same thing.”

Rep. Brian Mast continued, “We don’t have folks in the right state of mind who are willing to acknowledge something very simple – that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. If you can’t acknowledge the capital of a nation, then you are not in a state of mind that shows a commitment to peace. If you’re committed to terrorism, you’re not ready for peace.”

**Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX)** continued to address Palestinian-Arab terrorism and noted that “thousands of rockets landing on civilian neighborhoods from Gaza is something we would never tolerate in the U.S. We have to fight back against the double standard.” He also warned of the increasing threat of anti-Semitism, especially in Europe but also on our campuses, in the form of BDS or white supremacy.

As a war veteran, **Rep. Greg Steube (R-FL)** understands the real threats posed by a nuclear Iran. He encouraged ZOA members to convey to their Congresspersons the importance of voting for legislation he sponsored that curbs the Iranian regime. Following the luncheon, ZOA members educated their representatives

and their staff about this bill in their private advocacy meetings.

**Rep. Elaine Luria (D-VA)** told ZOA activists that she never expected that her first speech on the House floor would be about anti-Semitism. As a U.S. Navy veteran who hails from a military family, she is especially shocked by questions of loyalty to the U.S. aimed at Jewish Americans. “My speech was sort of like Dayenu,” said Luria. “Had I not served 20 years in the military, would that have been enough to show my loyalty to our country?”

Having served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee for 23 years and now as the co-chair of the Israel Allies Caucus, **Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)** is very familiar with the threats facing Israel and the Jewish people today. He spoke to ZOA activists about the dangerous Iranian regime and a war of delegitimization against Israel on U.S. campuses and elsewhere. Given the current climate, Sherman urged bipartisan support of Israel while recognizing that there are some challenges within the Democratic party.

Next to address the crowd was **Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI)**, who spoke about shared values between the United States and Israel and about why the two nations face a common enemy.

**Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH)** has a deep connection with Israel, stemming from Bible stories heard while growing up in North Carolina, to serving alongside Israeli exchange officers while in the U.S. Air Force; he even visited Alon Shvut, at a time when very few Congresspersons came into Judea and Samaria. Congressman Johnson went on to address the rise in anti-Semitism, especially in Europe, and publicly expressed his commitment to fight this battle: “As long as I have breath in me, you’re going to have a champion on behalf of Israel.”

*“The scourge of anti-Semitism has no place in the world, let alone in the United States itself.”*  
- **Sen. James E. Risch (R-ID)**

*Rep. Grace Meng  
(D-NY): “As a  
non-Jew and woman  
of color, I stand  
proudly and strongly  
behind the U.S.-  
Israel relationship.”*

**Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY)** is a good friend of Israel and the ZOA. She provided details of her strong record of supporting Israel on Capitol Hill, such as ensuring funds for Iron Dome and other tactics for Israeli defense; strengthening the FBI’s approach to hate crimes; obtaining funds to protect houses of worship; and co-signing a letter with Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY) urging Germany to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. Rep. Meng summed up her support: “As a non-Jew and woman of color, I stand proudly and strongly behind the U.S.-Israel relationship.”

**Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL)** noted Israel’s special relationship with his home state, explaining that “Alabama in 1943 became the first state to recognize Israel’s legitimacy to exist as a sovereign nation.” He expressed disbelief of how Israel is treated on the world stage and also revealed that he is frightened by the anti-Semitism in Europe, vowing not to allow that to happen in the U.S.

Agreeing with many of his colleagues, **Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)** emphasized the importance of a bipartisan U.S.-Israel relationship and the need to secure funding to help Israel defend herself from Hamas and Hezbollah. “The \$3.8 billion annually to

Israel is a key to a strong America,” said Gottheimer. “I do everything I can. My support will never bend.”

The first Green Beret elected to Congress, **Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL)** said that we must keep up the maximum pressure campaign on Iran; he added that the U.S. needs to send a clear message that we will hold Iran responsible, not only its proxies.

**Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY)**, member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, co-chairman of the House Republican Israel Caucus, and a good friend of the ZOA, thanked the activists for standing against anti-Semitism, wherever and whenever. “I’m one of those who believes that we should be naming names,” said Zeldin, prior to referencing a colleague who often pushes anti-Semitic rhetoric.

**Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)** praised the ZOA saying, “You’re great at educating Congress, great at educating youth.”

Longtime friend of the ZOA **Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX)** described how the Democratic leadership in the House repeatedly watered down the resolution that was supposed to condemn Rep. Ilhan Omar’s anti-Semitic comments. “We’ve got to stand firm and call out anti-Semitism,” he said. “The best thing we can do is be the best friend Israel has or will have.”

**Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL)** added, “It is not progressive to be anti-Semitic. It is regressive to be anti-Semitic.”

The ZOA Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission Congressional luncheon concluded with a powerful message from **Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX)**: “Bless Israel, and you will bless yourself...I back Israel to the hilt and will continue to do so.” Babin’s showing of support for Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship mirrors the sentiment held by all of the Congress-



*“The best thing  
we can do is be the  
best friend Israel  
has or will have.”  
- Rep. Louie  
Gohmert (R-TX)*



persons who addressed ZOA activists that day. In addition, there were common calls to condemn and eradicate anti-Semitism, and strong urges to take a stand against Iran and its terrorist activities.

**Rep. Michael Guest (R-MS)** also attended the luncheon but was called away before he could speak. The following Congresspersons planned to attend, but had to cancel: **Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA); Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO); Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX); Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ); Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX); Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Rep. Amata Catherine Coleman Radewagen, commonly called Aumua Amata (R-American Samoa); and Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD).**

ZOA extends its gratitude and appreciation to all of the bipartisan speakers and attendees at the 2019 Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission,

as well as those who unfortunately could not join the event.

Special thanks are owed to ZOA National President Morton Klein, Chairman Mark Levenson, and Vice Chair Dr. Alan Mazurek, Director of Government Relations Dan Pollak and Deputy Director Joel Kassiday, ZOA Deputy Director Howard Katzoff, and National Office Manager Nancy Hollander for working so hard to make the Mission such a huge success.

Thank you also to ZOA staff John Rosen, Jackie Shafer, Enid Roman, Kelly-Ann Brown, Susan Tuchman, Natalie Lazaroff, Matt Bennett, Alan Jay, Talya Messeri, Sharona Whisler, Deborah Peretz, Jonina Pritzker, Steve Feldman, Stuart Pavilack, David Kadosh, and Liz Berney.

**We look forward to seeing you next year, at the ZOA's 2020 Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission! 🇺🇸**

***Rep. Josh  
Gottheimer  
(D-NJ): “The  
\$3.8 billion  
annually to  
Israel is a key  
to a strong  
America. I do  
everything I can.  
My support will  
never bend.”***



# ZOA CAPITOL HILL ADVOC



# CACACY MISSION PICTORIAL



3

1. ZOA Director of Government Relations Dan Pollak and Deputy Director of Government Relations Joel Kassiday
2. Kevin Williams, Susan Getz, ZOA National Board Members Len Getz and Rhonda Kaplan, Myrna Jacobs, and Wendy Woloshin
3. Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY)
4. ZOA National Board Member Dr. Stanley Benzel
5. ZOA Director of Special Projects Liz Berney, Esq., ZOA Philadelphia Board President and National Board Member Kevin Ross, and David Matar
6. Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE)
7. Prof. Jason D. Hill
8. ZOA National Board Member Shira Lewis
9. Leah Jacobson, ZOA National Board Member Brian Grodman, Prof. Jason D. Hill, and ZOA Deputy Director Howard Katsoff



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1. ZOA Philadelphia Executive Director Steve Feldman with local ZOA members
2. Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)
3. Ron Desir
4. Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY)
5. ZOA National Board Member Dr. Judith Rosen



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1. Special Assistant to President Trump Dr. Paul Teller
2. ZOA National Board Member Dr. Paul Tartell
3. ZOA Director of Government Relations Dan Pollak, Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL), and ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq.
4. Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Dan Pollak, and Rep. Michael Guest (R-MS)
5. ZOA members and guests applauding Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY)
6. Rep. Greg Steube (R-FL)
7. Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN), Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX), and Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL)



1. Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
2. Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)
3. Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI)
4. Mrs. Judy Taylor, National Leadership Donor Society Member
5. Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)
6. ZOA National Board Member Herman Itzkowitz
7. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq.
8. Rep. John Gottheimer (D-NJ)
9. ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson and Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL)
10. Rep. Elaine Luria (D-VA) and ZOA National Board Vice Chair Dr. Alan Mazurek
11. Dr. Alan Mazurek and Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)
12. Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX)



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1. Rep. Michael Guest (R-MS) and ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq.
2. ZOA National Board Vice President Eli Hertz and Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY)
3. Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA)
4. Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA), Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX), and ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson
5. Author Raymond Ibrahim addressing ZOA activists
6. Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH) and ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq.
7. Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee James E. Risch (R-ID)



February 23-27 with option to extend to March 1

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*Founded 1897*



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA





# ZOA PEOPLE



## Profile: Jonathan Ginsburg

### Managing Director of ZOA Campus

Having been with the ZOA for almost five years, Jonathan Ginsburg, who was recently named managing director of ZOA Campus, knows exactly what it takes to succeed in his new role. Since starting his journey with the ZOA as a campus coordinator in 2015, Jonathan has learned the ins and outs of campus life for Jewish students – including the difficulties that did not exist when he was a student himself at SUNY Purchase, where he studied history and literature.

Understanding of nuance is critical when working with college students, especially when there is no one standard attitude or set consensus towards Israel across campuses in North America. The current social media age has also led to more amplified conversations and coverage surrounding Israel than ever before. Applying this knowledge to assist the rest of the national network of campus coordinators, Jonathan was later named the associate director of ZOA Campus. In addition to working directly with students and schools in the New England region, Jonathan held the role of ZOA Campus fellowship director — essentially availing himself to every campus where ZOA had a presence through collaborative engagement work with coordinators and fellows, while also organizing many ZOA-sponsored events and helping inspire students. As a critical component of his role, Jonathan was determined to help guide the

rest of his colleagues through the often challenging landscape of Israel advocacy.

Just two years later, after working with colleges and universities across the country, in addition to a wide number of partner organizations, ZOA was proud and honored to elevate Jonathan to the role of managing director of ZOA Campus in August 2019. Not only is Jonathan a good colleague who is smart, creative, principled, and a natural leader, but he is also a mensch, with a true passion for Israel and the ZOA, making him the perfect fit.

While it's hard to think about Jonathan Ginsburg without the ZOA, the truth is, Jonathan's passion for Israel and Zionism stretches back to his youth and is deeply tied to his own personal identity and family roots.

When asked to pinpoint the moment that inspired his activism on behalf of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, Jonathan could not settle for just one example. Instead, Jonathan shared details and stories about his grandparents' heritage, anecdotes about his family's connection to Israel, including popular topics of discussion at Passover seders, as well as memories of formative trips to Israel to visit cousins when he was younger. In summarizing his deep bond, Jonathan simply added: "Israel is a core part of my identity. Since a very young age I've been engaged - I'll just say that." With so many influences it was hard to count just one.



*“I grew up with a deep sense of my own Jewish identity and Jewish culture, and of how large of a role Israel played within that, as the homeland for the Jewish people.”*

In essence, Jonathan grew up with Zionism from day one; it was a part of him. “I grew up with a deep sense of my own Jewish identity and Jewish culture, and of how large of a role Israel played within that, as the homeland for the Jewish people.” He went on to explain how his travel experiences to Israel allowed him to reach a greater point of understanding. These trips not only helped Jonathan solidify his bond with the Jewish state, but they also allowed him to grasp the complexities and wonders of contemporary life in Israel and its history. Most importantly, though, Jonathan was able to experience the reality of life in Israel, which proved to be greatly moving.

Given his deep connection to the State of Israel and to the Jewish people, Jonathan was at a loss for words when, during his time in college – which was also the height of the Second Intifada – he was overwhelmed with a sense of apathy on campus. No one seemed to understand the truth of what was happening on the streets of Israel, which Jonathan was made aware of by his friends and family who were witnessing suicide bombings in public places, rocket attacks, and other horrific acts of violence, with their very own eyes.

Feeling somewhat disappointed in his peers amidst a less than friendly environment toward Israel, Jonathan found comradery with one of his professors who happened to serve in the Israel Defense Forces during the 1967 Six-Day War. This professor, who also had a direct, real and intense understanding of the realities in Israel, ended up serving as a mentor for Jonathan, providing a guiding voice when he needed it the most. As a professor of Hebrew and Yiddish literature, Jonathan also connected with this professor in ways that influenced his own academic and cultural growth.

Despite the lack of engagement on his campus, Jonathan remained committed to Israel and Zionism throughout his undergraduate studies and paid close attention to what was happening in the news each day. After participating on a Birthright trip in the winter of 2004-2005, Jonathan went on to spend the summer of 2005 in Israel, where he volunteered on an army base during the final stages of the Second Intifada. He later returned to Israel to participate in a MASA program in Haifa, where he worked with Israeli youth from the Ethiopian community. As a result of his experiences, Jonathan gained a grasp of the unique social dynamics in Israel and unfortunately, he also saw the effects of terror attacks closer than ever. He felt a part of a nation and understood what life was like for average Israelis at the time.

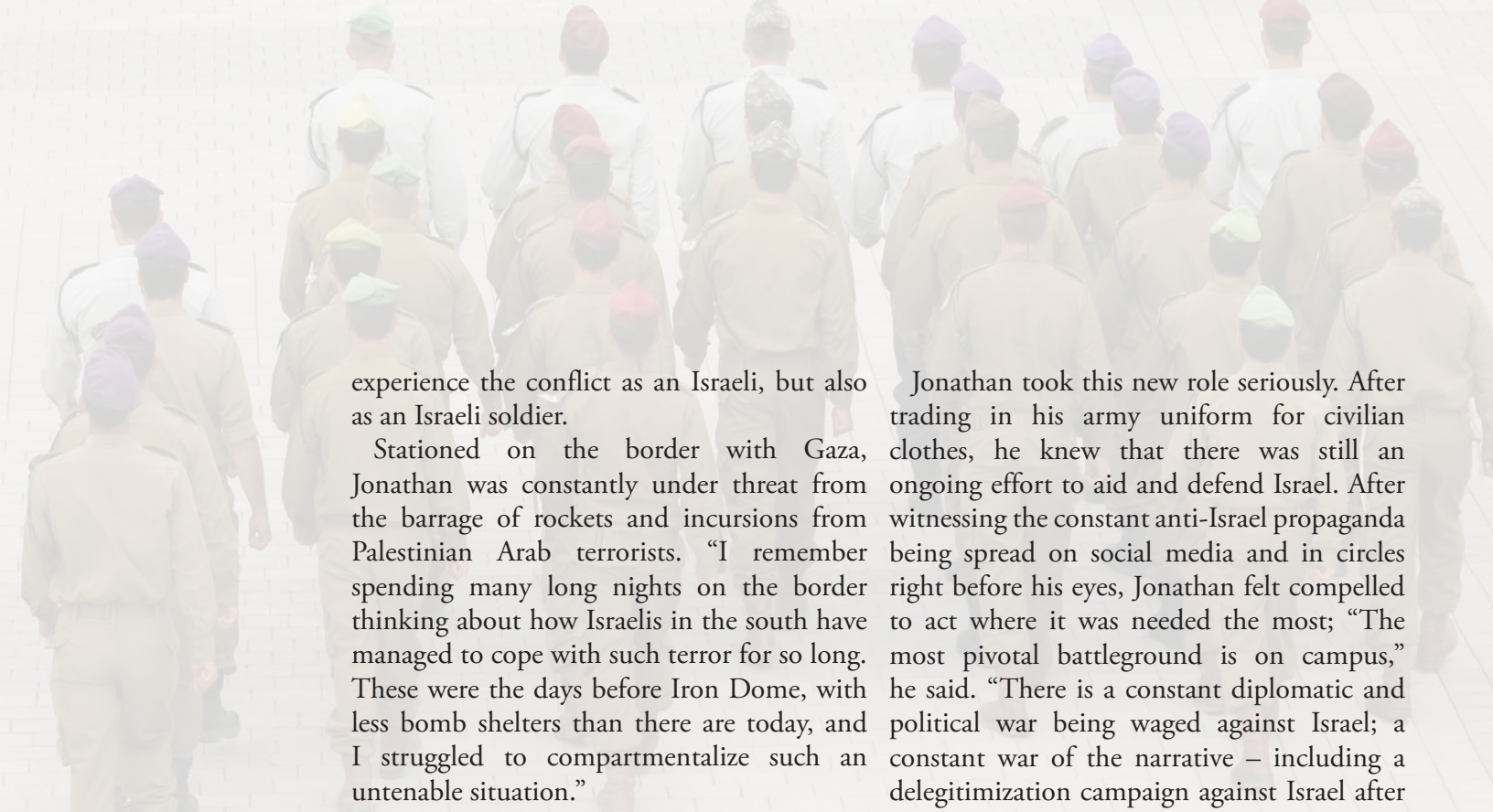
And just like his peers in Israel, who were risking their lives on the front lines of the IDF, Jonathan felt a duty himself to contribute directly to the protection of the State of Israel and Jewish people all over the world. “Tying all of my experiences together with my belief of how important Israel is for us, the Jewish people, as the only safe haven in the world and the only Jewish state, it felt like a natural step for me to serve in the IDF,” he said.

In 2007, Jonathan fulfilled his dream and made Aliyah, becoming an Israeli citizen and later drafting into the Israel Defense Forces as a lone soldier the following year. He finished basic training at a very tense time, serving within a CBRN defense unit, part of the IDF’s Home Front Command, just as Operation Cast Lead had started. Jonathan described this as an incredibly eye opening experience, as he truly “saw the real and present threats from a direct vantage point;” not only did he

*Not only is Jonathan a good colleague who is smart, creative, principled, and a natural leader, but he is also a mensch, with a true passion for Israel and the ZOA, making him the perfect fit.*



Managing Director of ZOA Campus Jonathan Ginsburg pictured above (R) while serving in the IDF



experience the conflict as an Israeli, but also as an Israeli soldier.

Stationed on the border with Gaza, Jonathan was constantly under threat from the barrage of rockets and incursions from Palestinian Arab terrorists. “I remember spending many long nights on the border thinking about how Israelis in the south have managed to cope with such terror for so long. These were the days before Iron Dome, with less bomb shelters than there are today, and I struggled to compartmentalize such an untenable situation.”

Jonathan went on to explain that Operation Cast Lead was a turning point that justified Israel’s right to defend its citizens from the years of rocket and terror attacks from Gaza.

Jonathan’s firsthand experiences as a soldier in the IDF exposed him to the geostrategic complexities Israel faces on a daily basis. “My service in the army helped me grasp the strategic significance of areas like the Jordan River Valley and the various communities in Judea and Samaria. It made me realize how important it is for Israel to maintain freedom of action in order to keep Israelis safe. After the army, I didn’t go to India or Southeast Asia, but I spent time travelling in Europe, and it was there that I truly understood the importance of grassroots advocacy as well. Defending Israel can be done in many critical ways.”

Jonathan explained that while unwinding from his army service, he was able to connect with different people from all over the world, acting by default as an ambassador of Israel, as he shared his experiences as a soldier and as an *oleh*, an immigrant. “Essentially all Jews and Israelis, wherever they are in the world, play the role of ambassadors for Israel whether they like it or not,” he said.

Jonathan took this new role seriously. After trading in his army uniform for civilian clothes, he knew that there was still an ongoing effort to aid and defend Israel. After witnessing the constant anti-Israel propaganda being spread on social media and in circles right before his eyes, Jonathan felt compelled to act where it was needed the most; “The most pivotal battleground is on campus,” he said. “There is a constant diplomatic and political war being waged against Israel; a constant war of the narrative – including a delegitimization campaign against Israel after Operation Protective Edge in 2014 that was at unprecedented levels. All of this made me want to get involved.”

In 2015 Jonathan relocated from Tel Aviv to the U.S. with his wife Celine. Upon his return, he immediately established his new home with the ZOA, committed to combating the unprecedented levels of anti-Israel hatred that had spiked following the 2014 war in Gaza. His goals were clear: to connect with students and to engage with them about Israel; and to empower students to speak up and to speak the truth.

When asked “why the ZOA,” Jonathan said, “The Zionist Organization of America is a pillar of the Jewish community and stands up for Israel in the most important areas. I found that ZOA was a natural home for me and I felt, and still do, that ZOA grasps Israel’s security needs better than any organization. Having lived there as a citizen and having also served in the army, it is this proud record and lineage that drew me to ZOA.”

Almost five years since Jonathan’s first position with the ZOA, the anti-Israel climate has changed a lot, while Jonathan’s determination and motivation have stayed the same. There is a noticeable difference in the challenges that today’s students fight on

***“My service in the army helped me grasp the strategic significance of areas like the Jordan River Valley and the various communities in Judea and Samaria. It made me realize how important it is for Israel to maintain freedom of action in order to keep Israelis safe.”***



*“My primary goal is to allow students to connect to Israel stronger than they ever have before, and to reach more students in that same way. Equally, I hope to continue to inspire and empower as many people as possible to stand up as proud Zionists on campus.”*



Jonathan (right) with Northeastern University students at a Hillel event

campus, making the role of ZOA Campus more important than ever. The Campus department recognizes a deep sense of disconnect and misunderstanding regarding Israel on college campuses, where it is magnified amongst both students and professors. This is why ZOA Campus activities are so necessary throughout the country, as they bring much needed perspectives to important issues, in a way that is presented effectively for a targeted audience.

Jonathan is proud to let students know that Zionism is not a dirty word; it's a badge of honor instead. He is elated each time that he is able to bring Jewish and non-Jewish students to Israel on ZOA Student Leadership Missions, to experience Israel themselves and to see the reality firsthand. He feels empowered when he educates students about anti-Semitism, and satisfied when he provides them with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves and their civil rights.

Jonathan is also determined to spread the fact that anti-Zionism is a form of anti-Semitism. “Denying self-determination to Jews, and only Jews, while affording that right to all others is absolutely a form of anti-Semitism. The State of Israel has the right to exist in peace and security just like every other nation.”

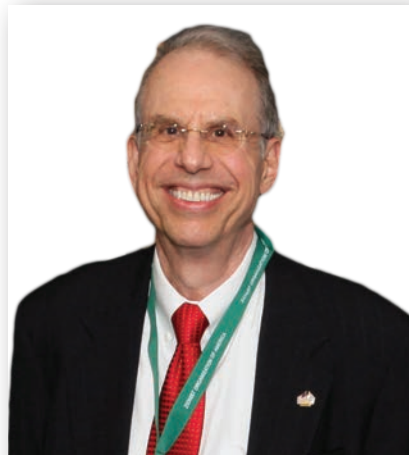
With renewed strength as he embarks on this new chapter at ZOA, Jonathan elaborated on his plans for a successful future on campuses nationwide. “My primary goal is to allow students to connect to Israel stronger than they ever have before, and to reach more students in that same way. Equally, I hope to continue to inspire and empower as many people as possible to stand up as proud Zionists on campus.”

Well, Jonathan, we couldn't think of anyone more qualified to do that than you. We look forward to much continued success as you lead ZOA Campus! 🇺🇸

*Nothing better illustrates the new environment on Capitol Hill than the case of two freshman Muslim members of Congress, Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN), both of whom have made statements that are anti-Israel and anti-Semitic.*



**Dan Pollak**  
Director, Government Relations



**Joel Kassiday**  
Deputy Director, Government Relations

As we move into the season in Washington, D.C. where everything is influenced by the upcoming election, it is fair to say that the bipartisan consensus in support of Israel is under pressure from the increasingly militant extreme left of the Democratic Party. It is also important to state the obvious here: The majority of Democrats in Congress continue to support Israel, and the large (72-member) congressional delegation to Israel in August included 41 Democrats. ZOA remains a non-partisan organization, and many of our closest friends are Democratic lawmakers. Even these friends, however, are under pressure from far left “woke” constituencies, and there is a constant need to muster mainstream support for these pro-Israel members of Congress.

## **A Case Study: U.S. Reps. Tlaib and Omar**

Nothing better illustrates the new environment on Capitol Hill than the case of two freshman Muslim members of Congress, Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN), both of whom have made statements that are anti-Israel and anti-Semitic. It is shameful that the House of Representatives has still not condemned the unacceptable anti-Semitism of its own members.

In August 2019, the two Congresswomen decided to skip the congressional trips to Israel organized by the House leadership. Instead, they planned a fact-finding trip to “Palestine” sponsored by Miftah, a viciously anti-Semitic group started by Hanan Ashrawi, a longtime official of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The Miftah website has supported the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, idolized terrorists who killed Jews, and most notoriously, in 2013, even published a piece falsely claiming that Jews used Christian blood in making matzo for Passover.



Unfortunately, the media paid little attention to the horrible group that was sponsoring the trip, and instead, propelled a very lively debate about how Israel had inflicted a wound on itself by denying Tlaib and Omar entry to the country. In an act of compassion, the Israeli government actually moderated its stance to allow Rep. Tlaib to visit her grandmother without political fanfare. She accepted at first, and then declined.

The conventional wisdom, even from friends of Israel, was that Israel had stupidly done damage to itself with this decision. The decision purportedly damaged Israel's long-term relationship with the U.S. and especially Congress, undermined bipartisan support for Israel, and called into question Israel's commitment to freedom of speech and even democratic norms.

AIPAC, AJC, ADL, and several other Jewish organizations all agreed that Israel acted within its sovereign rights to exclude these congresswomen, but nevertheless concluded that the decision was a mistake. Pre-existing hatred of President Trump became a strong factor in the discussions of Israel's exclusion, since the President correctly tweeted, "It would show great weakness if Israel allowed Rep. Omar and Rep. Tlaib to visit. They hate Israel & all Jewish people, & there is nothing that can be said or done to change their minds." Many commentators joined the chorus, insisting Israel had made a mistake.

As is so often the case, the conventional wisdom is deeply flawed. No damage was done to the U.S.-Israel relationship by this episode. It is inconceivable that the defense or intelligence cooperation will be affected, but even the intangible relationship was not diminished.

The argument that a future Democratic president will look back at these events and seek revenge against Israel is ludicrous on its face. The Democratic leadership was embar-

assed by having to defend these haters while reassuring their Jewish constituents that their pro-Israel values are still intact. It was assumed that some Democrats would take action against a symbolic Israeli target. This supposition relies on a misunderstanding of the way politicians balance conflicting demands. Since they criticized Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu for denying the visas, politicians are actually more likely to support the next symbolic vote on anti-missile defenses for Israel or generic support for the state. The rumors of a boycott or formal condemnation of Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Ron

Dermer, proved to have no substance at all.

In fact, contrary to the claim that this visit was a "lose-lose" proposition for Israel, in the long run it will be a "win-win." These haters will not have the extended opportunity to make the daily news cycle focus on supposed injustices suffered by Palestinian Arabs. Violence may well have accompanied their trip had it proceeded, particularly when they visited the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism. The controversy has enabled the few honest media outlets to showcase the extremism of the trip's sponsoring organization, Miftah. Furthermore, true friends of Israel in Congress were given the opportunity to emphasize the importance of standing up for the principle of Israeli sovereignty. Unfortunately, several politicians failed this test.

It is not correct to say this episode took us closer to the end of bipartisan support for Israel. Instead, it reflected the actual compromised position of the Democratic Party leadership.



Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)




## Peace Plans, BDS and Iran

As of this writing, the President has not unveiled his peace initiative, but indications are that the Palestinian Arabs will again reject it out of hand, no matter what it says. ZOA's concern has always been that there will be elements of the plan that will require Israeli concessions, and that even after the PLO and the Palestinian Authority (PA) reject the plan, future Israeli governments might use conditional acceptance by Israel to claim the harmful concessions are already established. This has happened before. The status quo with the PA is that they are getting very little U.S. aid due to their rejectionism and refusal to give up "pay to slay" compensation for terrorists directly from their budget. President Abbas (in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of his four-year term) continues to refuse to meet with senior U.S. diplomats.

BDS 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; 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, the current battle is to pass technical legislation ensuring that federal laws do not conflict with these state efforts. The Senate passed a bill (S. 1) in February 2019, which included these provisions, but the House has not yet passed equivalent legislation. Instead, the House passed a non-binding resolution that disapproved of BDS, and added a spurious endorsement of establishing a Palestinian Arab state at the same time. Our opponents are raising groundless First Amendment objections to passing a House version of S. 1, which is, in fact, constitutional.





*BDS is intrinsically a scheme to destroy Israel by alternative means. It will fail, and everywhere it is promoted, it reveals its adherents as extremists.*

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. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and President Trump, along with former National Security Advisor John Bolton, have been doing great work on this challenging issue, but Congress must pass new sanctions as well. ZOA is doing all it can to keep the focus on Iran and its nefarious activities. Nothing that happens in Lebanon, Syria or Gaza is really independent of the literally evil plans of the Iranian regime. (Worth noting is that the U.S. continues to supply the Lebanese Army with weapons and support, even though they are now closely allied with Iran and its Hezbollah proxy.)

The ZOA's Government Relations department also continues to focus on other regular legislative priorities, including fighting anti-Semitism and advocating on behalf of Jewish students being harassed on college campuses. We continue to be vigilant in educating Congress about the ongoing Arab war

against Israel and the dangers of a "two-state solution" that creates a new terrorist state on Israel's borders, 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, and participates in meetings, public forums and policy discussions with foreign policy and political professionals, and continues to engage in print and broadcast media opportunities to spread the word on ZOA's issues.

The annual ZOA Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission was a big success in June 2019, with 30 House members, senators, and a White House staffer addressing the group of activists. Not limited to the nation's capital, ZOA's Government Relations Director Dan Pollak has also visited ZOA chapters around the country to give talks and educate members on the situation in Washington, D.C. Both Pollak and Deputy Director Joel Kassiday continue to work closely with ZOA regional directors and with ZOA's Israel office. 🇺🇸



**Susan B. Tuchman,  
Esq.**  
Director, Center for Law  
and Justice

## ZOA Challenges Children's Book Reading Promoting Intifada

Last spring, when the Highland Park (New Jersey) Public Library considered whether to host a public reading of a book that praises and encourages violence against Jews, members of the Highland Park community contacted the ZOA. The ZOA immediately took action.

The book at issue, entitled *P is for Palestine*, is a children's alphabet book that pairs every letter of the alphabet with a corresponding word. For the letter I, the book states: "I is for Intifada, Intifada is Arabic for rising up for what is right, if you are a kid or a grownup!"

In a letter to the library's board of trustees urging them not to host the book reading, the ZOA explained that in fact, "Palestinian Arab intifadas are heinous, murderous uprisings that purposefully target Israelis and Jews, including children. Palestinian Arab intifadas against Israelis and Jews include hand grenade attacks, rocket attacks, assaults with guns and

explosives, and suicide bombings on buses, in restaurants, shopping malls and other public places." The ZOA cautioned that the book promotes and praises violence, will misinform and mislead children, and violates the library's mission to be a community resource "where everyone feels welcome."

The anti-Israel group that calls itself "Jewish Voice for Peace" (JVP) threatened the library that disallowing the book reading would violate the state and federal constitutions. In a follow-up letter, the ZOA assured the board of trustees that the library was not constitutionally required to host a hateful and misleading anti-Israel program.

"Public libraries have broad discretion to decide what materials to provide to their patrons," the ZOA wrote. Indeed, the Supreme Court has stated that it is a library's responsibility to "separate out the gold from the garbage."

Plainly as a compromise, the library decided to reschedule the book reading, as well as another program relating to a book about Israel. The author of *P is for Palestine* read the book at the library on October 20, 2019, amid protests outside the library. Reportedly, only four adults and three children attended the reading, all members of the Jewish community. The ZOA provided informational sheets about the book's falsehoods for library patrons.





## Bad News and Good News as ZOA's Fight against Campus Anti-Semitism Continues

The ZOA has long advocated for Jewish students at New York University (NYU) and urged the administration to address its anti-Semitism problem. But unfortunately, the problem persists.

In April 2018, NYU's anti-Semitic, Israel-bashing group Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and its allies assembled more than 50 other student groups to join them in an anti-Semitic, anti-Israel boycott campaign. It included a pledge to boycott the ZOA and certain other outside groups, and a pledge to boycott NYU's pro-Israel student clubs. SJP's goal couldn't be clearer: to shun and silence Jewish and pro-Israel students.

Identifying the numerous violations of university policies by SJP, the ZOA urged NYU President Andrew Hamilton to condemn and halt the hate group's campaign. But Hamilton did not even respond.

Also in April 2018, SJP tried to shut down a celebration of Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. SJP members wiped their feet and stomped on an Israeli flag, and one member set an Israeli flag on fire. Another was filmed grabbing the arms of a student singing Hatikvah, and forcibly seizing the microphone from the student before shouting, "Free Palestine, end the occupation." While student wrongdoers were reportedly arrested, there is no evidence that they or SJP were punished.

SJP is open about its goal to intimidate and silence Jewish and pro-Israel students. At the Israel celebration, SJP's president said, "We're not going to let them stand by and support Zionism. Our point is to make being Zionist uncomfortable on the NYU campus."

Given SJP's hateful and divisive record, it was shocking and outrageous that in the spring of 2019, SJP received a President's Service Award, which supposedly goes to student groups "that have had an extraordinary and positive impact on the University community." SJP has had exactly the opposite impact, making Jewish and pro-Israel students feel unsafe and unwelcome.

NYU ignored ZOA's calls to rescind the decision to reward SJP. After the award ceremony, President Hamilton claimed that neither he nor his office was consulted about the award recipients. It's hard to believe that the President of NYU did not have a say in selecting the student group deemed worthy of receiving the President's Service Award.

After the awards ceremony, Jewish students filed a complaint against the university with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Citing the ZOA's letters and asserting a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, the complaint alleges that university officials have failed to remedy "two years of extreme anti-Semitism" perpetrated by SJP. Yet Hamilton has denied that anti-Semitism is a problem on his campus.

NYU should learn about fighting anti-Semitism and Israel-bashing from the leadership at California's Pitzer College. In June 2017, Pitzer's Board of Trustees adopted the ZOA's legal argument and rescinded a Student Senate amendment that, if implemented, would have rendered Pitzer College the first campus in North America to carry out a boycott against Israel.

In March 2019, Pitzer President Melvin Oliver appropriately vetoed a recommendation by the College Council (comprised of faculty, students and staff) to suspend Pitzer's study-abroad program with Israel's University of Haifa. In a message to the community,



*President Hamilton (above) claimed that neither he nor his office was consulted about the award recipients. It's hard to believe that the President of NYU did not have a say in selecting the student group deemed worthy of receiving the President's Service Award.*

*Mandel and Pitzer's Melvin Oliver (right) are models for other college leaders who have the moral and legal duty to protect Jewish and pro-Israel students from harassment and discrimination.*



Oliver explained that implementing the recommendation would harm the college, violate students' academic freedom, and constitute an academic boycott of Israel, which he "categorically oppose[s]." In addition, the recommendation was "prejudiced," Oliver stated, because it singled out Israel, would unnecessarily "alienate a large cross section of the College's constituencies," and irreparably harm Pitzer's reputation.

Anti-Semites and Israel-bashers at Pitzer called for Oliver's immediate resignation or removal from office unless he retracted his decision. They even stooped to public and ugly name-calling. But Oliver and Pitzer stayed principled and firm.

NYU could also learn from Maud Mandel, the president of Williams College, who overruled the student government and granted registered student organization (RSO) status to a student group called Williams Initiative for Israel (WIFI). WIFI had followed the appropriate protocol in applying to be an RSO; as Mandel acknowledged, the student government's decision to reject WIFI "was made on political grounds."

The ZOA publicly praised Mandel and her administration for remedying the student government's astounding discrimination. Mandel and Pitzer's Melvin Oliver are models for other college leaders who have the moral and legal duty to protect Jewish and pro-Israel students from harassment and discrimination.

## After a Challenge by ZOA and Others, California's Anti-Semitic Ethnic Studies Curriculum is Rejected

After the ZOA and others condemned a proposed Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) for California students that was anti-Semitic and anti-Israel, the California State Board of Education rejected the ESMC, stating that it "falls short and needs to be substantially revised."

The ESMC essentially ignored Jews as an ethnic group and actually disparaged them instead. In addition, it omitted anti-Semitism from the many forms of hatred and bigotry defined in the ESMC's Glossary, and promoted the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions movement.

In a statement issued in August 2019, the Board of Education explained its decision to reject the ESMC: "Ethnic studies can be an important tool to improve school climate and increase our understanding of one another. A model curriculum should be accurate, free of bias, appropriate for all learners in our diverse state, and align with Governor Newsom's vision of a California for all."

In a public statement praising the Board's decision, the ZOA expressed its intention to review the next draft of the model curriculum, "which we hope and expect will provide California students with an accurate, balanced and scholarly understanding of Jews and other ethnic groups." In addition, the ZOA joined in a letter co-signed by over 90 other organizations, urging the California Department of Education to ensure that the drafting of a new model curriculum not be used as a tool for political indoctrination.



*In a public statement praising the Board’s decision, the ZOA expressed its intention to review the next draft of the model curriculum “which we hope and expect will provide California students with an accurate, balanced and scholarly understanding of Jews and other ethnic groups.”*

## Ongoing Educational Efforts

Susan Tuchman, director of the ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, spoke to community members about the ZOA’s fight against anti-Semitism in our schools and on college campuses, at various parlor meetings in 2019 that were generously hosted by the following ZOA supporters: Dan and Staci Layish in Orlando, FL (February), David and Laura Eisenberg in Brookline, MA (March), Jacob and Lauren Polyeff in West Orange, NJ (April), Susan and Allen Friedman in Wayland, MA (April), and Isaac Winer and Dr. Bonnie Rosenberg in Palo Alto, CA (June).

In May, Susan and Deborah Peretz, ZOA’s Long Island regional director and NY Metro associate director, spoke at a program graciously organized by Baila Sebrov and hosted by J. Greenstein & Company, Inc. in Cedarhurst, NY.

In June, Susan and ZOA’s West Coast Regional Director David Kadosh briefed California lawmakers on campus anti-Semitism and recommended several steps to battle this ugly problem. The briefing, at the State Capitol in Sacramento, was sponsored by Assemblymember Kevin Kiley.

In August, Susan and Alan Jay, director of the ZOA’s NY Metro Region, were guest speakers at the Leadership Program for high school and college staff at Camp Moshava Ba’Ir, located on the Frisch School’s campus in Paramus, NJ. 🇺🇸



# ZOA VIP ISRAEL LEAD

## An Inside Perspective from ZOA's VIP Israel Mission, February 2019

by Deborah Peretz, ZOA's regional director of Long Island and associate director of NY Metro.

I had lived in Israel, led Birthright tours (among others) and knew Israel better than I knew New York. I spent many years as a Jewish educator, teaching about modern Israel, the conditions in Judea and Samaria, the disastrous consequences of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, and the false narrative of Israel's "occupation." I prided myself on being able to convey to young students the passion I felt for the pioneers who lived in our ancient homeland and were able to make the desert bloom.

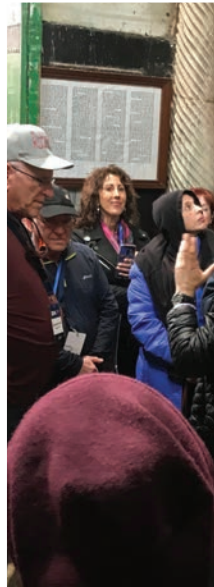
Despite my knowledge of Jewish history and my dedication to Israel, I hadn't actually been to many of the places that were part of the itinerary for the ZOA's VIP Leadership Mission; it was the missing piece in my experiential education about Israel. I couldn't let the opportunity go, so I signed on. And I wasn't disappointed. **This truly was a life changing experience!**

We were all excited as we approached the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem<sup>2</sup>, and meeting U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman was a thrill. As I always reminded my students, Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the Jewish people. After all, what do we say at the end of every Passover seder? And we've been saying it for thousands of years! With this in mind, I could truly appreciate the significance of the U.S. moving its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. And now, other countries are following America's lead and establishing their embassies in Israel's capital, Jerusalem. What a great way to begin the mission!



We traveled to Hebron, where we entered the Tomb of the Patriarchs<sup>1</sup>, and were given a tour of the city by a former soldier in the Duvdevan Unit of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), an elite unit dedicated to fighting and preventing terrorism. This soldier explained the truth about how Arab terrorism caused so much desolation in this ancient city holy to Jews. We watched young girls playing soccer behind a wire fence; They are part of the brave families who have chosen to reclaim an essential part of our ancestral homeland, and are the pioneers of today.

We visited City Hall in Jerusalem<sup>6</sup> – the eternal capital of the Jewish people – for a meeting with Mayor Moshe Lion. As I looked up at the perimeter of the ceiling, I saw the emblems of the twelve tribes of Israel. It was a special reminder that while the modern Jewish state of Israel is only 71 years old, the Jewish people's presence in this land spans more than three thousand years. And here we were, listening to the Mayor tell us of the future of Jerusalem. Dayenu!





# ADERSHP MISSION 2019

The next day, we had the honor of meeting IDF General Bentzi Gruber<sup>5</sup> in southern Israel. He delivered a compelling talk about his long service in the IDF, and included the story of his mother's survival during the dark days in Europe. He conveyed his pride in getting up every day to defend the Jewish State; that, together with learning about his mother's ordeal, left everyone speechless. General Gruber then gave us a tour of an IDF tank and allowed us to explore it ourselves, inside and out. Dayenu!

We then proceeded to a mock village<sup>3</sup>, similar to those in Gaza, and experienced what it was like to be in the Hamas "terror tunnels," as they were called by the Israeli government. This was followed by lunch in Sderot, where we viewed art made out of the missiles that were fired by Palestinian Arab terrorists from Gaza into Israel, aimed at civilians. *From destruction we make art.* Rabbi Dovid Fendel, spoke with us about the founding of the city of Sderot, a beautiful place with an impressive yeshiva, which Rabbi Fendel heads. This yeshiva was damaged just a few months ago by a Hamas rocket. Thank God, the Rabbi and his students were not injured. Dayenu!



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*Today, Jews are few in numbers and unfortunately, even fewer know and fight for the truth of our cause. But the Maccabees were also few in numbers, and just like them, we are strong and persistent. With the brave souls we met, I know that Israel will prevail and become even stronger.*

We continued on to Kibbutz Nahal Oz, on the Gaza border. We met with members of Yatar, a volunteer group of highly trained individuals who have families and jobs, yet volunteer their time to help the IDF and Border Police protect the people of Israel and their land. We stood where rockets fell, and learned about the tragic death of four-year-old Daniel Tregerman, who succumbed to his wounds after a terrorist attack. It was a somber moment . . . there were no words.

The next day, we toured areas of Jerusalem, including Ammunition Hill and the Mount of Olives.

That evening we were in for a treat – dinner at the Lone Soldier Center in Jerusalem, a special place named for Michael Levin, z”l, an American from Philadelphia who made aliyah and fell while fighting in the Second Lebanon War. We handed out thank-you letters to the lone soldiers, written by students in the U.S., who let the soldiers know how proud and grateful they were for the soldiers’ bravery and service to protect the Jewish homeland. We heard stories of courageous teens and lone soldiers from our own neighborhoods, who chose to go and defend the State of Israel.<sup>7</sup>

On Shabbat, we met with Khaled Abu Toameh, a writer for the *Jerusalem Post* and a senior distinguished fellow at the Gatestone Institute, who gave us an insider’s view of the situation with the Palestinian Arabs. It was truly eye-opening.

Our last day started out early and for many, it was the highlight of the Mission. We headed to Shiloh<sup>12</sup>, an ancient city in Samaria, where the first tabernacle stood. It was here where we began to establish ourselves as a people in our own land. It’s a quiet, special place, with a significance that can be felt as you walk its paths along the archaeological excavations from thousands of years ago. Dayenu!

We then proceeded to visit a top-secret undercover unit in the IDF, where we saw how soldiers train for combat in Jerusalem’s Old City, Arab villages, as well as outdoor areas. Many said it was our “Fauda” moment – a reference to an Israeli television series. The visit was incredible, and we were honored to have as our guide, the commander in charge of all these units throughout Judea and Samaria. Dayenu!

During this trip, it was fantastic to see how much ZOA means to the people of Israel, with my own eyes. When I walked into shops on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem, people would look at my name tag and ask where I was from. When I told them, they expressed such gratitude for ZOA! One woman went on about other Jewish organizations and how they are so detrimental to the safety and security of Israel, and how much she appreciates ZOA. A shop owner couldn’t extol ZOA’s virtues enough.

*During this trip, it was fantastic to see how much ZOA means to the people of Israel, with my own eyes.*



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These are just some highlights of a week full of rich history and deep emotion, stirring speakers and unique experiences, not to mention overwhelmingly delicious food! Perhaps most importantly, the Mission connected the participants to the people of Israel and to each other. I now have a beautiful shared experience with 35 other dedicated and passionate Zionists, who have become my friends.

Today, Jews are few in numbers and unfortunately, even fewer know and fight for the truth of our cause. But the Maccabees were also few in numbers, and just like them, we are strong and persistent. With the brave souls we met, I know that Israel will prevail and become even stronger. We are all defenders of Israel; some of us serve in the IDF and Border Police, some of us fight legal battles, some of us have the ability and means to fund projects to support a safe and strong Israel, and some of us teach the truth about Israel and about those who seek to destroy it.

In my role as the regional director of ZOA Long Island, it is my responsibility to relay the facts on the ground to our constituents, to bring to life what I witnessed first-hand. ZOA stands for a strong Israel, including Judea and Samaria, with an undivided Jerusalem as its eternal capital. I'm proud to work for this organization, which unashamedly stands for the truth about Israel, BDS, and the fact that anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. This trip put all of that into perspective. And now, it's time to get to work! 🇺🇸





# Morton Klein Fights Anti-Semitism and BDS Across the Globe

## Morton Klein Fights Islamic Anti-Semitism Before Congress

On April 9, 2019 ZOA National President Morton Klein testified before the House Judiciary Committee at a hearing on “Hate Crimes and the Rise of White Nationalism,” where he bravely exposed the truth of Islamic Anti-Semitism. “According to the FBI, Jews are the victims in 60% of religiously-motivated hate crimes. Jew-hatred is the canary in the coal mine,” said Klein while testifying.

Citing data from a major international poll, Klein pointed to an extraordinary level of Muslim Jew-hatred. After surveying 100 countries, the poll found that 49% of Muslims harbor anti-Semitic attitudes. In the U.S. alone, the prevalence of extreme anti-Semitism among Muslims is 34%, versus 14% of the general population. This can be attributed to anti-Semitic themes in the Koran and the Hadith, which are strengthened by significant institutional support by the major Islamic theological academies, and by the leading and most respected Imams. This is how Muslim anti-Semitism is becoming mainstream.

Despite the shocking statistics, this pandemic of Islamic anti-Semitism draws little attention and condemnation. Morton Klein urged that if something is not done, the United States is in danger of seeing the same hatred and violence that is rampant throughout Europe. He explained that in order to stop institutions from supporting and condoning Islamic anti-Semitism and the anti-Semitic BDS movement, Congress must take the first step. Klein urged an investigation of the SJP and BDS terror connections; passing a strong federal anti-BDS law; and demanding that university leaders not only condemn the SJP hate group, but also prohibit them from being part of the university system of funded student groups. He also urged that lawmakers remove anti-Semitic Congresswomen Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) from their committees.

Immediately, attempts were made to silence Morton Klein, but no one at the Zionist Organization of America will be silenced. Klein’s landmark testimony on Capitol Hill made headlines across the world, and he and the ZOA were praised for bravely exposing the truth about Islamic Anti-Semitism.

## ZOA National President Morton A. Klein Speaks at International Anti-BDS Conference in Jerusalem

In June 2019, ZOA National President Morton Klein was featured as an exclusive speaker at the largest international anti-BDS conference in the world, sponsored by Israel’s Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Diplomacy. The invitation-only Annual Global Coalition 4 Israel GC41 Forum and the Legal Network Initiative were held in Jerusalem.

In front of 350 pro-Israel and Jewish leaders and activists from 40 countries, Morton Klein participated on a two-person panel with the President and CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America Eric Fingerhut, formerly of Hillel International, on the topic of “How the BDS campaign is convincing young Jews to support the boycott of Israel.”

Officials of the Ministry of Strategic Affairs have been expressing alarm at the recent surge of Jewish youth engagement in, and sometimes leadership of, the BDS campaigns of a number of countries. Morton was invited to present his American perspective specifically because of his reputation as a relentless fighter against BDS, and because of ZOA’s longstanding record of combating BDS, anti-Semitism, and other manifestations of delegitimization and hatred singling out Israel and the Jews. ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice and ZOA Campus have each been recognized as models of support for the Jewish students who increasingly face intimidation and harassment from BDS-affiliated professors and college peers.

Klein was joined at the conference by an illustrious group of speakers, including Minister Gilad Erdan; World Jewish Congress CEO Robert Singer; Simon Wiesenthal Center Associate Dean Rabbi Abraham Cooper; Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog; Conference of Presidents Executive Vice Chairman Malcolm Hoenlein; U.S. Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating anti-Semitism Elan Carr; Jerusalem Post Editor-in-Chief Yaakov Katz; and a host of others.





Morton Klein testifying before the House Judiciary Committee at a hearing on "Hate Crimes and the Rise of White Nationalism"



Morton Klein with U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell



Morton Klein with Egyptian Ambassador to Germany Dr. Badr Abdelatty



Morton Klein with U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R-FL)



Morton Klein with Kosovo Ambassador to Germany Beqë Cufaj

## Taking the Fight Against Anti-Semitism To Europe

Following an invitation extended to him by U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard "Ric" Grenell, Morton Klein was hosted at the Ambassador's residence in Berlin while he met with a number of top-level officials from both the U.S. and Germany.

Ambassador Grenell, recipient of ZOA's Dr. Bob Shillman Award for Outstanding Diplomacy in 2018, is a true friend of Israel, the ZOA, and its National President Morton Klein. He is a strong Zionist and is committed to a successful U.S.-Israel relationship and to the safety and security of the Jewish people, which is why the focus of Mr. Klein's visit was the frightening rise of anti-Semitism across Europe and specifically in Germany.

In addition to discussing the fight against anti-Semitism with Ambassador Grenell, Mr. Klein also stressed the urgency with U.S. senators and other U.S. ambassadors who were visiting Berlin at the time. Morton also met Annette Kahane, leader of a German institute fighting against the scourge of anti-Semitism and racism in Europe, and Roma (Gypsy) leaders, with whom he discussed bigotry and possible solutions for combatting prejudice.

## Morton Klein Continues Fight Against BDS Alongside Florida Governor Ron DeSantis on High-Level Mission to Israel

Shortly after participating in the largest anti-BDS conference in the world, ZOA's National President Morton Klein returned to Israel as part of a select group accompanying Florida Governor Ron DeSantis on a business and education development trade mission. They met with major political, business and education leaders in Israel as they celebrated the extraordinary cooperation between the State of Florida and Israel, as well as Governor DeSantis' personal and professional commitment to ensuring the safety, security, and prosperity of the State of Israel.

Morton Klein was truly honored to be among the select few to accompany the Governor on this incredible mission. "Governor Ron DeSantis is one of the greatest friends Israel has in the American political world. I was honored to have testified along with Amb. John Bolton and Amb. Dore Gold before the House Subcommittee on National Security, which then-Congressman DeSantis chaired, where I advocated for moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and promoted U.S. recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the critically important Golan Heights. Both of those policy positions came to fruition, surely, in part, due to DeSantis' important and highly publicized hearings."

Ron DeSantis is a true friend of Israel and the ZOA, and he is in fact being honored for his outstanding leadership at the ZOA's 2019 Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner. 🇺🇸



# ZOA CAMPUS





200+ meaningful pro-Israel events  
65+ college campuses throughout the U.S.  
50+ ZOA Campus Fellows in 2018 - 2019





# ZOA CAMPUS COORDINATORS



**Jonathan Ginsburg**  
Managing Director,  
ZOA Campus



**Or Taylor**  
Associate Director,  
ZOA Campus



**Nadav Alkoby**  
Midwest Campus  
Coordinator



**Marlene Artov**  
Tri-State Campus  
Coordinator



**Benjamin Schine**  
Southeast Campus  
Coordinator

Over the course of the spring 2019 semester, ZOA Campus continued its ascent by playing a leading role in organizing impactful pro-Israel programming on colleges and universities across the United States. ZOA Campus staff proudly worked hard to host over 200 meaningful pro-Israel events on over 65 college campuses across the country. Representing the spirit of Zionism and pro-Israel activism, ZOA Campus coordinators effectively worked to engage, empower, and educate hundreds of students from various backgrounds and faiths, while leading programs to promote the Jewish State and fight anti-Semitism.

ZOA's campus department also achieved its own new and exciting milestones. Jonathan Ginsburg, formerly ZOA Campus Associate director, proudly assumed the role of managing director of the department. Or Taylor, ZOA's mid-Atlantic coordinator, also rose in the ranks to become the current associate director. Both Jonathan and Or are extremely excited to lead ZOA Campus into its next chapter. Additionally, the department welcomed Marlene Artov, ZOA's Tri-State and Upstate New York Coordinator, based in New York City, as the newest addition to the team. Midwest Campus Coordinator Nadav Alkoby continued his successful run of pro-Israel engagement with students and allied professionals, as did Benjamin Schine, in the Southeast.

Mazel Tov to Jonathan Ginsburg (far right) and Or Taylor on their new positions as ZOA Campus Managing Director and ZOA Campus Associate Director!







## Zionist Activism from Coast to Coast

From coast to coast, ZOA Campus thrived over the course of the academic year.

Under the stewardship of Managing Director Jonathan Ginsburg, the New England region continued its push to new heights, with engaging Zionist events at a range of different colleges and universities. ZOA Campus in New England successfully worked to empower students from all backgrounds through various interactive programs, including tabling events and interactive advocacy seminars at influential

schools, such as Boston University, Brandeis University, and Harvard University, among others. Some of the lasting highlights include additional co-sponsorship of Sgt. Benjamin Anthony's guest speaking engagement at Northeastern University for a special Israel Shabbat, as well as a partnership with Save a Child's Heart to increase knowledge of Israel's humanitarian efforts. ZOA also proudly co-sponsored large-scale Yom Haatzmaut festivities at dozens of campuses, including UMass-Amherst, Brandeis University, Boston University, University of Connecticut, Northeastern University, and many more.

*Some of the lasting highlights include additional co-sponsorship of Sgt. Benjamin Anthony's guest speaking engagement at Northeastern University for a special Israel Shabbat, as well as a partnership with Save a Child's Heart to increase knowledge of Israel's humanitarian efforts.*



From left to right: Miriam Sernick of Hasbara Fellowships, ZOA Campus Managing Director Jonathan Ginsburg, and Elie Codron, ZOA Israel trip alumnus and president of Huskies for Israel at Northeastern University, during Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities on campus





Krav Maga lesson on campus



Rabbi Yehuda HaKohen in the mid-Atlantic region discussing the upcoming Israeli elections and other challenges facing the Jewish people



ZOA Midwest Campus Coordinator Nadav Alkoby with students at a ZOA SodaStream tabling event, which focused on spreading messages of coexistence within Israel to a wide campus audience



In addition, ZOA Campus in New York and the Tri-State Area was very successful. Throughout the spring, ZOA continued to advance the cause of Zionism on numerous college campuses. ZOA Campus hosted various programs, including Krav Maga self-defense seminars at Long Island University - Brooklyn, Shabbat events at Cornell University and Binghamton University, along with guest speaking engagements at City College, John Jay College, Rutgers University, and Baruch College. Across the Northeast, ZOA worked to strengthen important partnerships by collaborating with allied pro-Israel organizations.

ZOA Campus in the mid-Atlantic region continued to build on its success by facilitating strong Zionist programming. ZOA Campus Associate Director Or Taylor organized student efforts to bring expert speakers, educational initiatives, and celebrations of Israeli heritage to campus. These events build the strength of the young pro-Israel communities so that they have the tools and resources to promote Zionism and fight anti-Semitism effectively.

The Southeast region also produced significant highlights to finish out the 2018-2019 academic year. Under Southeast Campus Coordinator Benjamin Schine's leadership, ZOA Campus collaborated with leading student groups and partner organizations





ZOA Campus Southeast Coordinator Benjamin Schine (center) with students at a ZOA co-sponsored Artists 4 Israel event

to co-sponsor Yom Haatzmaut celebrations across the region, with a primary focus centered in Georgia and Florida. Ben worked closely with regional staff members to foster greater integration and to further the reach of the department.

At Emory University, ZOA Campus co-sponsored interactive tabling with Eagles for Israel during their Artists for Israel program. During this event, staff members were on the ground to work directly with students and help them combat the provocations from Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), which aimed to intimidate Jewish students. Through ZOA's presence, students had the necessary support and tools to fight back against the all-too-frequent anti-Semitic actions that are hidden under the guise of "anti-Israel" protests.

In addition, as ZOA's lead staff member in the region, Benjamin Schine traveled to Orlando to contribute to the IsraelFest celebration at Central Florida University, which proved to be a major success. Following the horrific incident involving eviction notices placed on the doors of Jewish and non-Jewish students by members of SJP at Emory University, the Campus department worked directly with ZOA's Center for Law and Justice to swiftly address this heinous episode. The students on campus were extremely grateful for the support and assistance from

Southeast Campus Coordinator Benjamin Schine and the entire ZOA.

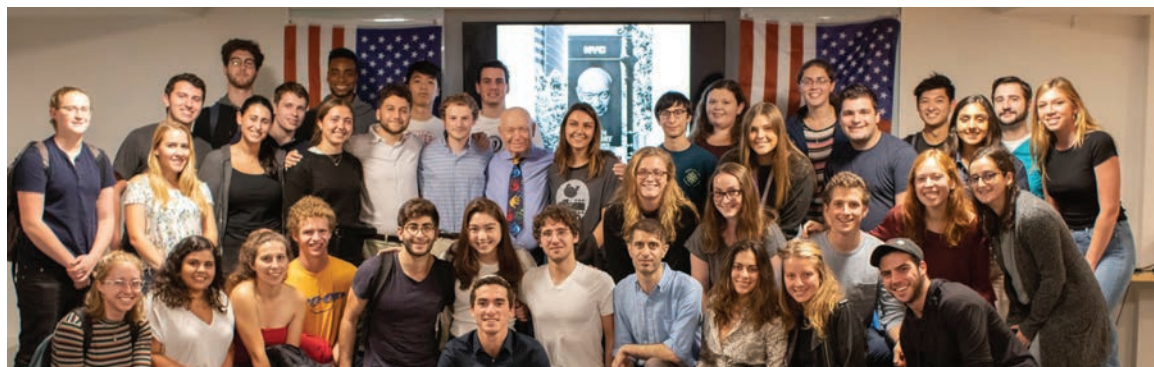
Exciting and educational programs continued in the Midwest region as well. Based out of Chicago, Midwest Campus Coordinator Nadav Alkoby proudly represented Israel and the mission of ZOA through various events and initiatives. ZOA Campus in the Midwest engaged thousands of students over the course of the semester and was extremely honored to host Holocaust survivor and motivational speaker Sami Steigmann for events at Ohio State University, Ohio University, Oberlin College, Case Western University, and Kent State University. Sami's inspirational message of survival and combating injustice by not allowing one's self to exist as a bystander resonated powerfully with the wide audience of students.

Within the West Coast and Southwest regions, ZOA Campus also worked in close collaboration with numerous student groups and partners at leading colleges and universities. A few incredible highlights from this past semester took place at the University of Texas at Austin and at Texas A&M, where ZOA National President Morton Klein spoke to student leaders about the critical importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship and the dangers posed by Iran and Palestinian Arab terror organizations bent on Israel's destruction. The events were held in part-

*Through ZOA's presence, students had the necessary support and tools to fight back against the all-too-frequent anti-Semitic actions that are hidden under the guise of "anti-Israel" protests.*



Holocaust survivor and motivational speaker Sami Steigmann with students



nership with Young Conservatives of Texas and with College Republicans.

ZOA also proudly co-sponsored the Immigration Nation series, focused on the importance of Israel's Law of Return, at a number of campuses on the West Coast. Celebrations for Yom Haatzmaut closed off the spring semester in style, where ZOA worked with other organizations and groups to co-host festivities and SodaStream tabling programs at schools such as UC Davis, Cal State Northridge, UCLA, and UC San Diego.

## ZOA Campus Fellowship

The ZOA Campus Fellowship continued to grow its annual class and expand nationally to more colleges and universities than ever. ZOA Campus is extremely proud to mark the milestone of achieving a class of over 50 fellows for the 2018-2019 academic year. These students proudly served, often in the most difficult environments, as ZOA's official student representatives on campus. ZOA fellows worked in close partnership with regional ZOA Campus staff and with central organizations at their respective college campuses to host impactful programming instilled with proud Zionist values.

Below: ZOA Campus Associate Director Or Taylor leads an Israel 101 seminar with student leaders during the 2019 ZOA Campus Student Leadership Mission to Israel



## ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel - Summer 2019

The ZOA Campus Student Leadership Mission to Israel in the summer of 2019 once again proved to be a major success. As a flagship program of the Campus department, this year's Israel trip took place from June 18 to July 2, and provided a dynamic and invaluable educational experience for nearly 40 student leaders from various college and university campuses across America. Participants hailed from schools such as Brandeis University, Northeastern University, Penn State, Baruch College, UCLA, USC, Ohio State University, University of Texas at Austin, among others.

The intense two-week advocacy trip was powerful and unique in many ways. Students received a firsthand look at the geostrategic complexities facing the State of Israel through briefings with numerous high-level expert speakers. In addition, students participated in eye-opening visits to the Golan Heights, the Jordan Valley, and the southern border with Gaza, while also getting the chance to interact with Israeli peers and learn about the history and origins of the IDF. By traveling throughout the country and specifically spending a significant portion of the trip in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria, students also learned about the indelible Jewish roots throughout the Land of Israel, and the moral and strategic importance of maintaining Israel's permanent presence in these areas of our homeland.

ZOA Campus is extremely grateful for the generous support provided by the MZ Foundation, which has allowed hundreds of students to develop lifelong connections to Zionism and the State of Israel through such immersive travel experiences.



# ZOA Summer Internship Program

This year's six-week internship program for outstanding student leaders proved to be one of the most successful ever. A select group of interns — chosen from a large pool of highly qualified applicants from campuses across the country — were based at ZOA's national headquarters in Manhattan. They worked in tandem with ZOA Campus coordinators to create factually informative campus material, including new and dynamic digital flyers focused on Zionism, Jewish refugees from the Middle East, and Israel's international humanitarian aid efforts. In addition to their research and production of new campus resources, the summer interns also worked under the guidance of ZOA's National Director of Marketing and Communications and ZOA's National Director of Development to learn about effective social media strategies and the various dynamics related to community outreach and organizational growth strategies.

From The Interns:

## Sean Lewis A Little About Me

I am currently a junior at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York pursuing a major in Information Management and Technology. I arrived on campus having already made a commitment to myself to remain focused on my Jewish identity, avoiding a possible struggle that is common amongst first year students. I'm proud to say that after only two years, I was amongst the most active students in Jewish and pro-Israel life on campus.

### Strong Ties to the ZOA Led to Unforgettable Experiences

I became aware of the ZOA through my mother, ZOA National Board Member Shira Lewis, and my brother, who interned for the ZOA in 2016. And after ending the spring semester feeling really engaged with Israel, I knew that I had a strong passion for Israel - so I decided to pursue the ZOA internship. During the application process, I was made aware of the ZOA Campus Student Leadership Mission to Israel, which I quickly signed up for. My experience in Israel with ZOA Campus was incredible and a once in a lifetime opportunity. This trip introduced me to new insights, experiences, and places. What sets the ZOA trip apart from other organization-led trips, is the access that we received; The ZOA brought us to sites, such as the Gaza and Syrian border, Hebron, The Temple Mount, Ariel, Nokdim, Gush Etzion, Shiloh, and more. The ZOA is one of very few organizations to take people to Judea and Samaria and that also provides the option to see the Temple Mount and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – that says a lot about the trip's inclusivity and open approach, which every participant valued and enjoyed.

After two inspiring weeks in Israel with peers from different campuses across the country, I returned to New York feeling super motivated to begin the ZOA Internship and also more secure in my positions and knowledge relating to the situation in Israel. The internship was equally rewarding, as it was a great opportunity for me to learn more about fundraising and the different ways that a nonprofit organization works toward meeting its fiscal goals, whether that be through data collection and analysis, digital marketing, or grassroots efforts. I was also very involved in the creation of pro-Israel print materials that will be used by ZOA Campus in its efforts to spread the truth about Israel on campuses throughout the country.

## Rebecca Oestreicher From the First Glance

While a student at Stony Brook University, I got involved with the Seawolves for Israel club and participated in the Soroff Israel Fellowship, which provided me access to a number of events, one of which was a ZOA networking event. It was at this event that I heard about the ZOA Summer Internship Program and quickly applied to be an intern on the Marketing and Communications track.

### A Deep Dive into the ZOA Archives

As part of my responsibilities, I was charged with going through the ZOA archives. When I first came across this photograph, my heart broke for the little girl pictured, and I became even more saddened when I found no information regarding her identity, or even where the photo was taken, or when. All I had was the copyright mark of the photographer — David Harris.

*The ZOA is one of very few organizations to take people to Judea and Samaria and that also provides the option to see the Temple Mount and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – that says a lot about the trip's inclusivity and open approach, which every participant valued and enjoyed.*



Photo by David Harris, 1951, part of the collection of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem

David Harris was a photojournalist born in 1929. He studied photography in the U.S. and graduated in 1947. He then fought in Israel's War of Independence and afterwards became a photojournalist, with his business based in Jerusalem. Sadly, Harris died in 2008 when he was hit by a car. This information, together with the picture itself, led me to deduce that it was taken around the early 1950s.

I scoured the internet but unfortunately could not find any more details about this photo, even after reaching out to galleries and museums in Israel that had a few of Harris' works. I couldn't find any matching photos online; I even researched boxes of color film that were in the lower left-hand corner of the photo, in an attempt to date the photo, but I didn't find out any new information; my initial hypothesis about the photo being from the 1950s seemed to be a good estimate. The curator of the photography department at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem told me they had one photograph by David Harris in their collection: the picture is from 1951 and shows immigrants arriving in Israel. Beyond that, the curator could not provide any new information.

Although Harris is apparently well known in Israel, there does not seem to be much information about him or his work available to the public. From what I understand, most of his work has not been scanned electronically and a large amount of his photos are in out-of-print photography books. The ZOA is so fortunate to have this photo in our archives, among thousands of others, most of which were graciously donated.

## Driven to Identify the Little Girl in the Photo

I didn't want to give up on this picture. The subject appears so sweet and innocent, naturally drawing the viewer in and eliciting compassion and curiosity. I wanted to know her story — what she went through and how she got to Israel. This picture could easily be telling the story of a little girl today. People easily forget the trials and tribulations of the Jewish people, not just during Nazi Germany, but throughout history.

There is a perception nowadays that Jewish people are not disenfranchised or victimized; that we do not need or deserve a homeland. I say, tell that to this little girl. She and her family were forced to flee from wherever they came from. She could have been from Europe and a refugee in the aftermath of the Shoah; or a victim of the Polish pogroms that occurred in 1946, killing the remaining Jews who tried to return home after WW II; or, she could have been a Jewish girl from an Arab country like Iraq, Egypt, or Yemen, who was forced out of her country by their government once Israel was declared a state.

In 2019, it is still just as apparent, if not more, that a Jewish homeland is necessary. There are increasing threats of anti-Semitism all over the world, even in places like New York, Paris, and Los Angeles, which were thought to be welcoming and safe communities for Jews.

After not being able to find any more information on the photo, I decided I wanted to launch a social media campaign to try and find out who this little girl is, and to spread awareness of the Jewish refugee story.

This was so meaningful to me because, like many American Jewish families, there is a lot that I do not know about my history. I got involved with Israel activism because I understand the need to always have a safe place to turn to; because in 2019, there are still Jews like the little girl in this photo. The ZOA's commitment to a Jewish homeland motivated my work through the internship program, and as a young American Jew, I feel fortunate knowing that the ZOA fights every day to secure my future. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this fight.

## Nava Crispe Growing Up in Israel

Childhood memories are typically idyllic and sweet. Reminiscing about that period of blissful innocence and naivety, however, is not everyone's reality. I was four-and-a-half years old when a bus full of innocent men, women, and children who were returning from a visit to the Kotel (the Western Wall) was blown to pieces by a ruthless Palestinian terrorist. My best friend at the time, Orly, had been on that bus with her family. When I think back through my vague memories of living in Israel when I was younger, I can starkly recount visiting Orly and her mother at the hospital after that attack.

It was only recently that my own mother described and reminded me of the "game" that Orly and I would play in the following months. We called it piguah, "terror attack" in Hebrew, and it consisted of one of us yelling "boom!" followed by that chilling word. We would then run around frantically and mimic the sound of ambulances. We were not deriving entertainment and joy from this self-created game, but merely using it as a means to process and cope with the traumatizing event that had unfolded in front of our kindergarten-aged selves not long before.

Whether it is the incessant rockets and mortar shells raining down on Israel every year from Gaza, suicide bombings aimed to inflict the most casualties possible, unprovoked shooting and stabbing attacks in civilian communities and neighborhoods, car rammings in urban



areas, stone-throwing on passing cars with innocent families in them, or incendiary balloons and kites, Palestinian terrorists relentlessly try to pervade Israeli society and instill in its citizens a fear of living safely and securely in their homeland. In only 20 years, there have been more than 1,300 victims killed as a result of Palestinian terror, with scores more suffering from both long-term physical and psychological wounds and trauma.

There are no excuses or reasons that can somehow try to justify the indiscriminate attacks that continue to plague the Jewish state. The political climate in the region is undoubtedly fragile and I would be remiss to say that either side is entirely perfect or innocent, but diplomatic relations are not a means for perpetrating the kind of immoral hate crimes that are far too common and rob the lives of so many. A poll taken by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in 2018 found that “46% [of Palestinians] support a return to an armed intifada” due to the indefinite suspension of peace negotiations and “30% prefer waging ‘an armed struggle’” against Israel in order to change the status quo.

The problem at hand goes far beyond borders. It is clear that Palestinian jihad is not incentivized by a realistic goal to “take down” the Israeli government nor to achieve peace in any form, but to “attack every Jew on the globe by way of slaughter and killing” as recently urged by senior Hamas official, Fathi Hammad, in Gaza. Quite blatantly, violence against Jews is incited in every realm of Palestinian society, from propaganda in children’s shows such as Tomorrow’s Pioneers to the textbooks used in schools, where “the curriculum perceives the martyrdom of girls as a measure of equality.” In essence, it is difficult to place 100% of the blame on the terrorists themselves, when their indoctrination is not only the norm, but culturally, socially, and politically inspired as well.

It is shocking and disturbing that not only are the brutal tactics used by Palestinian terrorists and encouraged by their leaders public knowledge, but they have generated condonation and even support among many in the international community. Somehow, people have equated supporting the “Palestinian cause,” which includes the aforementioned vicious acts of terrorism, with a humanitarian one. No longer is there only a feeling of being singled out or hunted down by the enemies that geographically surround Israel, but a legitimate reason to be concerned anywhere simply because I am a Jew and Zionist.

## Passivity is Not the Solution

When I started college at the University of Chicago last year, I was prepared to encounter anti-Israel sentiments. Having attended a summer program focused on current issues and youth activism where I was confronted by another one of the 16-year-old attendees who told me that “Israel tests chemical weapons on Palestinian children” and therefore terror attacks on Israelis are justified, I was aware of how widespread and extreme the ignorance regarding Israel is. Moreover, how misinformed and hostile so many have become. I was fortunate to be attending a school that is relatively placid when it comes towards Israel-related issues; nonetheless, efforts to demonize Israel still surfaced every now and then.

I was walking through campus and nearing the library when I began to hear the booming sound of a megaphone angrily accusing Israel of committing a genocide and comparing it to the Holocaust. There I was, a college freshman, Jew, Israeli, and descendant of Holocaust victims, being targeted for my identity once again. While the fear of being ostracized or even threatened and harassed is completely understandable on campuses these days, this incident invoked the memory of Orly and her mother lying helplessly in their hospital beds. It reminded me that this form of hate is not new, and as Jews, we have quite literally always been subjected to it. Whether it is a suicide bomber on the streets of Jerusalem or a passionate and brainwashed political activist in a suburb in Illinois, their aims and intentions converge to delegitimize, abuse, and erase the historical connection between Israel and the Jewish people.

Passivity is not the solution when one’s existence is endangered. Tolerance is not the answer when terrorists are involved. ZOA, an organization that is wholeheartedly committed to its mission and values of supporting Israel and the Jewish people in everything that they do, is. In a day and age when people are too ashamed and afraid to fight for what is right, I found myself incredibly fortunate to be interning this summer at one of the only places that does just that. Whether it is discussing how to combat anti-Semitism through legal means or meticulously researching various Israel-oriented topics to provide the general public with accurate information, my time at ZOA has provided me with the opportunities, resources, and experiences to continue defending Israel and my identity with full conviction and pride.

The primary reason for why I am a Zionist is not because I empathize with Israelis being under constant threat of an attack. Perhaps the fact that Israel has thrived and flourished in every regard, despite the odds, has reinvigorated my Jewish pride and support for Israel, but it is not the stimulus. My love for Israel spans everything from heritage, religion, morality and beyond. It is proof to the world that we refuse to be daunted by the hate, oppression, and persecution that seep through every country and generation. Israel is a miracle in and of itself. It represents hope, perseverance, and success and has managed to achieve the unthinkable, a feat made even more astounding by the active calls for it to be destroyed. So long as we continue to stand up for ourselves and vocalize our support and love for the only Jewish state, we have already won. 🇮🇱

*Israel is a miracle in and of itself. It represents hope, perseverance, and success and has managed to achieve the unthinkable, a feat made even more astounding by the active calls for it to be destroyed. So long as we continue to stand up for ourselves and vocalize our support and love for the only Jewish state, we have already won.*

# AROUND THE COUNTRY

**Talya Messeri**  
Outreach &  
Engagement



**Alan Jay**  
NY Metro/NJ



**Sharona Whisler**  
Florida



**Kobi Erez**  
Detroit



**David Kadosh**  
West Coast



**Stuart Pavilack**  
Pittsburgh



**Steve Feldman**  
Philadelphia



**Rabbi Jonina Pritzker**  
New England



**Deborah Peretz**  
NY Metro/Long  
Island





# OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

## A One-Year Update for the Donor Society Program A Brief Recap

It's been a year since ZOA began to implement its national donor appreciation program, or Donor Society structure. We are pleased to report that it's already a huge success!

The ZOA's New York Metro team launched the program in the New York area last fall. In November 2018, we began rolling out our new Donor Societies to the ZOA regions across the country, with our talented regional directors at the helm.

The structure is half outreach and half engagement, half parlor meetings and half Donor Society events. The goal is to offer perks and recognition to our members around the country, as well as consistent, quality programming in regions in which the ZOA has full-time staff.

The significance of this program is two-fold: First, it provides added benefits for you, the ZOA community. Second, a Donor Society structure allows ZOA to create a system for long-term, high-level fundraising, which helps us continue to do our multi-faceted, essential work, and keep you on top of important ZOA issues that concern us all.

National Director of Outreach & Engagement Talya Messeri manages the ZOA regions. Over the past year, she has been working with the regional directors to build out calendars for their geographic areas, which have been a combination of parlor meetings, Donor Society events and, in some cases, larger-scale community events to identify new potential ZOA members. In these cases, the events are preceded by Donor Society

VIP receptions for individuals who give at Society levels. Donor Society members are thus afforded a more intimate environment in which to discuss critical issues with the presenter.

Today, Jews in America and throughout the world are dealing with a tumultuous and difficult climate. As multiple individuals have told us in their praise for the new ZOA model, the consistent programming allows Donor Society members to connect with a community of individuals with whom they can truly "let their hair down."

## The Donor Society Structure – Additions and Changes

There are five ZOA Donor Societies, as outlined below:

### DONOR SOCIETY GIVING LEVEL

**National Leadership Society** \$25,000+

**Jabotinsky Society** \$10,000 - \$24,000

**Brandeis Society** \$5,000 - \$9,999

**Menachem Begin Society** \$2,500 - \$4,999

**Herzl Society** \$1,000 - \$2,499

Supporters who give at these levels are offered increasing numbers of events and privileges, some of which have included insider call-in briefings and in-person events with prominent speakers, such as ZOA experts, high-level American and Israeli government officials, journalists, authors, and political advisors. These events will increase in number and availability across the country over the coming years.

In addition, every year, Donor Society members at specified levels are invited to a pre-Gala reception on the night before the ZOA's Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner, and to an exclusive reception on the night before the ZOA's Capitol Hill Advocacy

Founded 1897



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"><li>• Subscription to ZOA's news releases, op-eds, event invitations and important communication on timely issues</li><li>• Spring and Fall issues of the comprehensive ZOA Report</li><li>• Invitation to attend the superstar ZOA Annual Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Includes General Membership benefits plus...</b></li><li>• Invitations to select, exclusive Herzl Society events (regionally and nationally)</li><li>• Ability to invite as your personal guests up to two <u>new</u> Donor Society prospects to each event</li><li>• Invitations to select insider briefing calls</li><li>• Prominent ribbon indicating Herzl Society status at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala, Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission and regional galas</li><li>• Recognition as Herzl Society member in the Spring ZOA Report</li></ul>
MENACHEM BEGIN SOCIETY (\$2,500-\$4,999)**	BRANDEIS SOCIETY (\$5,000-\$9,999)**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Includes Herzl Society benefits plus...</b></li><li>• Invitation to at least one <u>additional</u> exclusive program</li><li>• Invitation to an exclusive reception on the evening before the superstar ZOA Annual Gala</li><li>• Prominent ribbon indicating Menachem Begin Society status at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala, Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission and regional galas</li><li>• Recognition as Menachem Begin Society member in the Spring ZOA Report</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Includes Menachem Begin Society benefits plus...</b></li><li>• Invitation to at least one <u>additional</u> exclusive program</li><li>• <u>Non-transferable</u> complimentary tickets to the superstar ZOA Annual Gala</li><li>• Admission to exclusive VIP Reception at the Superstar ZOA Annual Gala</li><li>• Prominent ribbon indicating Brandeis Society status at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala, Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission and regional galas</li><li>• Recognition as Brandeis Society member in the Spring ZOA Report</li></ul>
JABOTINSKY SOCIETY (\$10,000-\$24,999)**	NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SOCIETY (\$25,000+)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Includes Brandeis Society benefits plus...</b></li><li>• Personal phone call with ZOA National President Morton Klein (subject to availability)</li><li>• Exclusive access to government and/or congressional events as opportunities arise</li><li>• VIP reception with your guests at the Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission</li><li>• Prominent ribbon indicating Jabotinsky Society status at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala, Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission and regional galas</li><li>• Recognition as Jabotinsky Society member in the Spring ZOA Report</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Includes Jabotinsky Society benefits plus...</b></li><li>• One complimentary table at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala</li><li>• Private cell phone number of ZOA National President Morton Klein</li><li>• Ribbon indicating National Leadership Society status at the superstar ZOA Annual Gala, Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission and regional galas</li><li>• Recognition as National Leadership Society member in the Spring ZOA Report</li></ul>

**\* Subject to change**

**\*\*Special minimum giving levels for those who are under 40**

**Note: Membership in all societies is based on annual giving**





NY Metro Team at ZOA Headquarters: ZOA NY Metro Director Alan Jay, National Director of Outreach & Engagement Talya Messeri, and Associate Director of NY Metro and Regional Director of Long Island Deborah Peretz

Mission. This past year, ZOA hosted an impressive array of prominent speakers, including U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY); Dr. Paul Teller, Special Assistant to the President in the Office of Legislative Affairs; and DePaul University Professor Jason D. Hill.

All Donor Society members are honored with colored ribbons of recognition at ZOA National events, such as at the annual Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner and the Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission, and at regional galas. Also, Society members' names are published in the Spring edition of the ZOA Report.

In addition to the perks from last year, the following privileges are now included in Donor Societies:

1. Invitations to select insider-briefing calls. Last year these were open only to Menachem Begin Society members and above. They are now also open to Herzl Society members.
2. Brandeis Society members and above who purchase tickets to the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner will automatically receive VIP tickets, and admission to the exclusive VIP Reception at the event.

Please see Donor Society Chart on page 56 for a complete list of incentives.

## Donor Society Members in Areas Outside Established Regions

Even though not all of our loyal supporters live within one of our established regions, all of you are an essential part of the ZOA family! In 2020, Donor Society members can look forward to more insider briefings to which they can access from wherever they are located, allowing them to stay connected to the ZOA community across the U.S.

The Donor Society program is a national program. As a Society member, you are invited to attend other Donor Society events around the country, and we urge you to take advantage of this opportunity. As we move forward through the year, we are constantly looking for additional ways to engage individuals and are open to suggestions.

## What You Can Do to Help

How you can help is one of the most important sections of this report. A huge thank you to those of you who stepped up and hosted parlor meetings and Donor Society events during the pilot year of this Donor Society program. YOU truly made our efforts possible!

For these Donor Societies to grow and thrive, we need the help of our dedicated community. For those of you living in our established regions, we are always looking for hosts for parlor meetings or Donor Society events. Please consider volunteering your home or office for a Donor Society reception. If you have a circle of friends you believe would benefit from becoming a member of the ZOA Donor Societies, please let your regional director know, and we will work on bringing in one of our talented ZOA experts to discuss ZOA's work.

You, the ZOA community, are our best advocates, and we are so grateful for your efforts!

## Onward and Upward

If last year was any indication of success, you can look forward to an even bigger and better calendar of events for 2020. We hope you will join one of our Donor Societies, and we hope to see you soon at our events.

For Donor Society questions, or if you would like additional information, please contact Talya Messeri at [TMesseri@zoa.org](mailto:TMesseri@zoa.org), or reach out to your ZOA regional director.

*“The work Susan Tuchman is doing is incredible, not only for our children, but also for our grandchildren,” said meeting host Jacob Poleyeff.*

## NY METRO & METRO WEST

There has been no shortage of opportunity for Zionists to recharge their advocacy batteries with ZOA's NY Metro region. We've hosted programs featuring elite Israeli military figures, Israeli politicians, a renowned author and scholar, and senior directors from within the ZOA.

### High Level Reports from Israel

On March 27, Efrat Mayor Oded Revivi addressed the ZOA Donor Societies, speaking with expertise on the subject, “Are Settlements Really an Obstacle to Peace?”

A city located in the Judean Mountains south of Jerusalem, Efrat typifies what life is like for Israelis living in areas that biblically, historically and legally belong to Israel, but that are erroneously claimed by Israel's enemies. Among the points made by the Mayor: any peace would need to start with recognition of Israel's existence; Israel's security will never be compromised; and Jews will not be removed from their communities in Judea and Samaria.

### How ZOA Helps Students Fight Back

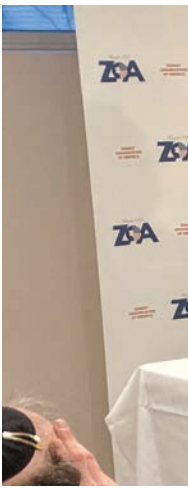
On April 7, Jacob and Lauren Poleyeff hosted a parlor meeting at their home in West Orange, New Jersey featuring Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., director of the ZOA Center for Law and Justice. Ms. Tuchman, who was introduced by ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, spoke to “Anti-Israel Hostility & Anti-Semitism on Campus: How ZOA Helps Students Fight Back.” Having led the successful fight to get the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to include Jewish students among those protected under

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Susan is uniquely qualified to speak to this issue. “The work Susan Tuchman is doing is incredible, not only for our children, but also for our grandchildren,” said meeting host Jacob Poleyeff. ZOA has a presence on over 100 college campuses, many of which are home to ZOA Campus fellows who organize pro-Israel programming and help students combat campus anti-Semitism. Among other work, Susan helps students strategize best practices for effectively fighting anti-Israel hostility and anti-Semitism on campus.

### More High Level Reports from Israel

On April 10, Colonel (Res.) Grisha Yakubovich visited ZOA's national headquarters in New York City and delivered a top level briefing entitled, “The Real Reasons Palestinian Arabs Won't Negotiate or Accept Peace with Israel,” to a conference room filled with ZOA Donor Society and ZOA national board members.

After a distinguished 30-year career in the IDF, during which time he helped manage Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, Col. Yakubovich continues to serve in the reserves. The last four years of his active career, 2012-2016, Col. Yakubovich served as the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT). He was responsible for managing the political infrastructure, economy, the international community, and military coordination within the territories, uniquely qualifying Yakubovich to share insights into the current state of affairs. Yakubovich holds that Israel is not an obstacle to peace; “The problem is not Israel.... The problem is between Hamas and Fatah,” he said. Col. Yakubovich explained that Mahmoud Abbas stopped more than 50% of the PA's budget to Hamas last year.



Mayor  
of Ma'ale  
Adumim  
Benny  
Kashriel





Director of ZOA's Center for Law & Justice Susan Tuchman speaking at a ZOA parlor meeting in New Jersey

**"...any peace would need to start with recognition of Israel's existence, Israel's security will never be compromised, and Jews will not be removed from their communities in Judea & Samaria."**

- Mayor of Efrat  
Oded Revivi



ZOA NY Metro Director Alan Jay and Associate Director Deborah Peretz with Brigadier General Bentzi Gruber and ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson

**"The problem is not Israel.... The problem is between Hamas and Fatah."**

- Colonel Grisha Yakubovich



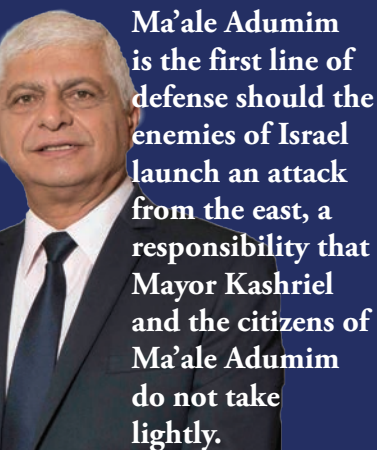
**(Res.) Brigadier General Bentzi Gruber** visited ZOA on May 9. From Gruber's website [ethicsinthefield.com](http://ethicsinthefield.com): "Gruber established Ethics in the Field to shatter myths and present the facts missing in today's discussion of Israeli counter terrorism."

ZOA Donor Society and ZOA national board members were offered insights into the challenges facing the Israeli military and how the IDF uniquely trains its soldiers to make ethical decisions, even in the heat of battle. Through a multimedia presentation that included footage from top-level surveillance videos, General Gruber demonstrated actual urban battlefield situations. He explained that IDF soldiers log many long hours of urban warfare, training in a simulated "city" built to very closely replicate life and death scenarios the soldiers are likely to face in the event of war. Everyone who attended this briefing came away feeling empowered to distill any misleading and anti-Israel rhetoric with the facts behind Israel's ethical army.

**On May 23, Ma'ale Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel** addressed Donor Society and national board members at ZOA headquarters in New York.

Ma'ale Adumim was first described in the Book of Joshua (Ch.15: 6-18), but its modern development can be traced to soon after the Yom Kippur War, and the city has been expanding ever since. With a population of approximately 40,000, Ma'ale Adumim epitomizes the historical and eternal Jewish claim to all of Israel, including Judea and Samaria. Situated in the Judean Hills between Jerusalem and Jordan, by geographic default, Ma'ale Adumim is the first line of defense should the enemies of Israel launch an attack from the east, a responsibility that Mayor Kashriel and the citizens of Ma'ale Adumim do not take lightly. ZOA national board and Donor Society members were afforded an insider's glimpse into life in Ma'ale Adumim.

**Ma'ale Adumim is the first line of defense should the enemies of Israel launch an attack from the east, a responsibility that Mayor Kashriel and the citizens of Ma'ale Adumim do not take lightly.**







## Celebrating Israel in the Streets of New York

Every year, the ZOA is proud to march down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan along with thousands of other pro-Israel supporters in the Celebrate Israel Parade. This year was no different. To celebrate Israel's 71st birthday and 52nd Yom Yerushalayim, the ZOA had more supporters march with us than ever before, including children, young professionals, students, and families.

The theme of the 2019 Celebrate Israel Parade was "Only in Israel – Rak B'Yisrael," which was represented on the ZOA banner and t-shirts, which highlighted the historical and Biblical connection to the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people.

Only in Israel can a Jew truly feel at home. Only in Israel can one see the stories and scenes of the Bible before their very own eyes. The homeland of the Jewish people is only in the sovereign Jewish State of Israel.

## The Rising Scourge of Islamic Anti-Semitism

Not only did Dr. Andrew G. Bostom speak on July 30 to national board and Donor Society members at our ZOA headquarters in New York, his lecture was also broadcast as the first beta test of ZOA's initiative to make important events accessible to our Donor Society members across the country. We are looking forward to fine-tuning this procedure and increasing these opportunities in 2020.

Dr. Bostom, a renowned author and Associate Professor of Medicine at Brown University Medical School, is also a leading authority on Islam. In a well-organized, scholarly presentation, using references to the Koran and drawing on substantial historical documentation, Dr. Bostom demonstrated that by applying academic criteria to a strict and honest reading of the Koran, one can only come to the conclusion that anti-Semitism is written into the fabric of Islam. This

is not to say that all who practice Islam are anti-Semitic. However, those who are not anti-Semitic can only come to this position through a fundamental reinterpretation of the text.



ZOA activists at the 2019 Celebrate Israel Parade in NYC



Morton Klein, Dr. Andrew Bostom, and the ZOA NY Metro team



# *“The Arab Islamic war against Israel is not about land — it’s religious.”*

## **ZOA Center for Law and Justice Director Susan B. Tuchman Receives Prestigious Award**

In June, Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, was the guest of honor at the annual gala of the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies (BCHSJS) in northern New Jersey, at which Ms. Tuchman was the recipient of the BCHSJS L’Dor V’Dor Award. The award recognizes individuals who further Jewish continuity by supporting programs for Jewish teens. Over the years, Susan has met several times with students and parents at BCHSJS to alert them to prevailing conditions on college campuses and to help them prepare so that students can experience a safe and fulfilling Jewish life when they go to college. In his introduction of Ms. Tuchman, ZOA National President Morton A. Klein listed many of her accomplishments and said, “I’m proud of the work that Susan has done on behalf of the Jewish people, I’m proud that she works at ZOA, and I’m most proud to call Susan Tuchman my friend.”

In August, Ms. Tuchman and I also met with the Young Leadership group at Camp Moshava Ba’ir in Paramus, New Jersey. Ms. Tuchman discussed with the group, and shared with them her own criteria of, what makes an effective leader. It was very clear that we were in the company of several future leaders of the Jewish community!

## **ZOA National President Morton A. Klein Speaks in Teaneck, NJ**

On September 8 at Congregation Bnai Yeshurun in Teaneck, New Jersey, ZOA National President Morton Klein delivered to more than 200 Zionists a talk entitled “Israel, Anti-Semitism, Omar & Tlaib, and the Orwellian Lies of BDS.” Introduced by his friend and long-time colleague in Israel advocacy, Rabbi Steven Pruzansky, Mr. Klein spoke passionately about all forms and sources of anti-Semitism. He exposed lies and myths and replaced them with facts and truth. Mr. Klein talked about the anti-Semitic activities of Congresspersons Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, and he contested the anti-Semitic bias in the mainstream media. Mr. Klein deftly fielded questions from the audience and was greeted and thanked by many after the program ended.

Prior to Mr. Klein’s talk, there was an elegant VIP reception attended by many members of ZOA’s Donor Societies and the National Board. Everyone at the VIP reception had the opportunity to meet and speak with Mr. Klein. This was a very meaningful evening, indeed.

L’hitraot,  
Alan Jay, Director  
ZOA NY Metro



*From campus  
to Congress,  
anti-Semitism  
is on the rise,  
and Mr. Klein  
sent the strong  
message that it is  
incumbent upon  
all of us to stand  
up and fight it,  
from wherever it  
comes – even if it  
means standing  
alone.*

## **LONG ISLAND REGION ZOA National President Morton A. Klein Met With Standing Ovation on Long Island**

In April 2019, the Chai Center of Dix Hills, New York hosted a program entitled, “Anti-Semitism in America and the Deafening Silence,” featuring ZOA National President Morton A. Klein. Mr. Klein – described as a hero by Rabbi Yakov Saacks in his introduction – received a standing ovation before he even uttered a word. It was a packed room, with hundreds in attendance, from high school students to senior citizens.

Mr. Klein spoke about his testimony before the House Judiciary Committee on April 9, during which he was interrupted as soon as he mentioned the name Ilhan Omar, a Congresswoman from Minnesota who has used anti-Semitic language to criticize Israel and its supporters. After the hearing, Mr. Klein was surrounded by people who falsely attacked him as an Islamophobe.

Mr. Klein said, “The most serious issues facing Jews and maybe the world today, are Islamic anti-Semitism and Islamic Jihadism. Sixty percent of hate crimes are against Jews.” He spoke about growing anti-Semitism coming from the leftist Muslims now in Congress, and how this problem is largely ignored not only by government officials and the media, but also by the Jewish community. He mentioned other Jewish organizations and how they fall short when it comes to acknowledging and addressing this issue.

Mr. Klein went on to explain how the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement is escalating and creating a hostile environment for Jewish and pro-Israel students

on many college campuses. Just recently, the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter at NYU announced that it would be receiving the coveted President’s Service Award, which recognizes student groups “that have had an extraordinary and positive impact on the University community.” Yet SJP is a nefarious anti-Semitic group that has had exactly the opposite impact. As the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs determined in its research and policy study, SJP “is a terror-affiliated anti-Semitic network that currently operates with autonomy and impunity at colleges and universities across the United States.”

A critical part of the ZOA’s mission is fighting campus anti-Semitism and advocating for students who face anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation on their campuses. Mr. Klein told the audience that not once has ZOA received any calls about campus anti-Semitism perpetrated by neo-Nazis or white supremacists. He also spoke about how Jews are being targeted on the streets of Brooklyn in unprecedented numbers, simply for being Jewish, yet this frightening problem is not being addressed forcefully and effectively. From campus to Congress, anti-Semitism is on the rise, and Mr. Klein sent the strong message that it is incumbent upon all of us to stand up and fight it, from wherever it comes – even if it means standing alone.

To rousing applause, Mr. Klein concluded his talk with a passionate declaration of the extraordinary miracles that the Jewish people and Israel have experienced. Following the program, one young woman with tears in her eyes commented, “This man said everything I feel, everything I try to express. He put my beliefs about anti-Semitism and the situation in this country into words as I never could. I have to be involved in ZOA.”



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## ZOA in the Five Towns

People traveled from as far as New Jersey to attend the ZOA Long Island event, “Anti-Semitism and Israel-Bashing on Campus: What You Need to Know and How We Can Fight It!” The program took place at the Greenstein Gallery in Cedarhurst, a beautiful village that is part of the Five Towns on the South Shore of Long Island. Baila Sebwrow, who herself experienced anti-Semitism from one of her professors when she was a student at NYU, organized the event.

Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, presented a compelling account of the realities facing Jewish and pro-Israel students on campus. Drawing on her years of experience with ZOA and fighting anti-Semitism at schools across the country, Susan described ZOA’s landmark achievements, including a reinterpretation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jewish students. Susan also encouraged the audience to talk with their children and grandchildren who are heading off to college about the realities on the ground, and she gave them practical advice about how to approach issues should they arise. A ZOA supporter pointed out that he, his wife, and his children all went to NYU and now refuse to support the institution based on its failure to acknowledge and effectively address anti-Semitism promoted by anti-Jewish and anti-Israel student groups, such as Students for Justice in Palestine.

## From Brooklyn to DC: Making Our Voices Heard in Washington!

For some Long Islanders, the ZOA Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission began on Wednesday evening, at a dinner program featuring keynote speaker Congresswoman Liz Cheney (R-WY). In addition to Congresswoman



ZOA National President Morton Klein speaking at a ZOA event in Dix Hills, Long Island



Long Island Regional Director Deborah Peretz at a Five Towns event



Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., Director of the ZOA Center for Law and Justice, speaking in the Five Towns

*“The ZOA mission to Washington D.C. was one of the best lobbying programs on behalf of Israel I have ever been to. The presentation by members of Congress in the Senate Office Building was remarkable, and to witness the support for Israel, especially in the office visits, was quite heartwarming. Keep up the great work, ZOA!” – Harvey Finkelstein, Dix Hills*

*“I am inspired by being in a roomful of like-minded activists. I enjoy hearing from new and old friends in Congress. It is a great opportunity to make our legislative priorities known, and to let those in agreement know that we have their backs.”*

*- Mike Miller,  
Brooklyn*

Cheney, Middle East specialist Raymond Ibrahim, Dr. Jason D. Hill, professor of philosophy at DePaul University, and Special Assistant to the President of the United States Dr. Paul Teller, all spoke passionately about the U.S.-Israel alliance and the very real need to fight anti-Semitism wherever it is found.

For others, the ZOA advocacy mission began the following day at 6:00 a.m. in dark and rainy weather. But that didn't stop a spirited group of Long Islanders from boarding a bus to Washington, D.C., ZOA's talking points in tow. They were about to join over 200 ZOA activists for the one-day advocacy mission. Amid breakfast and lively conversation, ZOA advocates watched a training video and learned about the issues ZOA would be discussing with lawmakers. After five and a half hours on the road, eager and excited ZOA advocates were welcomed at a delicious congressional luncheon, joined by over 30 lawmakers from both houses of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, who addressed the ZOA delegation.

Among the congressional speakers was Long Island's own Lee Zeldin (R-NY), Congressman from New York's 1<sup>st</sup> District. Rep. Zeldin is a staunch advocate for Israel and a friend of the ZOA. House Resolution 72

combatting anti-Israel hatred and anti-Semitism, introduced by Zeldin, was one of the resolutions that ZOA was urging lawmakers to cosponsor.

After the luncheon, we disbursed to our respective meetings with senators, House members, and congressional aides, urging them to confront the growing anti-Semitism on college campuses and in Congress, and to advocate for a strong stance against Iran with regard to attaining military nuclear capability. Mike Miller, a constituent from Brooklyn, reflected on the experience and said, “I am inspired by being in a roomful of like-minded activists. I enjoy hearing from new and old friends in Congress. It is a great opportunity to make our legislative priorities known, and to let those in agreement know that we have their backs.” Harvey Finkelstein, a supporter from Dix Hills, said, “The ZOA mission to Washington, D.C. was one of the best lobbying programs on behalf of Israel I have ever been to. The presentation by members of Congress in the Senate office building was remarkable, and to witness the support for Israel, especially in the office visits, was quite heartwarming. Keep up the great work, ZOA!”



Regional Director of Long Island and NY Metro Associate Director Deborah Peretz and ZOA Long Island supporters with Rep. Crenshaw (R-TX)



Deborah Peretz with Rep. Zeldin (R-NY) and ZOA supporters





## FLORIDA Orlando Parlor Meeting Focuses on Combatting Campus Anti-Semitism

In February 2019, ZOA Florida Board Member Dr. Dan Layish and his wife Staci opened their Orlando home to host a parlor meeting on the important topic, “Combatting Anti-Semitism on Campus: What You Should Know and How You Can Help.” Moderated by ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler, the program featured Susan Tuchman, director of the ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, and Jake Suster, a ZOA Campus fellow at the University of Central Florida and the president of the university’s pro-Israel group, Knights for Israel.

The standing-room-only crowd learned about the reinterpretation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jewish students, which was triggered largely by the ZOA’s work. Ms. Tuchman talked about how Title VI can be a useful tool in holding universities accountable for failing to respond effectively to campus anti-Semitism. She described some examples of how anti-Zionism is being used as a cover for anti-Semitism, and pointed to the U.S. State Department’s definition of anti-Semitism to help make the distinction between legitimate criticism of Israel and anti-Semitism. The State Department’s definition provides that when Israel is delegitimized or demonized, or when Israel is held to a standard not applied to other countries, these are manifestations of anti-Semitism.

Questions directed to Jake Suster focused on empowering Jewish students with pride in Zionism and highlighting successful pro-Israel initiatives. Dr. Layish said of the event, “I was very happy that we had people of all ages attend the event and share their concern about the rise in anti-Semitism and also ideas on how to fight this plague.”

## Hollywood and Golden Beach Parlor Meetings Target Anti-Semitism in Congress

The following month, ZOA Florida Board Member Liz Brauser and her husband Joel, and Board Member Keith Wasserstrom and his wife Jessica, hosted Dan Pollak, director of ZOA’s Government Relations department, at a parlor meeting in Hollywood, regarding “What to Do When the Anti-Semite is a Member of Congress.” The next night, National Board Member Dr. Paul Tartell and his wife Jodi hosted the same program at their home in Golden Beach.

The subject matter was timely: Congresswoman Ilhan Omar’s anti-Semitic tweets and statements were only meekly condemned by her congressional colleagues and without any disciplinary action. The day she was sworn into Congress, Rashida Tlaib posted a map in her congressional office replacing Israel with Palestine. Both Congresswomen have pledged their support for the anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

Ms. Brauser praised ZOA’s important work and gave a thorough and inspiring summary of ZOA’s VIP Leadership Mission to Israel, from which she had recently returned. Dr. Tartell welcomed his guests in Golden Beach with similar praise for ZOA’s fight against anti-Semitism.



Director of ZOA’s Gov. Relations department Dan Pollak and ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler with Donor Society members at a ZOA Florida parlor meeting

*“I was very happy that we had people of all ages attend the event and share their concern about the rise in anti-Semitism and also ideas on how to fight this plague.”*

*- ZOA Florida Board Member Dr. Dan Layish*

Florida Board Member Dr. Dan Layish, Staci Layish, ZOA Campus fellow at UCF Jake Suster, and ZOA's Sharona Whisler and Susan Tuchman



## Largest-Ever Florida Representation at ZOA Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission

With an additional evening of programming, this year's ZOA Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission saw the largest group from Florida yet, with attendees of all ages – from Palm Beach County, Broward County, Miami-Dade, and Orlando. The Florida group was well prepared for the six scheduled meetings with our Senators, Rick Scott and Marco Rubio, and Representatives Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Ted Deutch, Lois Frankel and Stephanie Murphy.

We advocated for resolutions condemning anti-Semitism, enshrining the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism into law, and requiring the U.S. Department of Education to enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jewish students. We also urged lawmakers to ensure the U.S.' permanent withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and to enhance sanctions on Iran to stop its ballistic missile development program and its regional and global support for terrorism.

All the advocates at the ZOA's Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission were honored by the 30-plus lawmakers who came to address the ZOA's congressional luncheon. Floridian advocates were especially honored by the Florida lawmakers who attended: Senator Rick Scott and Representatives Michael Waltz, Mario Diaz-Balart, Brian Mast and Greg Steube.

During his speech, Rep. Brian Mast – who suffered catastrophic injuries during his deployment in Afghanistan, including the loss of both legs – invited congressional colleagues and fellow veterans to join him at the podium: Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX), a U.S.

Both events were standing room only. In her introductory remarks, Ms. Whisler said, "Unfortunately, anti-Semitism is not a new topic. But the reality is that it seems to be tolerated. That's what we'll be discussing tonight, as well as what ZOA is doing about it and what you can do about it."

Mr. Pollak talked about current discussions on Capitol Hill and ZOA's role in ensuring that members of Congress are well informed about issues relating to Israel, anti-Semitism, and the Middle East. He said that while other pro-Israel groups may have backed off from the controversy caused by the words and actions of Representatives Omar and Tlaib, ZOA will not let go of the matter until Representative Omar is dismissed from the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Otherwise, anti-Semitism will be normalized in Congress, something no Jew should tolerate. Mr. Pollak gave an update on a resolution in the works, aimed at condemning anti-Semitism singularly and calling out Congresswoman Omar's statements. Mr. Pollak also answered questions about Iran and the Palestinian Authority.

Ms. Brauser said, "It was an incredible opportunity to host Dan Pollak in our community and hear his insights from Capitol Hill about the advocacy work ZOA does for Israel. The exchanges during and after his presentation were very lively and informative. Our guests were updated on the unparalleled work ZOA does. It was a great evening!"

*While other pro-Israel groups may have backed off from the controversy engendered by the words and actions of Representatives Omar and Tlaib, ZOA will not let go of the matter until Representative Omar is dismissed from the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Otherwise, anti-Semitism will be normalized in Congress, something no Jew should tolerate.*





ZOA Florida activists and Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler with Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)



ZOA Florida activists and Sharona Whisler with Congressman Brian Mast (R-FL)



ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler with Rep. Gregg Steube (R-FL)



ZOA Florida activists with their Senator Rick Scott (R-FL)



ZOA Florida activists with Congressman Michael Waltz (R-FL)

Navy Seal whose right eye was destroyed in an improvised explosive device attack in Afghanistan, and Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN), who lost an arm during his military service in Vietnam. Speaking movingly, Rep. Mast noted, “The best thing we can hope for is living through those moments of difficulty, and then having times that we enjoy. In Israel, you have the same thing.”

First-time participant Seth Nagdeman of Palm Beach reflected on his experience in Washington, D.C.: “It was great to have the opportunity to be involved with the ZOA Advocacy Mission. The whole process was well-organized from the moment I arrived. After participating in this mission, I realize the importance of what the ZOA stands for and what it does on Capitol Hill. I urge everyone to support the ZOA and get involved with its missions.”

## Israel-Hatred at the Public Library

In June 2019, the Stirling Road Branch of the Broward County Library hosted a deeply troubling event entitled, “Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, and the Movement for Palestinian Rights.” Prior to this event, members of the community reached out to the library and to a few Broward County Commissioners, expressing concern about the hateful agenda of the event’s sponsors and

the groups that would be represented there. They included Dream Defenders, a local branch of the anti-Semitic Black Lives Matter movement, and an anti-Israel group that calls itself “Jewish Voice for Peace.”

An almost identical event took place a couple of months prior, at the public Civic Center in Melbourne, Florida. All the event’s panelists have a track record of denying Israel’s right to exist, supporting the anti-Semitic BDS movement - whose goal is Israel’s destruction, and promoting lies about Israel that cross the line into anti-Semitism.

Instead of making it clear at the Broward event that by hosting the program, the library was not endorsing the views expressed there, the librarian on staff stated that the library was proud to be hosting the event. ZOA drafted a letter to the Broward County Commissioners and library director, which was signed by other local Jewish groups, including the Jewish Federation of Broward County, alerting them to this disturbing occurrence. The letter requested that the Commissioners and the library director condemn the anti-Semitism expressed at the event, and suggested steps to ensure that the library is never again misused to promote anti-Semitism or any other form of bigotry.

For more information or to get involved with ZOA Florida, contact [florida@zoa.org](mailto:florida@zoa.org).

*Each year we have an opportunity to honor our area's most dedicated Zionists, and this year is no exception.*

## 2019 Gala Honorees



**Malka Kantor-Rapkin**  
Pillar of the Community  
Award



**Cliff Rieders, Esq.**  
Lee Bender Defender of  
Israel Award



**Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch**  
Guardian of Israel Award



**Professor Dr. Jason  
D. Hill**  
Education Beacon  
Award

## PHILADELPHIA It's Gala Season in the Greater Philadelphia Region, and the Education, Advocacy and Outreach Continue!

As the current issue of the ZOA Report is being finalized, Greater Philadelphia ZOA just held our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Gala. We honored four remarkable individuals from distinctly different backgrounds who share a devotion to the Jewish State of Israel:

- Malka Kantor-Rapkin, a second-generation Sabra and businesswoman, received our Pillar of the Community Award.
- Cliff Rieders, an attorney from central Pennsylvania and a member of ZOA's National Board, received the Lee Bender Defender of Israel Award, named in memory of our chapter co-president.
- Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch, the founding rabbi of Center City Philadelphia's popular Mekor Habracha Synagogue, received our Guardian of Israel Award.
- Jamaica native and DePaul University Professor Dr. Jason D. Hill received our new Education Beacon Award.

Zionists and patriots from throughout the region and beyond gathered at our Gala to celebrate America and Israel, and to recognize our honorees. Both anthems were played and sung; the night opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, and closed with rousing renditions of "G-d Bless America" and "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav." ZOA National President Morton Klein addressed the crowd, and ZOA National and Greater Philadelphia ZOA Board Member Gary Erlbaum reprised his role as master-of-ceremonies.

## Continuing Our Campus Vigilance

Greater Philadelphia ZOA is likely the lone group in the area still working to expose the anti-Israel activities of Marc Lamont Hill, a tenured professor at Temple University. Hill attacked the Jewish state of Israel in media appearances and speeches for a decade before making a spectacle of himself at a United Nations "pro-Palestinian" (in reality, anti-Israel) conference last November. Among his many verbal assaults at the conference was his closing call for the elimination of Israel – demanding a "Palestine" that reaches "from the river to the sea."

Since then, Hill has become more popular and has continued to lie about Israel, engendering Jew-hatred throughout America and beyond. All the while, except for some strong words from Temple University Board Chairman Patrick O'Connor, Temple's administration and board have done nothing of consequence.

Meanwhile, Greater Philadelphia ZOA has been relentless in getting the word out about Hill's hate speech. Our efforts have included articles and letters, phone calls and an email campaign, a demonstration on campus, and conversations with the Temple donor who endowed Hill's chair. Although outside groups are rarely afforded the opportunity to address Temple's board of trustees, Executive Director Steve Feldman's behind-the-scenes work resulted in ZOA addressing the trustees at their regular meeting in May 2019. Greater Philadelphia ZOA Board Member and Treasurer Len Getz ably made the case that Hill did not belong on Temple's faculty given his hateful rhetoric and behavior. After the meeting, many board members approached ZOA representatives to say that they agreed with the points made by Getz.





ZOA Philadelphia activists at the Marc Lamont Hill Temple demonstration

Subsequently, Len Getz, Steve Feldman and Chapter Vice President Naphtali Perlberger met with the dean of Temple's Klein College of Media and Communication. Much to our shock, Dean David Boardman told us that not only was the school pleased with Hill, but also that Jews on campus and in the community supported Hill. The stunning news illustrates how much work there is to do to educate American Jews about Israel and those who seek her destruction; it also shows that ZOA's voice and principled positions are sorely needed and more important than ever.

Meanwhile, at Haverford College, 10 Jewish students affiliated with the radically anti-Israel Jewish group IfNotNow held a brief protest in front of the Chabad House simply because Chabad offered students the opportunity to participate in a Birthright trip to Israel. It is a sad time in the history of the Jewish people when young Jews are turning against the Jewish homeland.

## Muslim School Teaches Students to Decapitate Jews

Earlier this year, it was revealed that an Islamic school in Philadelphia was teaching young children to commit violence against Jews. The Muslim American Society Islamic Center posted a shocking and disturbing video to its Facebook page, which depicted its students singing songs and reciting poems in Arabic with violent content. The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) found the video and translated the lyrics and poems into English. Lyrics and stanzas included:

"We will defend the land of divine guidance with our bodies, and we will sacrifice our souls without hesitation," and "We will chop off their heads, and we will liberate the sorrowful and exalted Al-Aqsa Mosque. We will lead the army of Allah fulfilling His promise, and we will subject them to eternal torture."

Media throughout the nation picked up the news. The mosque and school removed the video and as the news spread, they issued a flimsy excuse and a tepid apology that was accepted by most of the Jewish communal establishment. But Greater Philadelphia ZOA filed a report with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission regarding the hate speech and incitement. We await the results of the Commission's investigation.

## Vigilance in Public Schools Is Vital

With students returning to school, we have resumed our Greater Philadelphia ZOA textbook project, calling on parents, grandparents and others to examine textbooks, websites, and other materials used by schools for evidence of anti-Jewish or anti-Israel content. Enemies of Israel and the Jewish people have used the public education system to lie about and distort both historical facts and contemporary events to diminish U.S. support for Israel, delegitimize Jewish history, and intimidate pro-Israel students. We must be vigilant in exposing and combatting anti-Semitic and anti-Israel factual distortions and outright lies promoted in our public schools.

*College campuses continue to be a source of anti-Israel activity – including from some Jewish students.*



Activists at ZOA's Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission in Washington, D.C.

*Though by  
no means  
scientific,  
ZOA's survey  
confirms  
that Israel  
is the most  
important  
issue to ZOA  
members.  
We would  
have  
expected  
nothing less.*

## Capitol Hill Mission

Some 60 pro-Israel advocates from the Greater Philadelphia area took part in the annual ZOA Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission. Many joined on the bus trip to D.C., while 20 advocates arrived the night before to attend the Mission kickoff dinner. Everyone was in awe of the lineup of senators and House members who addressed all the advocates at ZOA's congressional luncheon, and the Mission kickoff dinner also received a lot of positive feedback. But it was the advocacy and the opportunity to make the case for Israel directly to lawmakers or their staff that seemed to have the most impact on those who attended the Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission.

## Israel an Important Issue

Greater Philadelphia ZOA conducted a survey to get a sense of just how important the issue of Israel is to ZOA's members and friends. Asked if a presidential candidate's position on Israel is a factor in how they vote, nearly 97% of respondents said yes. When asked to rank Israel in their list of priority issues when deciding whom to vote for, approximately 55% of respondents ranked it number one out of seven. Although these results were not scientific and the respondents were random, the responses are a good barometer of the views of the local ZOA population.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA leadership and members continue to be prolific in appearances in both local media and online publications, and we continue to encourage members and supporters to speak up and speak out in support of Israel and in opposition to those committed to harming Israel and the Jewish people.

## PITTSBURGH

### Israel Scholarship Program

ZOA Pittsburgh's Israel Scholarship Program has helped hundreds of local Jewish teenagers attend structured summer programs in Israel. Started in 1962 by the late Hy Kimal, who served as ZOA Pittsburgh's executive director for 36 years, the program is based on the belief that young people need to visit Israel to see 3,000 years of Jewish history and develop their own relationship with the home of the Jewish people.

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

Eligible high school sophomores and juniors must complete applications to the program, which include a description of their Jewish education, Jewish activities, and volunteer work. They must also write an essay on the topic, "What the State of Israel and Zionism mean to me." The Scholarship Committee reviews the applications and selects three winners, each of whom receive a \$1,000 stipend, paid directly to the organizers of their trip.

These are the scholarship recipients for the summer of 2019:



Maya  
Davis



Abigail  
Segel



Noah H.  
Strauss



*After her trip to Israel, Abigail wrote, “I have now been back in America for a couple weeks since my amazing trip to Israel, and I wanted to thank you so much for the ZOA’s support in getting me there. . . .I am so grateful to have gone on this journey, and know it would not have been possible without your help.”*

**Maya Davis** is a sophomore at the Hillel Academy who participated in the NCSY – Girls Israel Volunteer Experience. Maya wrote, “I believe there is no better way to develop a strong connection to Israel than to be seeing all it has to offer and meeting and working with its people.”

A sophomore at Allderdice High School, **Abigail Segel** joined the NFTY Adventure Program. “Love, justice, and community, values which Jews hold dearly, are too often threatened by forces of hate and ignorance. Zionism is the striving to ensure the longevity of Judaism’s homeland and therefore its value, which are all so intrinsically connected,” Abigail wrote in her essay.

**Noah Strauss** is a sophomore at Shady Side Academy and attended the Emma Kaufmann Camp SIT Israel Leadership Experience. Noah wrote, “To me, Israel and Zionism symbolize a place where I can be who I want to be, a place where I never feel unsafe, a place that is an experience of a lifetime, and a place I can call home.”

After her trip to Israel, Abigail Segel wrote a letter of appreciation to Executive Director Stuart Pavilack, recounting her many unforgettable experiences: “I have now been back in America for a couple weeks since my amazing trip to Israel, and I wanted to thank you so much for the ZOA’s support in getting me there. . . .I am so grateful to have gone on this journey, and know it would not have been possible without your help.”

## Kandy Reidbord Ehrenwerth Memorial Lecture

Charlene “Kandy” Reidbord Ehrenwerth was an active leader in both the Jewish and broader civic communities, including serving as an officer of the ZOA. She was a prominent Pittsburgh trial lawyer, known for her aggressive protection of human and civil rights. Kandy served as the first female Assistant District Attorney in Allegheny County and then served as an Assistant Attorney General of Pennsylvania. After Kandy was tragically killed in a car accident in 1992, her family endowed the biannual ZOA Meeting and Lecture to perpetuate her memory.



Charlene  
"Kandy"  
Ehrenwerth

## ZOA Pittsburgh Leadership

### Officers

ZOA Pittsburgh officers for 2019 to 2021 were elected at the last ZOA Meeting and Lecture. They are:

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

### Board Members

Board members serving for 2019-2021 are: Jeanne Bair, Hirsh Dlinn, Julian Elbling, Dr. Murray Gordon, Alexandra Greenberg, Rhonda Horvitz, Linda Hurwitz, Gerald Kobell, Esq., Linda Safyan, Charles Saul, Esq., Dee Selekman, Joe Titlebaum, Sibyl Treblow, Michael Vanyukov, Ph.D., David Weisberg, Rick Wice and Helene Wishnev.



Jeffrey L. Pollock, Esq.  
Re-elected President,  
ZOA Pittsburgh

# *Justice Wecht also issued this reminder Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis we must be better Jews. And to be better*



Jonathan Weinkle,  
M.D.

The highlight of the evening was lecturer Jonathan Weinkle, M.D., who serves on the clinical faculty of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and is the Medical Director of the Physician Assistant Studies Program at Chatham University. Dr. Weinkle is the author of the book, *Healing People, Not Patients: Creating Authentic Relationships in Modern Healthcare*. Those who attended his lecture were mesmerized by Dr. Weinkle's approach to medicine, his knowledge of Torah, and his humor.

## **ZOA Tolerance Education Program**

ZOA Pittsburgh continues the tradition established by the late Zalman Shapiro, Ph.D., z"l. Zalman was a ZOA national board member active in the Pittsburgh chapter for well over 50 years. Concerned that young people lacked knowledge about the Holocaust, he developed and implemented the ZOA Tolerance Education Program, culminating in a trip to the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

The trips started in 1999. To date, ZOA has taken over 6,850 high school sophomores to the museum. The students represent a cross section of the community. On their return trip to Pittsburgh, students complete questionnaires about their experiences visiting the

museum. Here are some of their responses on the last trip:

"The exhibit full of the shoes of the people made me very emotional. You look at each shoe and see the person as an individual, not just another number. I saw shoes that were feminine and it represented women. Especially when I saw shoes of a child. Seeing their shoes, of all things, is what finally made the story human to me, because the whole thing is just so hard to even comprehend. I needed something to make me realize the realness of it."

"We need to watch out for signs that indicate another Holocaust. Even though it seems too long ago, we need to realize, as a society, that the Holocaust was closer than we think and that it can be repeated now if we simply deem it as an irrelevant event of the past."

"Learning about the Holocaust has changed my attitude positively to treat others with respect and without discrimination. This experience made me feel proud of who I am."

"The knowledge of the Holocaust leaves people with an enormous responsibility; although, some say that 'racism is over,' etc., we know that a statement like that is not only false, but dangerous, and we must work to fight against it."

Students visiting the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. as part of the ZOA Tolerance Education Program



Pennsylvania  
Supreme Court  
Justice David Wecht





*...: “Over 100 years ago, United States  
declared that, ‘to be better Americans,  
...er Jews, we must become Zionists.’”*

In June 2019, ZOA Pittsburgh hosted a lecture on anti-Semitism presented by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice David N. Wecht.

The Honorable Justice David Wecht began by addressing what happened in his hometown on October 27, 2018, when 11 Jews were murdered at the Tree of Life Synagogue complex. This was the synagogue in which he and his wife were married.

Justice Wecht then gave a brief synopsis of Jewish immigration to the United States over the last 200 years. He spoke about anti-Semitism in Europe today, comparing it to the problem that existed before World War II. He also described the resurgence of anti-Semitism in the U.S. today, including on our college campuses.

Speaking to the packed room of people, Justice Wecht movingly said: “We live in a nation governed by the rule of law, affording unprecedented opportunity for every person, Jew or gentile, to pursue his or her dreams and aspirations. I hope you always will encourage others to join you in making the most of that opportunity. I have a hope not only for you, but also for all of those among our Jewish brothers and sisters that you can reach, and that you can influence or encourage. For my fellow Jews, my hope is that you will seek to ensure that our children and grandchildren and those who will follow them will enjoy a future that is not only free but Jewish as well.”

Justice Wecht also issued this reminder: “Over 100 years ago, United States Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis declared that, ‘to be better Americans, we must be better Jews. And to be better Jews, we must become Zionists.’”

## WEST COAST

Throughout the spring and summer of 2019, ZOA’s West Coast chapter hosted a number of educational programs throughout California to engage with students, elected officials, and local communities. A major focus was building relationships in Sacramento, the state capital, and to organize local activists for regular outreach to legislators.

### ZOA Activism at the State Level

ZOA West Coast coordinated with a member of its board, Gail Rubin, Esq., to organize a parlor meeting for local activists interested in helping ZOA build a strong network in the region. The gathering attracted newcomers from many of the surrounding cities, including physicians, professors, and many Christian Zionists. The group decided that ZOA must prepare local activists to lobby state representatives on issues important to the Jewish community and to Israel supporters, in addition to engaging with college campuses and hosting educational events for the legislature.

Preparing trained activists to write, call, and meet with representatives is essential, given the persistent lobbying of nefarious, anti-Israel groups like the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC). In May, ZOA activists met at the State Capitol to canvas the legislative offices of members of the Jewish Caucus and members of the education committees in the Senate and Assembly.

In June, ZOA West Coast was honored to host the director of ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, Susan Tuchman, Esq., for three important meetings in the region. First, a dinner was organized to introduce Susan to members of Davis Faculty for Israel, a group



Director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice Susan Tuchman speaking for a packed house at the home of Isaac Winer, Esq. and Bonnie Rosenberg-Winer in Palo Alto, C.A.

of pro-Israel professors from the University of California, Davis. This university has a particularly aggressive chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), which hosted an “anti-Zionist week” the previous month — including a Holocaust-denier as a guest speaker and a staged die-in with mock coffins set up in the middle of campus. SJP tabled with materials falsely accusing Israel of land-theft and labeling Israeli leaders as war criminals. Davis Faculty for Israel is a vital network of support for beleaguered Jewish students and can play a role in influencing school administrators. ZOA plans to work with these professors to counter any incidents of anti-Semitism in the coming school year.

Second, Susan held a briefing on campus anti-Semitism for legislators and their staff in the State Capitol. This briefing was hosted by the office of Assemblyman Kevin Kiley and attended by 15 representatives of eight legislative offices from both the Senate and Assembly. Susan shared examples of how contemporary anti-Semitism is manifesting from anti-Israel rhetoric and activities, specific incidents that have taken place on California university campuses, and the radical connections of the hate group SJP.

Susan also explained ZOA's important legal work to achieve Title VI (of the Civil Rights Act) protections for Jewish students across the country. ZOA asked legislators to adopt the U.S. State Department's working definition of anti-Semitism, which includes anti-Israel actions that cross the line into anti-Semitism, and to apply it as a standard for evaluating incidents within the state, including within the public education system. ZOA also asked for an investigation into SJP's sources of funding and its connection to radical Islamist groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood

and American Muslims for Palestine. ZOA will continue to work with California elected officials as an information resource and public advocate for the Jewish community.

Susan concluded her regional tour with a special reception generously hosted by ZOA board members Isaac Winer, Esq. and Bonnie Rosenberg-Winer, M.D., at their home in Palo Alto. This program was delivered to a full-house of ZOA members from Silicon Valley. Susan explained the important legal precedents triggered by the ZOA's work, which will ensure that they have the legal protections they may need should they face anti-Semitic harassment and discrimination.

In August 2019, ZOA West Coast worked with the Center for Law and Justice to oppose a proposed curriculum for California's public schools. The curriculum was biased and infused with numerous anti-Israel and anti-Semitic references that, if adopted, would have become mandatory coursework for high school students throughout the state.

ZOA mobilized activists to write and call on their representatives to reject and revise the proposed Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC). In addition, the ZOA wrote to the State Board of Education and issued press releases to help spread awareness about the dangers of the proposed curriculum and why it should be rejected.

The proposed ESMC, which was meant to encourage understanding of various ethnicities, did not recognize Jews as an ethnic group and did not mention anti-Semitism, despite the fact that a majority of religious-based hate crimes in the U.S. are directed against Jews. Draftees of the proposed curriculum inappropriately incorporated their own biases and prejudices against Jews and Israel into the text.





ZOA National President Morton Klein, addressing Bay Area Zionists in Palo Alto, C.A.

In response to the public outcry from the ZOA and others, the State Board of Education acknowledged that “the current draft model curriculum falls short and needs to be substantially redesigned.” ZOA will be closely monitoring the release of the revised curriculum to ensure that it truly educates California students about Jews and other ethnic groups, instead of marginalizing them and encouraging hatred and misunderstanding.

## **ZOA National President Morton Klein Addresses the Bay Area Community**

In August 2019, ZOA West Coast proudly hosted ZOA National President Morton Klein for a timely address to a large gathering at the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto, CA. A VIP reception preceded the program, where Morton met with ZOA regional board members and supporters. Generous donor and ZOA National Board Vice President Myron Zimmerman and the full staff of the MZ Foundation, all of the Bay Area board members, and 30 other guests attended the VIP reception. A packed audience attended the main event, some driving more than 2.5 hours from Santa Rosa and Sacramento to be there.

Morton’s presentation covered current events, including Israel’s decision to bar pro-BDS Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar from entering the country, and the California Board of Education’s decision to reject the proposed ethnic studies curriculum after the ZOA and others highlighted its anti-Jewish and anti-Israel bias. Morton also highlighted the growing threat of anti-Semitism, which was the focus of his recent testimony before Congress, and the false propaganda basis of the anti-Israel BDS campaign.

Morton delivered a clear outline of the current threats to the Jewish community. He expressed concern about some of the positions taken by groups like AIPAC, the AJC and the ADL, as well as their silence on certain issues.

It truly was an honor to have ZOA’s national president meet with West Coast members. This region has been plagued with anti-Israel activity and hostility. For many Zionists, ZOA is the only organization that represents their values in Northern California.

## **ZOA in the Media**

In July, the Bay Area Jewish newspaper, the JWeekly, published ZOA West Coast Executive Director David Kadosh’s op-ed exposing a series of anti-Israel resolutions adopted by the California Democratic Party at their state convention. Media outlets reporting on the convention were quick to focus on the positive work of pro-Israel Democrats to temper the language in the resolutions; the message was near unanimous – “crisis averted.” But as David’s op-ed revealed, this was from the truth. The party in fact adopted at least four resolutions which unfairly target Israel.

In Resolution 19-05.17, California Democrats shamefully blame the failed Israeli-Palestinian Arab peace process “in good part, due to the policies of Benjamin Netanyahu’s extremist, right-wing Israeli government coalition.” This statement is outrageous, belied by historical realities. Netanyahu has not set pre-conditions for peace negotiations, beyond recognition of Israel’s right to exist, whereas the Palestinian Authority has refused to negotiate since 2008. The resolution does not attribute any blame to the decades of Palestinian Arab terrorism and radicalism.

Resolutions 19-05.17 and 19-05.34 wrongly complain about cuts in U.S. aid to Palestinian Arab programs — ignoring the

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# *ZOA's West Coast Executive Director delivered presentation introduction to Krav Maga (Israeli hand-to-hand combat) program is an important tool for empowering Jewish youth*

fact that these programs are corrupt and have disgracefully misused U.S. taxpayer dollars to reward Palestinian Arab terrorism. As David's op-ed states, California Democrats should have passed a resolution that supports the U.S. funding cuts until the corruption and incitement finally stop.

The California Democratic Party also adopted Resolutions 19-05.32 and 19-05.74, which wrongly defend and endorse the anti-Israel bias of Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar. David's op-ed makes it clear that all of us, including the California Democratic Party, must reject all forms of anti-Semitism, including the demonization and delegitimization of the Jewish state.

## **ZOA Empowering Students and Young Professionals**

ZOA's West Coast Executive Director delivered presentations on the importance of Jewish self-defense, with an introduction to Krav Maga (Israeli hand-to-hand combat) for students and young professionals across the state. This program is an important tool for empowering Jewish youth and reinforces the strength and self-reliant ethos of Zionism. The program was brought to the ENGJ, a young professionals group at the Palo Alto JCC, and to students at the University of San Diego, San Diego State University, and the University of California, San Diego.

## **MICHIGAN ZOA Michigan Delegation to Israel**

In the spring of 2019, a ZOA Michigan delegation traveled to Israel to meet with Israeli officials and spend a weekend with Israeli soldiers. ZOA Michigan Director Kobi Erez spoke to 100 IDF soldiers about the connection between American Jews and Israel, detailing ZOA's pro-Israel advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, its Israel activism on college campuses and in the media, its fight against the BDS movement and anti-Israel organizations, and its educational efforts to create the next generation of Israel advocacy leaders. The soldiers were moved to hear about the willingness of American Jews to help Israel and their commitment to Zionism.

We also had the privilege of touring the old city of Jerusalem with the soldiers and had the special experience of enjoying a Shabbat dinner there. Later during the Mission, we visited an army base in northern Israel, where we were informed of ways to deal with the threat by the terrorist group Hezbollah and its sponsor Iran, and we also discussed what the pro-Israel community could do here in America to help out brothers and sisters in Israel.

ZOA Michigan continues to work to strengthen the relationship between Israel and the American Jewish community.

ZOA West Coast Executive Director David Kadosh (second from left) instructs students at San Diego State University on the importance of Jewish self-defense with an introduction to Krav Maga





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for students and young professionals across the state. This  
and reinforces the strength and self-reliant ethos of Zionism.*

## **Israel Scholarship Program and Israel Education Workshop for Young Adults**

Too many young American Jews are increasingly enticed to turn away from Israel. A study by the Brand Israel Group showed that support for Israel among Jewish college students in the U.S. had dropped 32 percent between 2010 and 2016. The problem lies in the fact that most young Jews are only learning about Israel in depth for the first time when they arrive on their university campuses – a notoriously hostile environment for the Jewish state. Students need to come to college already educated about Israel and ready to defend the Jewish state's right to exist in safety and security. It's the entire Jewish community's responsibility to educate our children on the importance of the Jewish nation and its ties to the land of Israel.

To meet this need, ZOA Michigan created an Israel Advocacy Workshop and Israel travel scholarship for high school students, to give them tools to defend Israel on college campuses and to be proud of their Jewish homeland and heritage.

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

Our Israel Education Workshops were successful. Students learned about the Arab war against Israel, Jewish history and heritage, Zionism, and serving in the IDF. We also discussed how to answer tough questions about Israel that are likely to arise on campus. Some of the students are planning Israel events with ZOA on their respective campuses as part of the program. ZOA Michigan is also proud to help fund Israel-themed events and initiatives created by the students for their peers on campus and around the Jewish community.

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

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

Noah Adler, a student participant in the program, said: "The ZOA Michigan Israel Scholarship and Israel Advocacy Workshop helped me get to Israel on a gap-year program and played a significant part in motivating me to serve in the Israeli Defense Forces. My hope is that many other Michigan students will also take advantage of this great opportunity to gain the tools to defend Israel on



ZOA Michigan in Israel with IDF soldiers



IDF soldier and former ZOA Michigan student participant Noah Adler

*“It was a vivid reminder to all that defending Israel and those who support her is an ongoing battle – a battle the ZOA is committed to fighting.”*

college campuses and reinforce a real love for Israel. Thank you, ZOA, for all that you do!”

### **Dr. Mordechai Kedar Speaks to ZOA Supporters**

In May 2019, over 100 people attended a ZOA talk about the Middle East and Israel with Dr. Mordechai Kedar, director of the Center for the Study of the Middle East and lecturer in the Department of Arabic Studies at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. Dr. Kedar is one of Israel’s leading figures in understanding the Arab world and a frequent guest in the Israeli, Arab and international media.

### **Media Relations**

ZOA Michigan’s op-eds – on topics such as Iran, the Arab war against Israel, the future of American Jewry, anti-Semitism at universities, and BDS – have been published in local and national media, including the *Detroit Jewish News*, *Times of Israel*, and the *Jerusalem Post*, reaching thousands of people and educating them on current events.

### **ZOA Michigan’s Annual Dinner with ZOA National President Morton Klein and Dennis Prager**

In November 2019, ZOA Michigan held its 84<sup>th</sup> annual dinner. Our speakers this year included ZOA National President Morton Klein and radio talk show host and writer Dennis Prager.



## **NEW ENGLAND Defending the Truth ZOA New England Speaks the Truth at Local Parlor meetings**

Every conversation is an opportunity to educate or miseducate. At every gathering of ZOA New England, we bolster and reinforce our ability to speak up and tell the truth about Israel.

ZOA New England had two parlor meetings this past spring, hosted respectively by Dr. David and Laura Eisenberg and Susan and Allen Friedman. We heard from the Director of the ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice Susan B. Tuchman, Esq. about her groundbreaking work on behalf of Jewish and pro-Israel students on college campuses, which has been an inspiration to every group which has heard her speak. In fact, so moved by the courageous ZOA battle led by Susan to get the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights to reinterpret Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jewish students, a writer for the local Boston Jewish newspaper asked that the account of the legal campaign be written in an article for inclusion in the newspaper.

The second parlor meeting attracted a diverse crowd, drawing from many towns in the greater Boston area, including Holliston, Ashland, and Wayland. In that meeting, it was a surprise to many to hear from the featured speaker that the legal strides that ZOA was able to make in defense of Jewish college students were not always honored.

Ms. Tuchman emphasized that it is an ongoing battle to have these laws upheld so that they actually do the job they were intended to do: to protect students, specifically Jewish and pro-Israel students who are

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few Jewish  
organizations  
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Susan Tuchman at the New England Parlor meeting

Community event with the International Spokesperson for the City of Hebron Yishai Fleisher

Yishai Fleisher

being harassed based on their ethnicity and ancestry. It was a vivid reminder to all that defending Israel and those who support her is an ongoing battle – a battle the ZOA is committed to fighting.

ZOA New England also heard from the international spokesperson for Hebron, Yishai Fleisher. At our community event co-sponsored by a local synagogue, we learned the actual facts about Israel from someone who lives in the very heartland of Jewish history. Mr. Fleisher shared with us the true, miraculous story of our people rebuilding our native land, where Jews have lived, and continue to live, since ancient times. He also highlighted the challenges of disseminating the truth about the Biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria when there are those who work diligently to prevent the truth from being heard.

## Providing Education to All, from Elected Officials to Community Members

This past summer, ZOA New England was represented by 10 local participants who joined ZOA members from across the country at the ZOA's annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission. It was yet another opportunity to educate, this time our elected officials, with accurate facts about Israel's history, activities, and needs, as a most staunch and trusted ally of the United States.

Just a few months later, as part of Hadasah's lecture series, "Knowledge is Power; New Women's Salon on Zionism," New England Executive Director Rabbi Jonina Pritzker delivered a presentation on the 4000-year

connection of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. Kicking off this new series, Jonina was the first guest lecturer in this series, opening up the talk – entitled, "History of Zionism: Myths and Facts" – with a review of the history of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel, along with an overview of the centrality of Israel in Jewish life, as demonstrated by the mention of Israel and Jerusalem in everything from daily prayer, to life cycle events, to Jewish holidays, to the very structure of the Hebrew calendar.

It was an afternoon of in-depth study during which the group discussed the challenges of getting the truth out about Israel, as well as the agenda and tactics of those trying to obscure or even destroy all evidence of Jewish rights, history and heritage in the Land of Israel.

Exposing and sharing the truth, in the face of the avalanche of misinformation, obfuscation, historical revision, and flagrant attempts at the destruction of our heritage, is not an easy or straightforward task.

But it is a necessary task in order to provide for the well-being and security of Israel and the Jewish people; it is a task which the ZOA is committed to doing each and every day.

As one supporter of ZOA New England proudly stated, "ZOA is one of the few Jewish organizations that is completely principled in its approach and will not back down."

Led by National President Morton Klein, who is tireless and unwavering in fighting for the rights of Israel and the Jewish people, ZOA New England is proud to support this effort. 🇺🇸

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Thank you for your support.

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

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

The ZOA leadership is planning for a future of activism, commitment and devotion to Zionist ideals.

By remembering the ZOA in your list of bequests, you can help plan for that future. For more information on the procedure for including the ZOA in your will, call the ZOA National Office at 212-481-1500.