

ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Spring - Summer 2020



ZOA's Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner 2019 Honors Gov. Ron DeSantis, Judge Jeanine Pirro, NSC's Amb. Robert O'Brien, Israel's Ambassador Danny Danon, and More



ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS



3



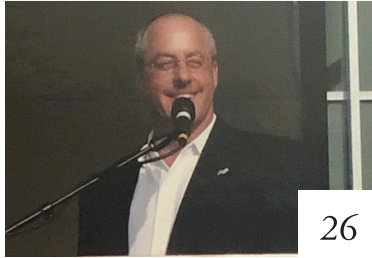
9



15



19



26



29



33



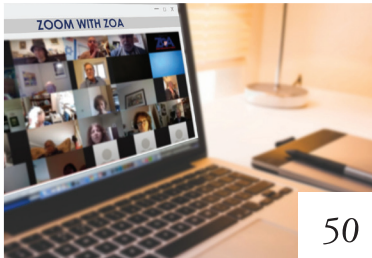
38



42



47



50



76

- 3 President's Message
- 9 Letter From the Chairman
- 15 ZOA Gala 2019
- 19 Gala Pictorial
- 26 ZOA People
- 29 Government Relations

- 33 Center for Law & Justice
- 38 ZOA Leadership Mission To Israel 2020
- 42 ZOA Campus
- 47 Israel Office
- 50 Outreach & Engagement
- 76 Thank You to Our Donors

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ZOA Demands Apology From URJ's Rick Jacobs and Others for Denouncing ZOA's Condemnation of BLM Organization's Antisemitic, Israel-Hating Platform

ZOA Urges URJ, Others to Join ZOA in Condemning BLM Group's Antisemitism and Israel-Hatred

The ZOA demands an apology and retraction from Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) President Rick Jacobs and other Jewish leaders for libeling ZOA National President Morton Klein.

After Mr. Klein appropriately called out the Black Lives Matter ("BLM") organization's virulent, institutional antisemitism, other discriminatory hatreds, and anti-Israel blood libels that are enshrined in the BLM/M4BL (Movement for Black Lives) platform, Facebook page, and activities, URJ's Rick Jacobs called Mr. Klein a "racist" and "Islamophobic" in articles printed in multiple newspapers. URJ/Jacobs also invoked these libelous names to condemn ZOA's membership in the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (the "CoP") – an organization co-founded by the ZOA.

In addition, certain other left wing Jewish leaders from the Reform and Conservative Jewish groups, women's groups, and Ameinu, and the pro-BDS Peace Now and Workmen's Circle, signed a letter falsely accusing Mr. Klein of promoting "hate in organized Jewish life." They also issued numerous similar tweets and website postings.

Rick Jacobs and these other Jewish leaders are absurdly, irrationally, and libelously saying that accurately calling a racist, antisemitic,

Israel-hating organization "antisemitic" and "anti-Israel" makes one a "racist" and an "Islamophobe" who promotes "hate."

These attacks by Rick Jacobs and others never explained why Mr. Klein's criticism of the BLM group's antisemitism was wrong, false or inaccurate. They provided no facts to back up their name-calling or disparagement. Jacobs and others simply hurled names at Mort Klein, with no explanation.

These inappropriate public attacks on Mr. Klein pose a danger to him and his family. Mr. Klein has received phone calls threatening him and his family.

We believe that the goal of these attacks is to silence, censor, demonize, and marginalize Mr. Klein and ZOA for our strong pro-Israel political views, which URJ, Jacobs, and the letter's left wing signatories fiercely oppose. We believe Jacobs and others want to diminish the credibility of ZOA and Mort Klein, while appeasing the Israel-hating BLM group. We believe Jacobs and others are afraid to criticize the BLM organization, fearing that criticism will antagonize the organization and provoke more hostile actions. But as history shows, appeasement always fails.

Characterizing it as "an atmosphere redolent of the 17th century Salem witch trials," journalist Melanie Phillips described what is happening to those who, like Mr. Klein, dare to criticize BLM's anti-Jewish, insurrectionist side: They are called "racist" and "a Twitter mob then assembles to strip such people of their reputation, platform, or job for the crime of telling



Morton A. Klein
National President,
Zionist Organization
of America

We believe that the goal of these attacks is to silence, censor, demonize, and marginalize Mr. Klein and ZOA for our strong pro-Israel political views...while appeasing the Israel-hating BLM group. But as history shows, appeasement always fails.

Courageous, highly-respected academics and journalists, including Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz, Melanie Phillips, Caroline Glick, Jonathan Tobin, Ruthie Blum, and Joel Pollak, have all condemned BLM.

the truth.”

The attacks on ZOA and Mr. Klein also violate the CoP’s rules. URJ, and the signatories to the letter that made false accusations against Mr. Klein, agreed to those rules.

Rick Jacobs/URJ’s name-calling is patently ridiculous. Morton Klein fought for Black civil and voting rights, attended numerous sit-ins and rallies for Black voting and civil rights, helped register Black voters, and was arrested in Mississippi for doing so.

Mr. Klein is a child of Holocaust survivors and was born in a displaced persons camp in Germany. He lost most of his family, including his grandparents, to the worst hatred and racism in history. Mr. Klein thus knows firsthand the tragic results of unbridled hatred and racism and is acutely sensitive to them.

Condemning the antisemitic BLM organization is not a condemnation of Black people’s lives. It is a condemnation of the BLM group’s antisemitic platform. Black people’s lives do matter, immensely.

ZOA and Morton Klein condemned racism and the horrific killing of George Floyd. They promoted police reform.

ZOA and Mr. Klein also appropriately condemned the attacks on innocent police officers. They condemned the widespread looting and riots. And they condemned the BLM-led pogrom – with its destruction of numerous Jewish businesses, and the defacing and damaging of approximately a dozen synagogues and Jewish schools – in Los Angeles, including the defacement of synagogue walls with the words “F--- Israel, Free Palestine.”

Courageous, highly-respected academics

and journalists, including Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz, Melanie Phillips, Caroline Glick, Jonathan Tobin, Ruthie Blum, and Joel Pollak, have all condemned BLM.

Melanie Phillips wrote, “BLM is an anti-white, anti-capitalist and anti-Jewish hate group.” She praised the ZOA for standing up for truth and justice. Professor Dershowitz condemned BLM’s “war on the Jewish people,” and recently reiterated that the BLM platform is antisemitic. In a television interview on the Jewish Broadcasting Service, Dershowitz declared, “I will defend [Mort Klein] politically, and if necessary, I will defend him legally.” Caroline Glick condemned the “stunning silence” of Jewish leaders to these attacks on Jewish institutions.

Calling BLM “racist,” Muhammad Ali’s son, Muhammad Ali Jr., stated, “My father would have said, ‘They [BLM] ain’t nothing but devils.’ My father said, ‘All lives matter.’” Ali also said, “Black Lives Matter is not a peaceful protest.” He called BLM divisive, saying, “It’s a racial statement. It’s pitting Black people against everyone else. It starts racial things to happen; I hate that.”

It is not “Islamophobic” to condemn terrorists who murder innocent Jews and others while screaming “Alluha Akbar.” It is not “Islamophobic” to be concerned about HIAS resettling unvetted immigrants from certain Mideast Muslim-majority countries where, according to ADL surveys, 74% to 93% of the population is antisemitic. We do not need more Jew-haters and Israel-haters coming to America. We would oppose Black-haters coming to America, too.



Synagogue defaced during BLM-led pogrom

Organizations and individuals who demonize and perpetrate violence against the Jewish people must be called out – regardless of their color or creed.

URJ, Rick Jacobs, and all Jewish leaders should join the ZOA in protecting the Jewish community. They should join the ZOA in calling out the BLM group's antisemitism, anti-Jewish violence, and anti-Israelism – instead of maligning ZOA and Mr. Klein for fighting antisemitism and defending the Jewish people and Israel.

The BLM/M4BL official platform and the BLM Facebook page falsely accuse Israel of committing “genocide” against Palestinian Arabs – a vicious blood libel. (Incidentally, Israel's Arab population today is ten times larger than it was when the Jewish State was re-established in 1948. That is no genocide.) BLM condemns no other country but Israel.

In his article condemning BLM's war on the Jewish people, Professor Alan Dershowitz aptly explained:

Until and unless Black Lives Matter removes this blood libel [accusing Israel of committing genocide] from its platform and renounces it, no decent person — Black, white, or of any other racial or ethnic background — should have anything to do with it. . . . To give Black Lives Matter a pass on its anti-Jewish bigotry would be to engage in racism. Black antisemitism is as inexcusable as white antisemitism or white racism. There can be no double standard when it comes to bigotry.

Similar to the BLM/M4BL platform itself, these BLM “resource” sites contain vicious, incendiary, antisemitic, anti-Israel and anti-American smears, and promote mutual “resistance” against the U.S. and Israel.

The BLM/M4BL platform (see the “Cut Military Expenditures Brief” section of the BLM/M4BL platform) and BLM Facebook page also falsely call Israel an “apartheid” state; demand ending U.S. military assistance to Israel; condemn the “global war on terror” and blame Israel for it; and promote the antisemitic, anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement. Among other things, the BLM/M4BL platform falsely asserts, “The U.S. justifies and advances the global war on terror via its alliance with Israel and is complicit in the genocide taking place against the Palestinian people.”

BLM also falsely and outrageously claims that Israeli police train U.S. police to target African Americans.

In addition, the BLM/M4BL platform’s anti-Israel “Brief” contains two “resources”: the major “BDS movement” website and a “Black Palestinian Solidarity” website. Similar to the BLM/M4BL platform itself, these BLM “resource” sites contain vicious, incendiary, antisemitic, anti-Israel and anti-American smears, and promote mutual “resistance” against the U.S. and Israel. These “resource” sites falsely accuse Israel of killing and “targeting unarmed civilians,” including children; falsely accuse both the U.S. and Israel of “unchecked state-sanctioned racialized violence”; and promote multiple cultural, academic, and economic BDS campaigns against Israel’s Jews and those who do business with or interact with Israel.

The “resistance” that these groups encourage includes violence. During a joint BLM/Dream Defenders trip to “Palestine” (i.e., Israel), attended by BLM co-founder Patrisse Cullors and Farrakhan-praising, Israel-bashing antisemite Marc Lamont Hill, the attendees “resonated” with Palestinian-Arab statements urging them to “deal[] with the obsession over

‘non-violence’.” An attendee reported:

A [Palestinian-Arab] sister said in a meeting that until recently, [Palestinian-Arabs] didn’t have a distinction between violence and nonviolence — it was all resistance. I think that is so powerful as Black Americans find themselves caught up in this faux binary of good versus bad protester, and that assignment, to one or the other, is often handed down by those in power.

A report by Ambassador Dore Gold’s Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs provides details about Dream Defenders’ extensive ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), including Dream Defenders’ propaganda activities and trips to “Palestine” to ensnare Black activists into supporting the PFLP and hating Israel. Dream Defenders and the PFLP also produced an 11th grade curriculum glorifying the PFLP and Black Panther Party (whose tenets are similar to those of the BLM platform).

The U.S. State Department designated the PFLP as a foreign terrorist organization. PFLP terrorists assassinated Israel’s tourism minister, blew up airplanes, and attacked Jews praying in a Jerusalem synagogue, with guns, knives, and axes, murdering four innocent Jewish worshipers — including three U.S. citizens — and a Druze policeman, and injuring twelve other innocent praying Jews.

BLM-UK is also openly, repeatedly tweeting and retweeting vicious anti-Israel blood libels and calls for boycotts and sanctions against the Jewish state, including BDS-group “Al Haq”’s demonization of Israel and calls for anti-Israel actions. The Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs report, “Terrorists in Suits: The Ties Between NGOs and Promoting BDS and Terrorist Organizations,” documents that Al Haq is run by PFLP operatives and convicted terrorists.



#BlackLivesMatterUK
@ukblm

As Israel moves forward with the annexation of the West Bank, and mainstream British politics is gagged of the right to critique Zionism, and Israel's settler colonial pursuits, we loudly and clearly stand beside our Palestinian comrades.

FREE PALESTINE.

5:50 AM · Jun 28, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

For instance, on June 28, 2020, BLM-UK tweeted: “Mainstream British politics is gagged of the right to critique Zionism, and Israel’s settler colonial pursuits, we loudly and clearly stand beside our Palestinian comrades. FREE PALESTINE.” BLM-UK also tweeted: “On the eve of Israel’s planned formal annexation of Palestinian land, we stand with Palestinian civil society in calling for targeted sanctions in line with international law against Israel’s colonial, apartheid regime.” Al Haq called for four anti-Israel actions, including ending trade agreements, boycotts, ending military cooperation with Israel, and bringing Israelis to “justice” for their “war crimes.” A UK Jewish watchdog, “The Campaign Against Antisemitism,” has called out and collected even more of BLM-UK’s vicious anti-Jewish and anti-Israel tweets.

BLM platform co-author Gilmer said, “Zionism at its core is white supremacy.” Gilmer also wore a PFLP tee shirt, emblazoned with its Arabic slogan promoting violence, during a BLM/Dream Defenders trip to a PFLP stronghold in “Palestine.”

During one of such trips to “Palestine,” BLM and Dream Defenders joined anti-Israel demonstrations, and falsely accused Israelis of greed, hate, and stealing Palestinian Arabs’ land.

BLM platform co-author Ben Ndugga-Kabuye publicly defended the false blood libels in the BLM platform, accusing Israel of committing genocide against Palestinian-Arabs, and of an “ongoing” “state sanctioned” unaccountable “structure of violent deaths.” His group BAJI’s Facebook page shows his group screaming, “Free, free Palestine, Stop Deportation.”

BLM also tweeted, “We stand in solidarity with the people of #Palestine,” and promoted “DCI-Palestine” and a “DCI-Palestine”

program with leading anti-Israel demonizers and BDS leaders. As the Israeli government report, “Terrorists in Suits: The Ties Between NGOs and Promoting BDS and Terrorist Organizations,” documents, “DCI-Palestine” (Defense of Children International-Palestine) is another Ramallah-based anti-Israel BDS group run by PFLP operatives.

Rabbi and law professor Dov Fischer wrote about the recent BLM-led pogroms:

The Black Lives Matter pogrom saw attacks on Temple Beth El, Baba Sali Congregation, the Kosher Mensch Bakery and Kitchen, Cong. Beth Israel, Cong. Beth Tivereth Avi/Morasha, Shaarei Tefilah Synagogue, Shalhevet Yeshiva High School for Girls, and a Shul wall on which were spray-painted anti-Semitic and anti-Israel slogans. The Black Lives Matter pogromists even — get this! — defaced a statue of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who lost his life during the World War II era by leveraging his diplomatic status to save thousands of Hungarian Jews from being gassed and cremated by Hitler’s Nazis in Auschwitz. . . . Jews on the scene during the Fairfax, Los Angeles pogrom reported chants of “F___ the police and kill the Jews” and screams of, “F___ Jews.”

A key instigator of the Fairfax pogrom, BLM-Los Angeles lead organizer Melina Abdullah, has an alarming record of antisemitism and anti-Zionism, and is a strong supporter and defender of notorious Nation of Islam Jew-basher (“*Judaism is a gutter religion*”; “*Jews are Satan*”) Louis Farrakhan. Abdullah complained that the Women’s March included “Zionists.” She accused CNN of standing “with a Zionist Israel that murders and terrorizes the Palestinian people,” when

CNN did not renew Jew-hater Marc Lamont Hill's contract. BLM-LA also partnered with the Nation of Islam.

It's time to stop demeaning and falsely accusing ZOA and Morton Klein for simply having the courage to stand up to the BLM group's antisemitism.

Those who Condemned Mort Klein for Correctly Condemning BLM's Antisemitism and Israel- Hatred Should Apologize and Retract Their Hateful Statements

Sixteen left wing organizations' leaders piled on, along with Rick Jacobs/URJ, to attack Mort Klein. In a widely-published letter, and in tweets and website postings, these organizational leaders condemned Mort Klein's tweets about the BLM's antisemitism. They never mentioned BLM's hateful platform and activities, or the shocking attacks on numerous Jewish businesses, synagogues and schools in Los Angeles.

The signatories to the letter attacking the ZOA and Mort Klein must apologize, and join the ZOA and Mr. Klein in condemning BLM's hateful platform and dangerous demonization of Israel. A past chair of the CoP has already called Mr. Klein to express regret that Jewish leaders signed such a shameful letter. The former CoP chair said, "Mort, you and ZOA were right, they were wrong, you were ahead of the curve. We now clearly see that the group Black Lives Matter is antisemitic and anti-Israel."



Morton A. Klein
ZOA National President 

These are the Jewish leaders who must retract their attack on Mort Klein and the ZOA and apologize:

Kenneth Bob, President, Ameinu (also treasurer of J Street);

Hadar Susskind, President and CEO, Americans for Peace Now (APN openly promotes partial anti-Israel BDS);

Rabbi Bennett Miller, National Chair, ARZA;

Rabbi Hara Person, Chief Executive, Central Conference of American Rabbis;

Robert Aronson, Chair, HIAS;

Meredith Jacobs, CEO, Jewish Women International;

Janet Gurvitch, President, Na'amat USA;

Marilyn Wind, President, MERCAZ USA;

Sheila Katz, CEO, National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW);

Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, Chief Executive, Rabbinical Assembly;

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union of Reform Judaism (URJ);

Ann Toback, CEO, The Workers Circle;

Leslie Lichter, Interim CEO, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism;

Rabbi Marla Feldman, Executive Director, Women of Reform Judaism;

Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields, Executive Director, Women's League for Conservative Judaism; and

Stuart Applebaum, President, Jewish Labor Committee

These leaders, and all Jewish organizations, should join the ZOA and Morton Klein in combatting all forms of antisemitism and in standing up for the Jewish people and Israel.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear ZOA Friends and Contributors,

I hope you and your families are well and safe as we all continue to strive to make the best of matters in light of the pandemic that has affected us all so terribly. I hope that by the time you are reading our ZOA Report, things will be looking brighter than they are today and that we will all soon be on the road to recovering from this horrific COVID-19. On account of the pandemic, we did not print the spring edition of the ZOA Report, so this edition covers news, events and developments since the start of 2020.

I did want to report to you on two terrific events that occurred in the months prior to the pandemic. First, as many of you are aware by now, the ZOA Coalition slate to the World Zionist Congress (WZC) elections finished with its highest total of votes ever. We nearly quadrupled the number of votes for the ZOA Coalition from five years ago. In addition, when calculating in the increase in the total votes as a whole in the WZC elections, we doubled our delegate total to 13 delegates from 2015 to this year's election. The voting for the WZC elections took place from January 21, 2020 through March 11, 2020.

We at ZOA had been preparing for these elections since the summer of 2019 and I cannot be more pleased with the results of our collective effort and our work with our Israel partners at World Likud. A tremendous yasher koach and thanks to my colleagues on the ZOA Coalition leadership team who helped produce this great result, including Mort Klein, Liz Berney, Alan Jay, Natalie Lazaroff, John Rosen, Jackie Shafer, Jonathan Ginsburg, Or Taylor, Marlene Artov and ZOA National Board member Michael Celler. Without the dedicated and heartfelt effort of the entire ZOA team, we could not have achieved these results.

In addition to the ZOA team itself, we had 26 coalition partners, the strongest collection of pro-Israel organizations out there. Space constraints do not allow me to list every one of our coalition partners, but I venture to say that between our email blasts, text blasts, live programs and events, flyers, press releases, as well as voting cards, you no doubt saw the logo and names of all our partners. We are tremendously grateful for their cooperation in joining with us on this effort.

As we highlighted over the six-month WZC campaign at all of our events and programs and in all of our speeches and presentations, conference calls and gatherings, the importance of this effort could not be overstated. As a result of this effort, not only did the ZOA Coalition win a significantly increased amount of votes and delegates, but also the collective center-right and right-of-center slates exceeded their previous voting results. For the first time, the center-right and right-of-center will achieve over 50% of the delegates (52%) and votes. This is incredibly important.



Mark Levenson, Esq.
Chairman of the Board

The ZOA Coalition slate to the World Zionist Congress elections finished with its highest total of votes ever. We nearly quadrupled the number of votes for the ZOA Coalition from five years ago.



The importance of this election cannot be overstated and we are tremendously grateful for your support, volunteering and voting for the ZOA Coalition in this year's WZC elections.

This is not just a “show” vote. Besides the \$1 billion up for allocation for each of the next five years, there are very serious and significant issues at stake that go to the core of ZOA's coalition and beliefs. These include ZOA's view on the right of Jews to live anywhere in Judea and Samaria; the need to continue to fight BDS with every fiber that we have; the right of Jews everywhere to emigrate and make aliyah to Israel if that is what they choose; the importance of and belief in our Jewish traditions and sacred books; and the right of Jews to be free of antisemitism anywhere and everywhere in the world.

These rights, which are at the core of ZOA beliefs, have been under attack, shockingly, at previous WZC congresses as well as at other similar umbrella group gatherings. The need to fight for each of these issues is important

and we can only fight for these issues and prevail by having the votes to succeed. Thus, the importance of this election cannot be overstated and we are tremendously grateful for your support, volunteering and voting for the ZOA Coalition in this year's WZC elections.

As matters currently stand, the WZC will take place virtually, in an abbreviated form, in October 2020, with the election and seating of the new delegates. A fuller, more comprehensive in-person WZC program is intended to take place in Israel during the spring of 2021. Finally, with this terrific result, the ZOA earned 39 delegates to the World Likud convention which is currently scheduled to take place in early September 2020.

Second, I want to share a few highlights from our ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel at



ZOA Coalition delegates at an exclusive meeting with Israel's Permanent Representative to the UN Danny Danon (sixth from left)



ZOA Coalition delegates at the UN



Delegates during discussion with Amb. Danny Danon

the end of February 2020. We had an amazing group of ZOA leaders on the mission, we had a jam-packed schedule and did not sleep very much, and everyone had a life-changing experience. Special thanks to Howard Katzoff, Alan Jay, and Nancy Hollander for their efforts in helping to put this trip together and being ZOA's staff resources on the ground.

This was our second annual leadership mission, which followed from many other previous ZOA missions to Israel. Coming as it did during the course of the WZC elections, the mission was incredibly important. We had several meetings with our World Likud partners during the WZC elections and everywhere we went, the groups that we met with were interested in hearing where the ZOA Coalition stood on the issues and the importance of our effort in the WZC elections and voting.

As might be expected, our ZOA delegation met with an incredible group of leaders and individuals throughout our trip. Among the amazing speakers were:

Opening dinner kick-off speaker Palestinian Business Network chairman and businessman **Sheikh Ashraf Jabari** who hosted us at his home a few days later, within the Palestinian Authority (PA) controlled city of Hebron. (Special permission was required from both the Israeli government and the PA for this visit.) Sheik Jabari is in favor of the Trump peace plan and opened an office in 2017 to enhance cooperation between Palestinian Arabs and the State of Israel. Jabari was one of the Palestinian businessmen invited to the June 2019 Bahrain Economic Conference, and he was significantly and seriously “harassed” when he returned home for having attended the Bahrain conference.

Rachelle Fraenkel, the mother of murdered teen Naftali Fraenkel. Naftali was one of the three Israeli yeshiva students killed by Hamas terrorists in 2014, which resulted in Israel's Operation Protective Edge. Rachelle Fraenkel's presence, elegance and moral clarity left us spellbound.

Fleur Hassan-Nahoum, deputy mayor of Jerusalem, a Gibraltar-born Jew, who gave us a complete overview of the current status and developments in the capital of the Jewish state and the positive results emanating from the opening of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem.



ZOA Chair Mark Levenson, Esq., Sheikh Ashraf Jabari, and ZOA President Morton A. Klein



Rachelle Fraenkel, mother of murdered teen Naftali Fraenkel



Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Fleur Hassan-Nahoum and Mark Levenson, Esq.



ZOA Government Relations Director Dan Pollak, ZOA Chair Mark Levenson, Esq., MK Nir Barkat, and ZOA Deputy Director Howard Katzoff



Tzachi Hanegbi, former Minister of National Intelligence and Minister of Justice, and current Minister of Agriculture; and Mark Levenson, Esq.



Mark Levenson, Esq., Guatemalan Ambassador to Israel Mario Bucaro, and Morton Klein



IDF General Bentzi Gruber with ZOA Leadership Mission participants

Nir Barkat, the highly successful former mayor of Jerusalem from 2008 to 2018, and currently a Likud Chaver (member of) Knesset.

Tzachi Hanegbi, former minister of national intelligence and minister of justice, and current minister of agriculture, and an outspoken supporter of the Trump peace plan.

Guatemalan Ambassador to Israel **Mario Bucaro**, who hosted us in the Guatemalan Jerusalem embassy. Interestingly, Guatemala opened its first embassy in Jerusalem in 1957, with a female ambassador, and their ambassador in 1977 happened to be the president of Guatemala who voted in favor of recognizing Israel at the United Nations in 1947.

General Bentzi Gruber of the IDF Armored Division, who presented his “Ethics in the IDF” lecture and gave us a behind-the-scenes tour of an IDF commando training practice operation.

Our annual ZOA delegation mission to Israel spends significant time in Judea and Samaria and visiting the border communities. As such, we visited the Sderot community’s Hesder Yeshiva the day after rockets bombarded the community from Gaza, and saw one of the playgrounds partially destroyed by one of the Kassam rockets that the Iron Dome did not intercept.



Mark Levenson, Esq. with Yatar volunteers



Welcome to the City of David



Visiting the Yatar counter-terrorism unit



Tomb of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs

We visited with the all-volunteer Yatar counter-terrorism unit, which works with the Border Police and the IDF to apprehend any infiltration by terrorists. We visited one of these Border Police stations where we watched the live tracking of movements on Israeli and PA-controlled borders.

Our delegation also visited the Kotel and the Old City and experienced an amazing private tour of Ir David (the City of David) and newly excavated sections and pathways that evidence and support the biblical and historic truths of our Jewish homeland—kudos to Ze'ev Orenstein. We were privileged to also visit and pray at Ma'arat HaMachpela – the Tomb of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs – in Hebron. In addition, we met with Jerusalem residents of two bustling and new Jewish communities, Maaleh Hazeitim (atop the Mount of Olives) and Nof Tzion (a protected community among Arab neighbors). These communities sprouted in just a few short years. We saw more young Jewish kids and bicycles there than would be seen today in many major historical diaspora Jewish neighborhoods. We also met with IDF lone soldiers and the leaders of “Women in Green.”



ZOA Chair Mark Levenson, Esq. and ZOA National Board member Dr. Judith Friedman Rosen at Ma'arat HaMachpela

When the pandemic hit, ZOA sprang into action with extensive virtual and Zoom webinars, lectures, book clubs and other educational activities.

All in all, an amazing and memorable trip. We invite everyone to join us in February 2021 for our next ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel.

Almost immediately upon our return from the trip in early March, the pandemic hit full force, and like the rest of the world, the ZOA office and all live, in-person activities shut down. ZOA, however, sprang into action with extensive virtual and zoom webinars, lectures, book clubs and other educational activities. We have tried to present at least two activities a week during the entire pandemic, sometimes three, and we intend to continue to do so until the pandemic ends.

We hope you have enjoyed these programs. The number of participants has been amazing and this is a major incentive for us to continue with this programming and engagement effort.



Finally, as I write this, ZOA is hard at work on our “Sovereignty Now” campaign in support of Israel’s re-assertion of its sovereignty over the Jewish population centers and land in Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley. You may have seen or heard about the huge “billboards” we put up in the heart of the government center in Jerusalem, which attracted extensive attention on social media, and have been widely noticed and commented upon by politicians, commuters and pedestrians.

We have further supported this effort with a media and public relations campaign. The outpouring of support for our work on this extremely just and necessary cause has been so gratifying.

I hope everyone stays well and safe and I look forward to our being able to see each other in person in the near future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Mark S. Levenson'.

Mark S. Levenson
Chairman 🇺🇸

JUSTICE LOUIS D. BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER

A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS

ZOA GALA 2019

1000 Cheer NSC Advisor Robert O'Brien,
Gov. Ron DeSantis, Amb. Danny Danon,
Judge Jeanine Pirro, Dr. Bob Shillman

On Sunday, November 17, 2019, the ZOA held its annual Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner. Emceed by television news anchor and best-selling author **Rita Cosby**, the Gala featured an all-star line-up of speakers and entertainment. Here are some highlights:

ZOA National Vice President Dr. Arthur Kook gave a D'var Torah about Parshat Vayera, and declared, "The ZOA will allow no obstacle to cloud our vision, as G-d looks upon us."

Dr. Bruno Wu, a renowned philanthropist – whose grandfather, Dr. Woo Kai-Sheng, saved thousands of Jews in Shanghai – presented the Dr. Woo Kai-Sheng Lifetime Achievement Award to Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations **Danny Danon**.

Dr. Wu movingly stated: "I'm actually a Chinese Jew. It's an honor to be here with such dignitaries, to fight the scourge of antisemitism and delegitimization of Israel, the sole democracy in the Middle East and the rightful home of all Jews."

Ambassador Danny Danon thanked "my dear friend Mort, President of ZOA for 25 years. I'm surprised to see that every year you become more energetic!" He also thanked philanthropist **Ira Rennert**, who was in the audience: "We can see your generosity all over Israel."



ZOA Gala emcee Rita Cosby



ZOA National Vice President
Dr. Arthur Kook delivers a
D'var Torah



(L-R) Dr. Bruno
Wu, Rita Cosby,
Amb. Danny Danon,
and ZOA National
President Morton
Klein



ZOA National President
Morton A. Klein



Ambassador and National
Security Adviser Robert
O'Brien



ZOA National Board
member Myron Zimmerman



ZOA Campus Director
Jonathan Ginsburg and
award recipient Chloe
Greenfield



Dr. Bob

Morton Klein presented the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson Award for Defense of America and Israel to Ambassador Robert O'Brien, the U.S. National Security Advisor. Mr. Klein praised Amb. O'Brien as "deeply committed to the U.S.-Israel alliance."

National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien noted that "President Trump's solidarity and support for our ally Israel is simply unparalleled." After the President recognized Jerusalem as Israel's "true capital" and the American embassy opened in Jerusalem just months later, "we've seen increased cooperation and even partnership between Israel and her Arab neighbors. . . . This only happened because the United States, under President Donald Trump, took the rightful, moral stand: Israel is a sovereign, independent nation. It's the home of the Jewish people, and always will be."

ZOA National Board member Myron Zimmerman and Jonathan Ginsburg, Managing Director of ZOA Campus, presented the Myron Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Student Activism to ZOA student leader **Chloe Greenfield** for her work in combatting antisemitism on campus. Noting that her participation in the ZOA student leadership mission to Israel gave her the tools to fight antisemitism and defend Israel, Ms. Greenfield said, "I'm incredibly thankful to ZOA Campus for their support."

Myron Zimmerman presented the Justice

Louis D. Brandeis Award to **Dr. Bob Shillman** whom he described as "a strong Zionist. Israel never had a better friend."

In a stirring speech, Dr. Shillman said, "There are those who fight evil, those who help those who fight evil, and those who do nothing. Unfortunately, the largest class of people are those who do nothing. They are not represented in this room, or among ZOA's members. ZOA and its members are the fighters against evil."

ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq. urged Gala attendees to vote for the ZOA Coalition slate in the upcoming World Zionist Congress elections: "We need to fight the lie of occupation. If you believe that Jews have the right to Israel and a united Jerusalem and Judea/Samaria, please go out and vote for the ZOA." The audience viewed the first screening of a ZOA Coalition election film, which included endorsements of the ZOA slate from virtually every major Israeli Minister, members of Knesset, heads of Councils throughout Judea/Samaria, prominent rabbis, and others.

Paul Packer, Chairman of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, introduced ZOA President Morton Klein. Like Abraham in the Bible, Mr. Packer explained, Mort Klein does not waver in his faith, does not strive for popularity, and finds and stands for the truth. After years of fighting, Mr. Packer said, the truth is finally prevailing.



Shillman



ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq.



Judge Jeanine Pirro



Paul Packer, Chairman of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis

ZOA President Morton Klein said, “We’ve come here today because of our love of Israel, and our fear of the rising scourge of bashing Israel and antisemitism. And seeing Jews attacked in New York City and elsewhere, I have proclaimed that not only do Black lives matter, but Jewish lives matter.”

Noting that Jews rightfully fought for voting and civil rights for African-Americans, Mr. Klein said, “It pains me to say that almost every attack on innocent Jews in Brooklyn has been committed by African-Americans, and some Hispanics. We at ZOA are demanding holding a series of press conferences with Black, Hispanic, Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Asian leaders to publicly condemn these attacks on clearly identifiable Jews, by these cowardly thugs. And force the silent media to be silent no longer.

“As we all know,” Mr. Klein continued, “antisemitism is not only a problem in Brooklyn. It’s also a problem in Europe, and especially in the Arab Muslim Middle East.

“It pains me to say that Muslim imams around the country, in North Carolina, New Jersey, California, Texas, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, have been videotaped preaching genocidal Koranic Hadiths, repeated in the Hamas Charter, saying ‘Come and kill the Jew hiding behind the rock or tree.’ These imams are accusing Jews of being Nazis and fascists. They are urging cleansing the Temple Mount of the ‘filth of the Jews.’ It is shocking

and frightening. Jewish leaders and Muslim leaders must demand that these imams be terminated. Away with this hate against Jews.

“On campus, more and more students who support the Jewish state are being excluded from various events and activities. They are demonized and denounced. There is a dramatic increase in support for BDS, and calls for violence against Israel and destroying the Jewish state. Professors are more and more holding events maligning the Jewish state. Where is the outrage of the [other] Jewish leaders?

“One way we can fight BDS and the surge of antisemitism is to promote telling the truth about the Arab-Islamic war against Israel and the West. We must scream until our throats are sore that the Arab-Palestinian regime is paying Arabs to murder Jews. Don’t sympathize with them. They are naming schools, streets and sports teams after Jew-killers. They are promoting violence and hatred in schools, the media and speeches. Don’t sympathize with them!

“They’ve turned down a state three times in the last 20 years. The issue is not Palestinian statehood. The issue is their interest in destroying Israel and killing Jews.”

Mr. Klein expressed his appreciation for the United States, which has promoted a Jewish state from the beginning. John Adams, Teddy Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln said we need a Jewish state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Americans put Hebrew in the logos of Yale University, Dartmouth and Columbia. The U.S. great seal almost became a depiction of Moses leading the children of Israel out of bondage to the promised land of Israel, designed by Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin.

“In every generation, as we say at the Passover Seder, enemies will rise up against us. But we will always overcome our enemies, and prevail, and emerge to rebuild, and become stronger than before. We will have regeneration, new opportunities, and new hope for the Jewish community.

“The Torah promises that Israel is the eternal Jewish homeland, and that the Jewish people will be an eternal people. Unlike politicians, G-d keeps his promises.”

Morton Klein presented the Dr. Bob Shillman Award for Outstanding Leadership to **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis** who addressed moving the American embassy to Jerusalem: “Together with ZOA, we made a great difference.”

Governor DeSantis explained that when he was in Congress and chaired the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform’s Subcommittee on National Security, he keyed up congressional hearings on moving the embassy. These hearings, at which ZOA President Morton Klein testified, played a major role in prompting the embassy move. Likewise, Governor DeSantis’ committee hearings about U.S. recognition of the Golan Heights – at which Mort Klein also testified – played an important role in President Trump’s decision to recognize Israeli sovereignty over that region.

DeSantis started off his new administration as governor by adding Airbnb to Florida’s scrutinized companies list, after Airbnb announced that it was de-listing Jewish-owned properties in Judea/Samaria. Governor DeSantis explained, “If we did not do this, it [more companies boycotting Judea/Samaria] would have become a cottage industry.”

Governor DeSantis also led the largest-ever

university delegation to Israel; promotes Florida’s business and space exploration partnerships with Israel; and was the first governor to hold public events in Judea/Samaria.

President Donald Trump, speaking via video, introduced Judge Jeanine Pirro, the recipient of ZOA’s Mortimer Zuckerman Award for Outstanding Journalism. The President described Judge Jeanine as “a very, very special person” and “a winner, always.”

Judge Jeanine Pirro recounted her lifelong battles against antisemitic hatred: “I stand here as a huge supporter of Israel. I am Lebanese Christian. My mother Esther and my father taught me that my grandparents assisted those who wanted to get to the state of Israel to have safe passage. It is etched in my DNA.

“When I became a district attorney, one of the first things I confronted was antisemitism. I didn’t have to think long to realize that for 2,000 years, the Jews have been targeted. There were swastikas put on cemeteries, golf courses, homes of people who survived the Holocaust. Hate is not to be tolerated. Two thousand of us marched against this hate. Just like we marched, you and I are going to keep marching. No one understands more than someone who survived the Holocaust. I fought for a hate crimes law.”

Judge Jeanine continued, “I believe in Israel. The Jewish people are entitled to a state of their own. They didn’t need the Balfour Declaration. They are entitled to that land. Those who are making antisemitism part of the education of our children – they want to kill people, destroy a people, and we have to be polite, and careful what we say. Nonsense! It’s not time to be politically correct. It’s not time to be nice to people who hate us.”

A musician at the reception summed up the feelings of everyone at the Gala. In an email to the ZOA after the Gala, he expressed his “gratitude for the honor to contribute the little that I can to the ZOA. You guys are on the front lines fighting misinformation and blatant lies against the Jewish people everywhere and every day.” 🇺🇸



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1. Dr. Bruno Wu, Emcee Rita Cosby, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon, and ZOA National President Morton A. Klein
2. ZOA National Board member Shira Lewis, ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq., and Eric Lewis
3. ZOA student activists
4. ZOA National Board members Brian Grodman and Jay Knopf, Morton Klein, and Mark Levenson
5. Ambassador Robert O'Brien and ZOA National Board member Josh Landes



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1. Emcee Rita Cosby and ZOA National President Morton A. Klein (right) presenting the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award to Dr. Bob Shillman
2. Morton and Rita Klein, and ZOA National Board member Michael Orbach and Bonnie Orbach
3. ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq. and Former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik
4. Estelle Argaman, Leah Jacobson, Morton Klein, ZOA National Board member Brian Grodman, and Rita Klein
5. ZOA National Board member Rhonda Kaplan
6. A performance by The Maccabeats, an Orthodox Jewish a cappella group



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1. ZOA student activists
2. ZOA Deputy Director Howard Katsoff, ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq., Emcee Rita Cosby, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Dr. Bob Shillman, Judge Jeanine Pirro, and Morton A. Klein
3. U.S. Ambassador to Morocco David Fischer, Jennifer Fischer, and Morton Klein
4. Activist Cindy Grosz and Emcee Rita Cosby
5. View of the ZOA Gala stage
6. Gov. Ron DeSantis and Judge Jeanine Pirro



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1. Rita Cosby and Morton A. Klein presenting the Dr. Miriam & Sheldon Adelson Award for Defense of America and Israel to U.S. National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien (center)
2. ZOA National Board member Rhonda Kaplan, Rita Cosby, Morton Klein, and ZOA National Board member Dr. Arthur Kook at the podium
3. Mark Levenson and former U.S. State Department Director of Policy Planning, Dr. Kiron Skinner
4. CEO of World Likud Ifat Ovadia-Luski, Vice Chairman of World Zionist Organization Yaakov Hagoel, Morton Klein, Cindy Grosz, Judge Jeanine Pierro, Rita Klein, Mark and Eta Levenson, and TV personality and author Siggy Flicker
5. Director of the MZ Foundation Sam Levine, Elliot Fine, Morton Klein, and Myron Zimmerman
6. Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon and Dr. Bruno Wu



1. Siggie Flicker (L) and Cindy Grosz
2. Myron Zimmerman, Rita Cosby, Dr. Bob Shillman, and Morton A. Klein
3. ZOA student activists
4. Mao Shillman, Dr. Bob Shillman, and Rita Klein
5. National Leadership Society member Joyce Chernick, and Morton and Rita Klein
6. Rita Cosby and Myron Zimmerman



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1. Ambassador Robert O'Brien, Paul Packer, Arthur Schwartz, and Mark Levenson
2. Rita Cosby, Morton Klein, and Dr. Bruno Wu
3. Morton and Ruth Gleit
4. ZOA Brandeis Society member Sheryl Silver, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon, and Mark Levenson
5. ZOA Campus Associate Director Or Taylor, ZOA Campus Coordinator Marlene Artov, Morton Klein, Rita Cosby, Myron Zimmerman, Chloe Greenfield, and ZOA Campus Managing Director Jonathan Ginsburg
6. Morton Klein and documentary filmmaker and musician Joel Gilbert
7. Judge Jeanine Pirro (speaking), Mark Levenson, and Rita Cosby
8. Yosef Cohen, Kari Cohen, and Jody Tzirlin
9. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Dr. Bob Shillman, and Judge Jeanine Pirro
10. Judge Jeanine Pirro at the podium, with (L to R) Mark Levenson, Rita Cosby, Morton Klein, and Dr. Bob Shillman
11. Gov. Ron DeSantis addressing ZOA Gala attendees
12. View of the ZOA Gala ballroom



12

ZOA PEOPLE

Profile: Brian Grodman

Given his fierce dedication to the safety and security of Israel and the Jewish people, Brian Grodman's involvement in the ZOA is a natural fit.

A ZOA national board member since 2019, Brian grew up in Newton, Massachusetts, a Boston suburb, with his parents and brother. With Jewish artwork adorning the walls, "you knew it was a Jewish home when you walked in" to the Grodman house, Brian remembered.

The Grodmans attended a conservative synagogue, and celebrated Shabbat and the Jewish holidays. Brian began fasting on Yom Kippur at age 12. "I wanted to get a jump on the other kids in my bar mitzvah class," he explained.

In fact, when Brian had children of his own, they displayed what he describes as "a very unusual competitive streak" when it came to their Yom Kippur observance. His oldest child, Adam, began fasting on the holy day at age 11 "to beat me," Brian said – only to be surpassed by his middle child, Jesse, who began fasting at age 10. Talia, the youngest, began fasting on Yom Kippur at age nine to outdo her brothers.

Israel was "always of paramount importance" to the Grodman family. Brian's maternal uncle and his children made Aliyah in 1976. Though he was only a child at the time, Brian vividly remembers his parents' deep concern about Israel's safety during the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War.

After his bar mitzvah in 1972, Brian recalls his rabbi's strong and unequivocal pro-Israel sermons, particularly during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. He compared those speeches to what he sees as many rabbis' lukewarm support for the Jewish state today. "The dichotomy is striking for me," Brian said, "and is one of the reasons why I became so active in the ZOA. The Zionism that was prevalent in the 1960's and '70's is virtually absent in today's non-Orthodox American Jewish community."

Brian obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and then went on to get his MBA degree from Babson College. He spent his young adulthood focused on raising his three children, building his business and servicing his clients. Brian entered the financial planning field in 1985 and founded Grodman Financial Group, located in Manchester, New Hampshire, in 1990.

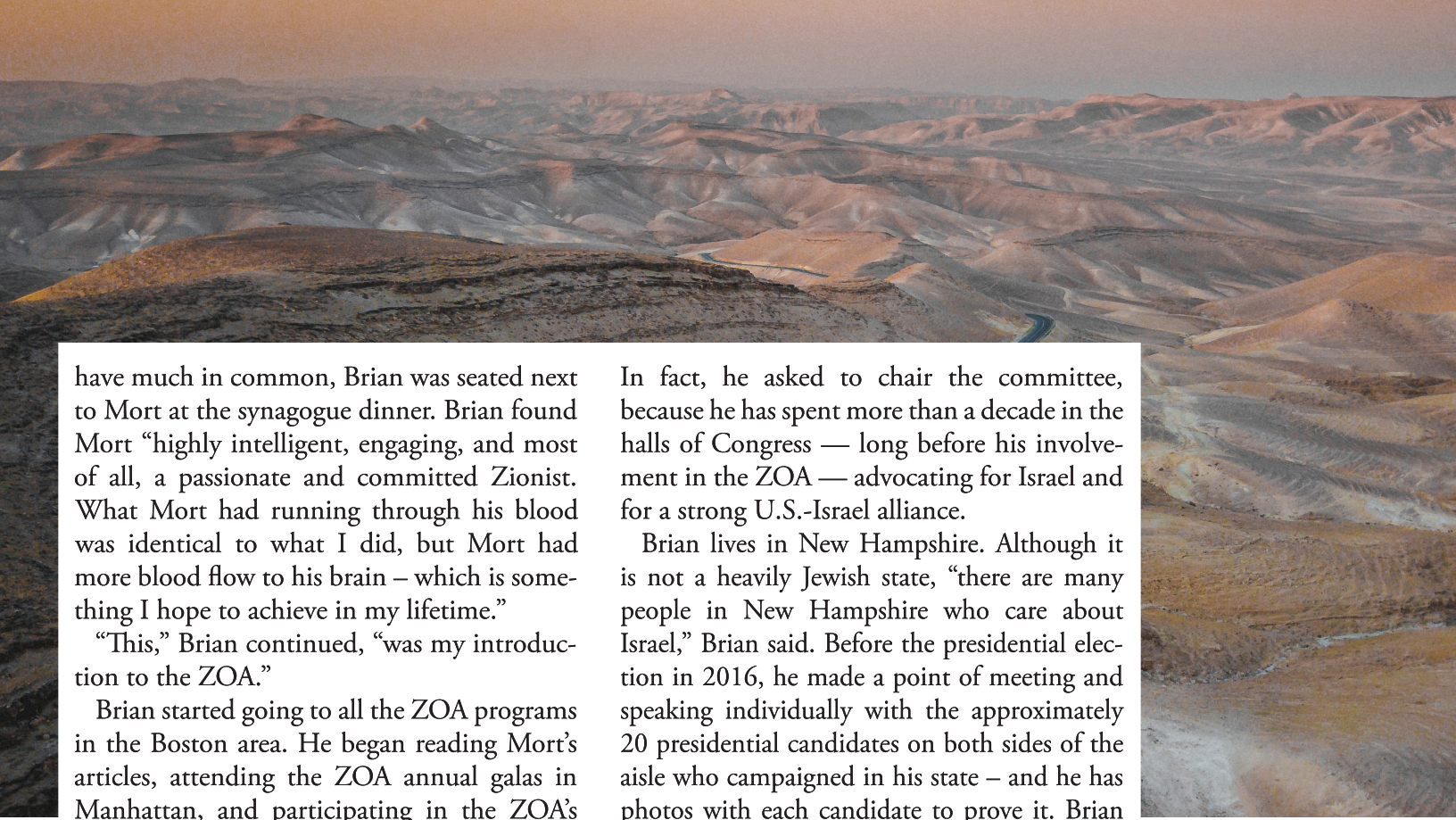
The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 reignited Brian's Zionist spirit. He began reading books and articles about terrorism, Al Qaeda, and terrorist threats inside and outside the U.S. He also talked to experts on international terrorism. Brian came to realize that the terrorist attacks on 9/11 were not a one-time occurrence. "The battle against terrorism and terrorist threats was going to take generations," he said.

"I decided I needed to do what I could to assist the U.S. and Israel, and to save and maintain Western civilization and democracy," Brian explained. He got involved in numerous groups committed to those goals. The ZOA was not one of them. Brian did not know anything about the ZOA at the time.

That changed in April 2017, when Brian attended a Boston-area synagogue where ZOA National President Morton Klein was the featured speaker. Brian did not know Mort or about his record of fighting for Israel and the Jewish people.

Either by happenstance or because the synagogue's rabbi knew that Brian and Mort would





have much in common, Brian was seated next to Mort at the synagogue dinner. Brian found Mort “highly intelligent, engaging, and most of all, a passionate and committed Zionist. What Mort had running through his blood was identical to what I did, but Mort had more blood flow to his brain – which is something I hope to achieve in my lifetime.”

“This,” Brian continued, “was my introduction to the ZOA.”

Brian started going to all the ZOA programs in the Boston area. He began reading Mort’s articles, attending the ZOA annual galas in Manhattan, and participating in the ZOA’s annual Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Advocacy Missions to Washington, D.C. In addition, he has already taken part in two ZOA leadership missions to Israel.

Brian frequently visits Israel, going at least once every year to support the Jewish state and visit his family, including his son Jesse who made Aliyah and became an Israeli citizen in 2019. In Brian’s view, the ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel is “more honest, educational, and in-depth regarding Israel’s security issues” than any other Israel mission he has experienced.

On his flight home to the U.S. after the last ZOA leadership mission, the plane’s passengers included individuals returning from an Israel trip sponsored by another Jewish organization. Brian asked them if they went to Judea and Samaria – as ZOA mission participants routinely do, since this is holy Jewish land where Jews have lived and prayed for thousands of years. In response to Brian’s question, “they looked incredulous and said, ‘No, of course not’ – as if there was a logical reason not to travel to Judea and Samaria,” Brian said.

In addition to joining the ZOA’s national board of directors, Brian is the chairperson of the ZOA’s Government Relations Committee.

In fact, he asked to chair the committee, because he has spent more than a decade in the halls of Congress — long before his involvement in the ZOA — advocating for Israel and for a strong U.S.-Israel alliance.

Brian lives in New Hampshire. Although it is not a heavily Jewish state, “there are many people in New Hampshire who care about Israel,” Brian said. Before the presidential election in 2016, he made a point of meeting and speaking individually with the approximately 20 presidential candidates on both sides of the aisle who campaigned in his state – and he has photos with each candidate to prove it. Brian had a purpose: to ask them about their views on Israel, its security, and the security of the U.S.

Explaining his commitment to the ZOA, Brian said, “It’s tachlis,” using the Yiddish term for getting to the unvarnished truth and to the heart of the matter. “The ZOA talks about Israel in a tachlis way,” he continued. “It’s not about being politically correct. ZOA is about pure truth, without apology, even if the truth hurts.” In Brian’s view, “the ZOA has been the standard-bearer of all the major Jewish organizations in its support for the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, our ancestral homeland.”

Brian also praised the ZOA’s effective programs and support for college students. “College campuses across the country have been radicalized by behavior that is anti-Israel and antisemitic. The hostility is coming from students, professors, and administrators across the country. That’s why the legal protections that Jewish students now have under Title VI [of the Civil Rights Act] are so important. And we finally have an administration that will back Jewish students the way other minority students are protected.”

Brian was disappointed by the Obama administration’s treatment of Israel — a

*"It's not
about being
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ZOA is
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without
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if the truth
hurts."
- Brian
Grodman*



Brian Grodman (third from right) on the 2020 ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel

stalwart U.S. ally — especially compared to how that administration treated the “pariah,” Iran. “Everything was upside down in the Obama administration with regard to ethics and Western values,” Brian said. “The entire country had become a haven for anti-Israel sentiment and actions.”

In Brian’s judgment, President Donald Trump has “by far been the greatest friend to Israel among all those who’ve occupied the oval office, including Harry Truman and Ronald Reagan.” He recounted the many decisions Trump has made in support of the Jewish state: moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, recognizing Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights, ending U.S. funding of UNRWA, closing the Palestine Liberation Office in Washington, D.C., and repudiating the lie that the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria are illegal. “No one has stood up for the Jewish people, Israel, and Western values as much as President Trump and his administration,” Brian declared.

The ZOA is achieving the same objectives, in Brian’s view. “American Jewry is under threat from the left and the right. It’s important that the threat be understood and dealt with effectively. The ZOA does that better than any other organization.

“The ZOA is focused on the security of the Jewish state of Israel and the security of

American Jewry,” Brian continued. “I believe that both are of paramount importance. It’s wonderful that Israel is strong and independent, but it is much better off with an anchor in the U.S., in the United Nations, and in the world at large.”

Brian cannot say enough about Morton Klein’s exemplary leadership of the ZOA. “Mort has the vitality of someone a full generation younger, the compassion of someone in his age group, and the wisdom of someone older than he is. He is the whole package; there is so much people can learn from him.

“Mort’s knowledge base is second to none,” Brian continued. “He can recite chapter and verse the chronology and decision of every peace initiative since the founding of the modern state of Israel, and every person involved. Mort is such a lion – in Congress, in Israel, on campuses, and in the American Jewish community. He doesn’t color the truth. And he doesn’t back down from his ideals or his Zionism.”

For all these reasons, Brian finds “supporting the ZOA incredibly fruitful and gratifying.”

We at the ZOA are so grateful for Brian’s support and for his tremendous enthusiasm and commitment to our work. We look forward to his continued involvement in the ZOA’s advocacy for a safe and strong Israel and for the rights of the Jewish people. 🇺🇸

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



Dan Pollak
Director, Government
Relations

Elections are now the preoccupation all politicians in Washington D.C., but this election season follows the House impeachment and Senate acquittal of President Trump. We do not expect major legislative activity in the few months between now and the 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, but the challenge of preventing congressional support for the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state is more urgent than ever. The 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.

President Trump’s Peace Plan: Challenges and Opportunities for ZOA

The big change in the environment in Washington for the ZOA comes from the “Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People,” commonly known as the Trump peace plan. The ZOA produced a nuanced and thoughtful reaction to the plan when it was first released, specifying 30 positive points in the vision.

There are some negatives, of course, as well. Without a doubt, the biggest issue is the effect of the plan on the ZOA’s campaign to change the terms of debate away from establishing a Palestinian Arab state, which, under any foreseeable conditions, will be a terrorist-supporting state and destabilizing for Israel and U.S. interests in the region. To be fair, the administration has done everything it can to reassure Israel that the terminal phase of its “Vision” will not be a threat to Israel. The ZOA has taken no position on the concessions the plan would require of Israel, since issues such as releasing terrorists from prison who have murdered Israelis are naturally left up to Israel’s democratically elected leaders.

Looking at the likely outcomes, though, it is inconceivable that the Palestinian Arab leadership will even consider the helpful steps the plan envisions for them to be accepted as a valid partner. Mahmoud Abbas is in the 16th year of his four-year term as president of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Civil rights violations for Arabs living under the PA are routine, and Jews are not allowed to live under the PA at all. The Palestinians continue their obscene “pay to slay” policy of subsidizing terror against Israelis and Jews. No secession plan is in place in the PA, and none of the people sometimes named as possible successors to Abbas is a reformer in the way the U.S. plan envisions.

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.



President Trump's peace plan inadvertently provides cover for the one outcome that nearly everyone knows will not happen, which is the establishment of a new Palestinian Arab state besides Israel.

There are two major outcomes of the plan that are clear already and have provided challenges and opportunities. First, most other Arab states, especially Egypt, the Gulf States (except Kuwait), Morocco, and Sudan have reacted positively, and are in the process of improving ties with Israel. The driver for this change is, of course, Iran, and to an extent, Turkish expansionism, but the plan seems to provide cover for these Arab states to deprioritize the Palestinian-Arab conflict with Israel. Second, the plan inadvertently provides cover for the one outcome that nearly everyone knows will not happen, which is the establishment of a new Palestinian Arab state beside Israel. For the ZOA, this cover is a great challenge, particularly in our work with members of Congress.

Since President Trump's election, a new paradigm has emerged regarding the ultimate resolution of the Arab war against the Jewish people. Until the release of this plan, the administration said that any resolution

agreed to by the two sides could be endorsed by the U.S. The ZOA was making real progress in opening the options for final resolution, including options that did not establish a Palestinian Arab terror state. For example, we successfully got Republican Senators to excise references to establishing an Arab state from otherwise laudable legislation. That task will become much more difficult in light of the new plan's general acceptance amongst members of Congress.

Members of Congress naturally love to tell their constituents that they have a solution to every problem brought to their attention. The truth is that workable solutions to bring peace between Israel and her neighbors are messy and rely on continued imperfect balances of interests and security needs. The utopian aspects of the plan enable senators and representatives to avoid the necessity for advocating messiness, and that is a huge temptation, particularly for members who are not well versed in the details of the problems of the region.

Antisemitism, BDS, and Iran

The Government Relations Department continues to focus on the ZOA's other legislative priorities, including fighting antisemitism and advocating for Jewish students who are being attacked on college campuses. We have been pushing for legislation in the House and Senate to make President Trump's executive order on combating antisemitism permanent law. In addition, we successfully supported the Never Again Holocaust Education Act, which was passed by a huge bipartisan majority in the House in January 2020 and is gaining support, with our help, in the Senate. We also are actively working for a House resolution encouraging schools to teach about the Holocaust and the historical importance of the Jewish State of Israel.



ZOA Government Relations Director Dan Pollak at the White House

The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) effort against Israel is intrinsically a scheme to destroy the Jewish state by alternative means. Much of the legislative activity against BDS is at the state level, where individual states have passed laws making it impossible for a business to contract with the state if they are boycotting Israel. At the federal level, the current battle is passing technical legislation to ensure that federal laws do not conflict with these state efforts. The Senate passed a bill (S.1) that included these provisions in 2019, but the House has not yet passed the companion legislation. Our opponents are falsely raising First Amendment objections to passing a House version of S.1, which is, in fact, constitutional.

Instead, the House passed a non-binding resolution in July 2019 that disapproved of BDS, and added an ill-conceived endorsement of the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state.

House Democrats pushed through another non-binding two-state resolution later in December 2019 on a mostly party-line vote, despite strong ZOA opposition.


Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reversed 40 years of U.S. policy by recognizing the legitimacy of Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria, an overdue move that the ZOA strongly supported. ZOA Government Relations helped organize a letter signed by 28 House Members, spearheaded by Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX), thanking Secretary Pompeo for his revised Israeli community policy. In another complication for those who imagine bipartisan support for Israel has not changed, over 100 Democratic House Members sent their own letter to Secretary Pompeo, objecting to the move.

Iran continues working to produce nuclear weapons, and the ZOA continues to push for congressional actions to make this more difficult. Secretary of State Pompeo and President Trump are doing great work on this challenging issue, but additional sanctions passed by Congress are needed to maintain maximum pressure on Tehran. The ZOA is doing all we can to keep the focus on Iran and its malicious activities around the world. Nothing that happens in Lebanon, Syria, or Gaza is really independent of the very evil plans of the Iranian regime, which has also spread its malign activities to Africa and South America.

The pandemic has presented some special challenges to the ZOA's work in D.C., since many lawmakers are not even present to be met with in person. The Government Relations Department has been adjusting to the new reality with remote meetings and webinars. Our Congressional series have included direct presentations from Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), for example, and Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), who is a longtime friend of the ZOA.

In addition to dealing with our elected officials and communicating the ZOA's insights and reactions to the news of the day, ZOA's Government Relations Department interacts with other Jewish and Christian pro-Israel organizations. We also work closely with our ZOA regional directors. We participate in meetings, public forums and policy discussions with foreign policy and political professionals, and continue to engage in print and broadcast media opportunities to spread the word on the ZOA's issues. ZOA's Government Relations Department director has also visited ZOA chapters to give talks and educate our members on the situation in Washington. 🇺🇸

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



ZOA wishes you a
Happy New Year.

May you and your
family be inscribed in
the book of life.

Founded 1897



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

CENTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE



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

ZOA's Complaint Triggers UNC and Duke Agreements to Address Campus Antisemitism

The ZOA recently achieved two more landmark legal victories in the fight against campus antisemitism. Triggered by the ZOA's complaint to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) and Duke University each agreed to take several crucial steps to address antisemitic harassment on their respective campuses, under OCR's supervision.

A three-day conference about Gaza in March 2019, co-sponsored by UNC and Duke, prompted the ZOA's complaint. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education under Title VI of the Higher Education Act, the conference was one-sided and anti-Israel. As North Carolina Hillel described it, the "conference featured speakers who demonized Israel for the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and included too few perspectives from scholars who could have provided balanced context and multiple viewpoints on this challenging subject."

The conference included a musical performance by a rapper named Tamer Nafar,

which was offensive and antisemitic. Nafar announced, "This is my antisemitic song" and encouraged the audience to sing along. "Think of Mel Gibson," Nafar advised, referring to the actor whose drunken antisemitic rant made headlines in 2006. "Go that antisemitic," he urged. "I cannot be antisemitic alone."

In a video that went viral, the audience — which presumably included university staff, students, faculty and "scholars" — can horrifyingly be heard singing along to the refrain, "Oh! I'm in love with a Jew," and laughing. Days after the conference, antisemitic flyers were discovered on the UNC campus, which referred to "an evil Jewish plot."

In its April 2019 complaint, the ZOA alleged that UNC and Duke legitimized an anti-Israel and antisemitic conference, and used taxpayer funds to do it. The Department of Education determined that the UNC-Duke Middle East consortium misused the federal funding it received under Title VI of the Higher Education Act. As a condition of receiving future Title VI funding, the consortium must submit a schedule of its proposed activities for next year.



University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

These results send a crucial message to colleges and universities across the U.S. They will face serious legal consequences under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act if they fail to provide Jewish students with a learning environment that is physically and emotionally safe.

In addition, OCR opened an investigation to determine whether the conference created a hostile antisemitic environment that the universities failed to address, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Before the investigation was completed, UNC and Duke expressed interest in resolving the case. They each signed a Resolution Agreement with OCR – UNC on October 14, and Duke on December 3, 2019.

Under their respective agreements, both universities must:

1. Issue a statement to all students, faculty and staff that antisemitic harassment will not be tolerated and that all antisemitic incidents should be reported;
2. Ensure that their policies specifically address antisemitic harassment;
3. Include a component on antisemitic harassment in their training and orientation for students, faculty and staff; and
4. Host at least one meeting per year for the next few academic years to provide students, faculty and staff with the opportunity to discuss with administrators any

concerns about incidents of antisemitic and other forms of harassment. The universities must take appropriate steps to address those incidents.

OCR will be monitoring both universities to make sure that they fulfill the terms of their respective agreements.

These results send a crucial message to UNC, Duke, and colleges and universities across the U.S. Schools that receive federal funds under Title VI of the Higher Education Act cannot use those funds to indoctrinate their students with one-sided programs against Israel; consistent with the law, their activities must reflect diverse perspectives and a wide range of views. In addition, federally-funded colleges and universities will face serious legal consequences under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act – including the possible loss of federal funding – if they fail to provide Jewish students with a learning environment that is physically and emotionally safe.

Jewish students should now know that if they are subjected to a hostile antisemitic campus environment and their schools fail to address the problem, OCR will vigorously enforce U.S. civil rights law to protect them.



President Trump signs Executive Order on Combating Anti-Semitism, Dec. 11, 2019

The President's Executive Order Demonstrates a Commitment to Fight Antisemitism

On December 11, 2019, just days after Duke signed a Resolution Agreement, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order on Combating Anti-Semitism. The executive order reflects the U.S. government's commitment to fight this ugly hatred in the U.S. and around the world, especially on our college campuses.

The order requires the enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jews from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. (OCR was already interpreting Title VI to protect Jewish students, after a six-year battle led by the ZOA.)

The executive order also requires federal agencies to consider the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism when they enforce Title VI. The definition appropriately identifies contemporary examples of antisemitism, including when targeting Israel may be a manifestation of the problem.

The U.S. State Department was already using the IHRA definition, as do many coun-

tries around the world. OCR was also already using the definition, an achievement triggered by the ZOA's Title VI action against Rutgers University. The definition gives federal agencies much-needed guidance on the many ways that antisemitism is expressed today, so that they can more effectively address the problem.

Despite what critics say, the executive order does not define Jewish identity or treat Jews as a separate race or nationality. It simply recognizes – as previous administrations have done – that Jews share not only a religion but also an ancestry and ethnic characteristics, and that Jews therefore cannot be deprived of Title VI protection from discrimination based on their ancestry or ethnicity simply because they share a religious faith.

Critics' claims that the order will infringe on the right to free speech are also unwarranted. Title VI has always been enforced consistent with the First Amendment and it will continue to be. In fact, the executive order specifically commands that "agencies shall not diminish or infringe upon any right protected under Federal law or under the First Amendment."

The order requires the enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jews from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

ZOA Establishes Hotline to Help Journalists Facing Antisemitism or Anti-Israel Bias

Prompted by the July 2020 resignation of Bari Weiss from her position as a writer and editor at *The New York Times*, the ZOA established a hotline for journalists who, like Weiss, are facing bullying, harassment and even threats for calling out antisemitism, standing up for Jewish rights, and telling the truth about Israel.

A self-described “centrist,” Weiss did not hesitate in her writing to call out antisemitism on the right and the left. She stood up for Israel. Even as a college student at Columbia University, Weiss challenged anti-Israel professors who tried to intimidate and silence students who knew the truth about Israel and questioned their professors’ false and hateful narratives.

Weiss paid a price for expressing those views. In her resignation letter, she revealed the “constant bullying” she endured from her colleagues at the *Times*. They called her “a Nazi and a racist,” a “liar” and a “bigot.” They criticized her for “writing about the Jews again.” Some colleagues tried to marginalize Weiss, “badgering” coworkers simply for being friendly to her. Instead of using Slack, an online platform, as intended – as a vehicle for business colleagues to collaborate – Weiss’ coworkers used it to post ax emojis next to her name.

Weiss is surely not the only journalist who has paid this painful price. That’s why the ZOA – which already has a long and effective record of fighting antisemitism and advocating for Jewish rights and for a safe and secure Israel – is standing up for journalists and their right to express their views – and the public’s right to hear them.

The announcement and media coverage of the ZOA’s new hotline has already triggered calls for assistance. Journalists who need help and support should contact the ZOA’s hotline at (212)

The ZOA is standing up for journalists and their right to express their views – and the public’s right to hear them.



Elaine Hirsch, director of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Phoenix’s annual Passages series; Meir Jolovitz, a past national executive director of ZOA; and Susan Tuchman

Ongoing Educational and Advocacy Efforts

The ZOA continues to educate the community about campus antisemitism and effective tools and strategies for fighting this problem. Susan Tuchman, director of the ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, spoke to members of the community at the following venues:

A parlor meeting hosted by Judy and Dr. Stuart Hershon in Oyster Bay, NY (Sept. 2019);

A parlor meeting hosted by Karen Bar-Or and the Israeli-American Council in Newton, MA (Nov. 2019);

The Chai Center in Dix Hills, NY (Jan. 2020); and

The 2020 Annual Passages Series of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Phoenix (Arizona) (Feb. 2020).

We thank all of our generous hosts.

In addition, when the ZOA switched to virtual programming with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Susan Tuchman was featured in a ZOA webinar entitled “Legal Achievements in the Fight Against Campus Antisemitism and More,” moderated by the ZOA’s Alan Jay. 🇺🇸

ANTISEMITISM HOTLINE



FOR

The New York Times

STAFF AND OTHER
JOURNALISTS

A SERVICE OFFERED BY THE

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ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

IF YOU SUFFER FROM ANTISEMITISM, "BULLYING," "UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION,"
A "HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT" OR ARE CALLED A "NAZI" FOR BEING PRO-
ISRAEL (LIKE FORMER NY TIMES EDITOR BARI WEISS), THE ZOA WILL DEFEND YOU.

CALL **(212) 481-1500** OR EMAIL **info@ZOA.org**

ZOA LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL 2020

A Participant's Perspective: Kayla Friedman

In February 2020, ZOA held its annual leadership mission to Israel with 30 participants, led by ZOA National President Morton Klein and his wife Rita. Three of my family members joined me on the mission – my 88-year-old mother and my two brothers. Going to Eretz Yisrael is always a privilege, but to share this unique adventure with my family made it a memory of a lifetime.

On these ZOA missions, we always get a “behind the scenes,” in-depth look at Israel that the average tourist will never see. This mission was particularly memorable, not only because of the places we visited, but also because of the people we met.

The itinerary of this trip focused on the security challenges that Israel faces, but I would describe the theme of the trip as “Meet the 21st Century Chalutzim of Israel.” We met modern-day pioneers who exuded such joy, passion, and purpose, confident that they are helping to secure the future of our beloved land.

I would like to share a few of them with you!

None of us can forget that in 2014, Hamas terrorists kidnapped and murdered three Israeli teenage boys. Rachelle Sprecher Fraenkel is the mother of one of them, Naftali. She spoke to us after showing us a video of the events as they unfolded. We witnessed a country that, unified by tragedy, searched for these boys for 18 days. Over 100,000 people attended their funerals. Rachelle has the brightest soul, turning this nightmare into a mission and reminding us that “God is not our employee.” I encourage you to watch Rachelle’s message on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTsWqqHfzeg>) to experience her hope and optimism for all the people of Israel.

How appropriate that another powerhouse of a woman followed this very emotional session with Rachelle. When we met Fleur Hassan-Nahoum, Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, she beamed with pride that she is in the epicenter of the complexities facing Israel.



Kayla Friedman (second from right) with family and ZOA National President Morton A. Klein



Rachelle Sprecher Fraenkel



Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Fleur Hassan-Nahoum

This mission was particularly memorable, not only because of the places we visited, but also because of the people we met.

She is fiercely proud that other countries are opening embassies in Jerusalem and frustrated that 80% of Jerusalem's Arabs live below the poverty line. She points to the Palestinian Authority (PA) school curriculum as the culprit for many of these problems. The PA textbooks are filled with incitement towards Jews, Hebrew is not taught and the existence of the State of Israel is denied. Fleur remains optimistic as plans for train lines are underway and more housing is being built.

One of the first new embassies in Jerusalem is for the country of Guatemala. We were hosted by Guatemalan Ambassador to Israel Mario Bucaro, a self-proclaimed Christian Zionist, who believes unequivocally that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of Israel. The ambassador is so proud to serve in this post and was the epitome of a gracious host, first describing the relationship between the two countries and then answering questions. He explained that after all, it was Israeli technology that allowed Guatemala to become the

third largest exporter of bananas in the world!

Driving south towards the border with Egypt, we met with IDF General Bentzi Gruber. He shared a PowerPoint presentation showing us that his soldiers have six seconds to decide how to respond to a potential threat. Six seconds to make a decision that will end or save a soldier's life and the lives of others around him.

Rabbi Dovid Fendel, the Rosh of Sderot Hesder Yeshiva, took the time to speak with us, only one day after his community was shut down by a barrage of rockets. The community had set up a phone-a-thon in a large hall where the enthusiasm and electricity in the air was one of joy and excitement, not fear or trauma. Could this be the same place where, just the day before, a rocket hit a playground ten yards from the kitchen? Even living with the reality of having 15 seconds to find shelter after a siren wails, this Rabbi and his students know that living in Sderot is a critical contribution to the security of the land.



Guatemala's Ambassador to Israel Mario Bucaro



IDF General Bentzi Gruber



ZOA Leadership Mission participants in Hebron



Tour of the Jordan Valley with Mitzpeh Yericho Mayor Aliza Pilichowski



Tour of Hebron with Yifat Alcoby

Have any of you been to Hebron? Not exactly the hot spot for a luxurious home or lifestyle, yet our guide, Yifat Alcoby, absolutely radiated and exuded pure joy about what a privilege it is to live in Hebron. They are starting to build apartments for Jewish families right next to Arab neighborhoods designated as Area A. These families are committed to settling and developing Jewish homes while living in a dangerous area.

I have never had the opportunity to get up close to the Mount of Olives. Josh Wander, Executive Director of the Ma'ale Hazeitim Community Center, invited us for lunch at his home. Josh has the surreal view of the Dome of the Rock from his backyard. This beautiful Jewish community is completely surrounded by Arabs on all sides. Josh's sense of purpose, with a holstered gun on his waist, is evident as these Jewish neighborhoods strengthen Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem.

Heading south, we visited Mitzpeh Yericho, where the mayor, Aliza Pilichowski, proudly showed us her thriving community, which overlooks the strategic Jordan Valley. Geographically, this is a harsh climate where six months out of the year, the temperature can exceed 100 degrees. Let's not forget the unfriendly neighbors too, and yet the mayor and the others we met there expressed an enthusiastic sense of privilege in living there.

There were so many more lives we were honored to touch, which span the geography and complexities of our beautiful homeland. I encourage each of you to go to Israel, return there often, and join the ZOA on its next mission!

B'shalom,
Kayla Friedman 🇺🇸

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We need your support.
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obtain financial benefits for yourself.

Establish a ZOA CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY.

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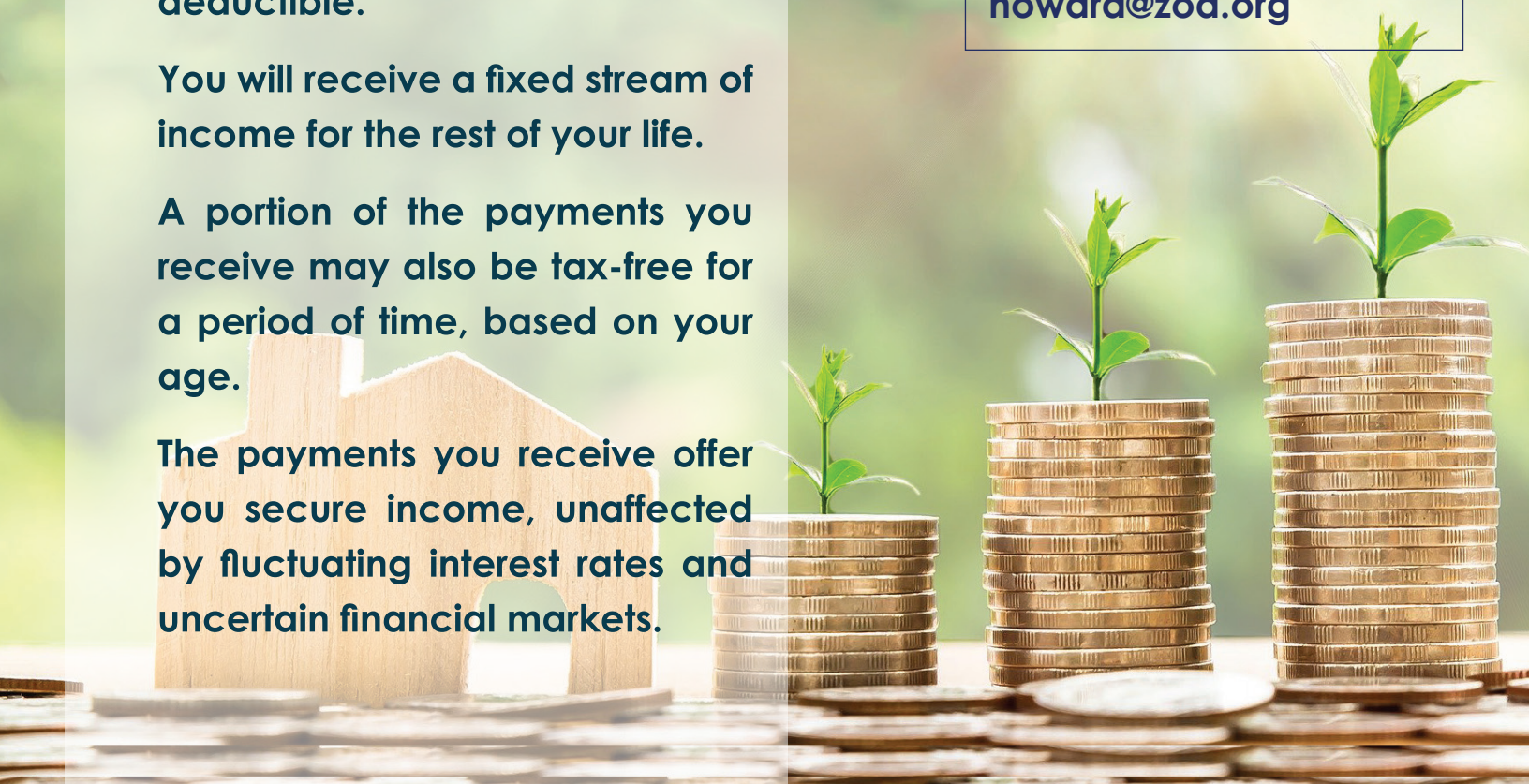
The payments you receive offer
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The ZOA has a long and
effective record of fighting
antisemitism and Israel-bashing.

Like no other organization, we
stand up strongly for the rights of
the Jewish people and for a safe
and secure Israel – on Capitol Hill,
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For more information,
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directly, or have your
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howard@zoa.org



ZOA CAMPUS



**Jonathan
Ginsburg**
Managing Director,
ZOA Campus

ZOA Campus continues to chart its path as the leading Zionist voice on college campuses in the United States. Through effective and empowering pro-Israel programs, ZOA Campus Coordinators furthered their outreach efforts and expanded the ZOA presence on campus by hosting over 170 events at over 70 colleges and universities in the U.S.

New England

Our momentum continues in New England under the guidance of ZOA Campus Managing Director Jonathan Ginsburg. As ZOA Campus's representative in the region, Jonathan has facilitated a range of impactful programs on numerous campuses, engaging a wide audience of college students from various backgrounds.

ZOA Campus events have centered on empowering Jewish students and giving them tools to effectively combat antisemitism and anti-Israel bias. An additional focus has been on educating students on core issues, such as the necessity of an undivided Jerusalem, legal rights in Judea and Samaria, and Israel's ongoing defensive measures aimed at protecting its citizens and combating terrorism from its regional neighbors.

For example, ZOA Campus proudly hosted Holocaust survivor and motivational speaker Sami Steigmann at Northeastern University, to an audience of over 150 students. We also co-sponsored programs featuring Palestinian-Arab dissident Bassem Eid at Harvard Law School, and Rabbi and Beit-El based community leader Yehuda HaKohen at Brandeis University.

In addition, ZOA Campus proudly partnered with campus leaders and professional colleagues at the University of Massachu-

setts Amherst, the University of Connecticut, Boston College, and many other regional institutions to co-sponsor beneficial programming. The relationships we have built with pro-Israel allies contribute greatly to our overall success. Lasting highlights include a host of educational tabling events, which emphasized Jewish culture and the indigenous roots of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel.

Tri-State

Under the leadership of Marlene Artov, our Tri-State Campus Coordinator, ZOA Campus facilitated a variety of programs that built and empowered Jewish and pro-Israel communities on college campuses across the region. As a former student leader and recent graduate of New York University Marlene utilized her own experiences to build strong relationships and connections with 29 different campus groups and organizations in the Tri-State Area, to advance the ZOA's mission. Working with students from different backgrounds, we held educational programs, brought speakers to campus, hosted tabling events, led Krav Maga seminars, sponsored documentary screenings, and much more!

At Cornell University, the ZOA was proud to host activist Rudy Rochman, who led a session on effective advocacy for Israel on campus. Rudy prepared pro-Israel student leaders to take control and change the tone of



Sami Steigmann at Northeastern University

the conversation on campus.

ZOA was also excited to be a part of Columbia University's Hebrew Liberation Week. Additionally, ZOA Campus students turned out in large numbers at the annual ZOA Gala in New York City in November 2019.

Based on Marlene's effective work, ZOA Campus solidified its presence on 24 different campuses across the region. Our Campus Fellows brought strong Zionist programming to Columbia University, Stony Brook University, Baruch College, and many others.

Additionally, 13 student leaders from the region joined ZOA Campus on the Winter 2019-20 ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel. They developed their leadership skills and gained useful knowledge that they brought back to their respective campuses.

Mid-Atlantic

Under the leadership of Associate Director and Mid-Atlantic Coordinator Or Taylor, we worked with students in the Mid-Atlantic region to bring in expert speakers, educational initiatives, and celebrations of Israeli heritage to their campuses. ZOA Campus also provided training and resources for students facing classroom bias and discrimination on campus.

ZOA Campus Fellows were instrumental in

bringing successful and educational programming to the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, and Liberty University. ZOA Campus is also proud of the many speakers who have joined our Speakers Bureau, to promote the truth about Israel and engage new audiences on campus.

Midwest

A primary program this past academic year was the innovative ZOA "Goes to Campus" campaign, which focused on bringing attention to continuous terror threats that residents of Sderot are enduring. College students wrote letters of support to the children in Sderot in a heartwarming show of solidarity. In addition, we held multiple events to showcase Israeli coexistence efforts and environmental sustainability through SodaStream.

Sami Steigmann spoke at DePaul University, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. ZOA Campus also partnered with student allies at Benedictine University, where anti-Israel sentiment reached a fever pitch. After Zionist students were denied the opportunity to start a pro-Israel student club, we worked directly with student leaders to address this issue. We were proud that our ZOA Fellow at Benedictine helped lead the drive to obtain official recognition for a pro-Israel group on campus.

We are proud of our effective work with our ZOA Fellow at UC Davis who led the successful effort to defeat an anti-Israel BDS resolution.

Southeast and West Coast

ZOA Campus sponsored Holocaust survivor Sami Steigmann on many key campuses in Florida, including the University of Florida, the University of Central Florida, and the University of South Florida. We also hosted staunch Israel and LGBTQ activist Shai Deluca at several Florida schools. Shai inspired students to build their connection with the ZOA and pro-Israel activism. These programs were coordinated with our close partner organizations on campus and took place at Tulane University and the University of Arizona.



Sami Steigmann with students at Florida International University (top) and the University of South Florida



ZOA Campus expanded its reach to create partnerships with schools in the greater South and Southwest. Our relationships with professionals and students at schools such as the University of California at Davis, Texas A&M University, the University of Texas at Austin, and Arizona State University have blossomed.

We are proud of our effective work with our Fellow at UC Davis. She led the successful effort to defeat an anti-Israel BDS resolution.

Winter 2019-20 Student Leadership Mission to Israel

Our most recent ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel took place from December 22, 2019 through January 5, 2020. It was filled with countless highlights and lasting memories. Trip participants hailed from colleges and universities across the country, including New York University, the University of California at Berkeley, Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania, Brandeis University, Northeastern University, and many more.

These student leaders represented the brightest voices of Zionist activism and demonstrated their passion for Israel over the course of the two-week mission while learning at every turn. The educational experiences focused on giving these students a firsthand understanding of Israel's security challenges, as well as the history and indelible roots of the Jewish people in the land. The mission also explored the make-up of contemporary Israeli society and its current realities via dynamic visits to Israel's multicultural hubs in Haifa and Jerusalem and through presentations from community leaders and journalists.

The students were passionately engaged at every stop and immersed themselves in the experience, as they can only do on the one-of-a-kind ZOA mission. The group went to immensely important places such as the Haganah Museum in Tel Aviv, IDC Herzliya, Ariel, and through the hills of Samaria, Kibbutz Misgav Am in the Golan Heights, Hebron, Gush Etzion, and all throughout eastern and western Jerusalem and beyond.

Expert speakers such as Lt. Col. (Res.) Eyal Dror, journalist Khaled Abu Toameh, Col. (Res.) Bentzi Gruber, and Palestinian Media Watch's Itamar Marcus delivered informative lectures, giving students more insight into Israel's humanitarian efforts and into what



Students on the ZOA's Leadership Mission

drives the conflict. Students also heard from former MKs Yehuda Glick and Dov Lipman, who shared their experiences and spoke about important causes such as the Temple Mount and integrating American olim into Israeli society. In addition, they provided insight into the Knesset and Israel's dynamic political system.

One of the most profound experiences on the trip took place on Shabbat, when students spent time with host families in the community of Nokdim, within Gush Etzion in the Judean Hills. Students connected with their Israeli host families and experienced the hospitality and warmth of the community, at the same time learning about daily life in Judea and Samaria and the importance of maintaining a strong and robust Jewish presence there.

Perhaps the greatest impact on our students was their experience visiting schoolchildren in Sderot. We brought toys and spent the morning working with children and faculty, to bring smiles to their faces and demonstrate our solidarity with all of southern Israel, particularly the embattled community of Sderot.

We continue to be so grateful to the MZ Foundation for its generous support, helping us to educate students and build their strong connections to the Jewish homeland.



ZOA's 2019-20 Student Leadership Mission to Israel

COVID-19 Transition

ZOA Campus has adapted to the changing landscape and new challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic by hosting a series of new virtual initiatives and revamping its flagship fellowship program. The ZOA Campus Fellowship has been retooled to offer a hybrid of virtual and limited in-person programming options to meet the needs of students in the current learning environment. These programs aim to engage and further educate students on the most pressing subjects related to Israel and the wider discourse that is encountered on college campuses.

Before the shutdown, there were nonetheless many highlights to kick off 2020. ZOA Campus Coordinators worked tirelessly to promote the ZOA slate for the World Zionist Congress campaign and succeeded in reaching hundreds of students to gain crucial votes. This was particularly evident during the months of January and February 2020, when ZOA Campus staff mobilized a successful “Get Out the Vote” campaign while speaking about the

core issues of the ZOA platform. In the last major event before the nationwide shutdown, ZOA Campus, in tandem with One Night D.C., hosted the largest reception for students and young professionals during the 2020 AIPAC Policy Conference weekend.

Despite the new transition and shift to remote learning in the spring, ZOA Campus got off to a great start. ZOA Campus worked with their colleagues at other pro-Israel organizations, to partner on collaborative online events. We partnered with the Israeli Consulate in New York to co-sponsor Ambassador Dani Dayan’s student-oriented webinar on Israeli and Palestinian-Arab partnerships during COVID-19. ZOA Campus also proudly partnered with Masa Israel Journey to commemorate Yom HaZikaron through a massive live streamed event across various online platforms. Additionally, ZOA Campus spearheaded the Dam HaMaccabim Yom HaZikaron remembrance campaign on social media to honor the memories of fallen IDF soldiers and victims of terror. 🇺🇸

ISRAEL OFFICE



Dan Illouz
Representing ZOA Israel

The more policy makers in Israel will hear about the ZOA, the more they will feel confident enough to make the right decisions for the future of Israel.

The work that the ZOA does in Israel is of critical importance to Israel's success. Israel prides itself on being the nation-state of the Jewish people. Therefore, when Israeli policy-makers make decisions, they like to hear what Jews around the world think about critical issues.

Unfortunately, over the years, the voices of post-Zionist Jews have become stronger. Decision-makers in Israel thus often believe that their decisions could cause a long-lasting crisis between Israel and the Jewish people at large. This fear can motivate Israeli decision-makers to make decisions in order to preserve what they see as Jewish unity.

In this context, ZOA's role is of tremendous importance, and the role of ZOA's Israel office is critical. We need Israel to know that while the post-Zionists might be making a lot of noise, there is still a strong, unapologetic Zionist voice in the United States' Jewish community. This voice, led by the ZOA, stands firmly with Israel. Not only does the ZOA refrain from criticizing Israel when Israel affirms its rights, the ZOA encourages Israel to do so.

The more that policy-makers in Israel hear about the ZOA, the more confident they will feel to make the right decisions for the future of Israel.

It is with this perspective that I joined the ZOA in June 2020, as the ZOA's representative in Israel, and it is this mission that will guide me in my new role.

In the next few paragraphs, I will tell you a little bit about my background prior to joining the ZOA, and let you know about some of the things we have done since I have joined the ZOA team, as well as our plans for the future.

From Canada to Jerusalem

I grew up in Montreal, Canada and moved to Israel 10 years ago, after graduating from McGill Law School. After making Aliyah, I served in the army where I still serve in reserve duty as an officer with the rank of captain. After I moved to Israel, I decided to dedicate my career and life to public service, and this is what I have done.

I first worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where I led negotiations on commercial

The ZOA's sovereignty campaign was very successful. Our message was heard loudly and clearly.

international agreements with other countries. This gave me a strong understanding of Israel's international relations as well as its government.

I went on to work in the political field where I managed election campaigns in Jerusalem and then served as legislative advisor to the Likud in the Knesset.

In the last few years, I was part of the founding team of Jgive, a non-profit start-up connecting donors and charities in Israel.

I am excited and proud to take on this new challenge and represent the ZOA in Israel.

Coalitions and Sovereignty

As mentioned, my main focus will be to ensure that Israelis know about the great work the ZOA does because this can have practical effects on Israeli policies. While my focus will be on decision-makers, it will not be limited to them. In democracies, the general public has a large influence and it is important to speak to them, too.

This is why I am periodically meeting with all members of the Knesset from the national camp in order to update them on the ZOA's activities in Israel. While Covid-19 has limited the ability to have face-to-face meetings, we have already been able to meet with senior decision-makers both by phone and in person. Those who previously knew of the ZOA expressed their deep appreciation for our work. Those who were unfamiliar with the ZOA were incredibly glad to hear of such an organization.

In addition to these meetings, we have undertaken a concerted effort to gain exposure on Israeli media, so that the Israeli public also hears about the ZOA's work. Our work has been covered in several Israeli newspapers.

The leading issue we have been dealing with in the past months is the issue of sovereignty. As Israel is planning to apply sovereignty to

Judea and Samaria, some used American Jewry as a way to pressure the Israeli government not to push forward with its plans. They claimed that American Jewry opposed sovereignty.

We launched a campaign that said the exact opposite: American Jews stand with Israel in this historic moment. This made it clear that the post-Zionist voices coming out of America do not represent all of American Jewry, and helped dispel the claims of the opponents to Israeli sovereignty.

The ZOA's sovereignty campaign was very successful. It included billboards in Jerusalem that promoted our message, in places where Members of the Knesset pass by on a daily basis. We also sent our campaign directly to all the Members of Knesset, to ensure that they saw it. The ZOA's campaign also made the news. Our message was heard loudly and clearly.

Our work in Israel, however, is not only a one-way street. While we bring the ZOA to Israel, we also are bringing Israel to the ZOA. This is done in various ways, including organizing delegations from the ZOA to Israel, sponsoring webinars with Israeli personalities, and organizing meetings between Israeli personalities and ZOA members when they visit the United States.



Dan Illouz (L) with
MK Gideon Saar



Dan with MK
Ketzi Shitrit



Dan (L) with
Minister of
Regional Affairs
Ofir Akunis

The Way Forward

As we move forward, we are planning to create infrastructure that will ensure that we constantly update the Israeli people on the work the ZOA does in Israel. This will be done by collaborating with right-wing NGOs in Israel that share similar views to the ZOA's, regularly updating decision-makers on our work in Israel, and maintaining constant contact with decision-makers.

We will also periodically lead campaigns in Israel that will be coordinated with our local efforts in America, in order to leverage our presence in both countries for enhanced influence.

While the forces in Israel working to portray American Jewry as completely post-Zionist are strong, we are fighting back. By doing so, we will help Israel's leadership gain the confidence needed to make bold and important decisions. Through hard and constant work, Israelis will know about the ZOA and its pro-Israel, non-apologetic Zionist positions and activities. 🇺🇸

ZOA's Sovereignty Now campaign included two massive banners prominently placed in Jerusalem



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT



ZOOM With ZOA





Join the Conversation...



Alan D. Jay
Acting Director,
Outreach &
Engagement

NY Metro/New England/West Coast

Seizing Opportunity

In late December 2020, I was named the ZOA's Acting National Director of Outreach & Engagement. Previously I had been working closely with senior management in the Outreach & Engagement department, participating in the design and implementation of the now seasoned Donor Societies program. I invested significant time into harnessing and expanding the capabilities and use of ZOA's database program. I have been getting to know well our regional directors across the country, and I have run many programs at ZOA's national headquarters and elsewhere in the NY Metro region. Last fall, I was brought on as a liaison to the Outreach & Engagement Subcommittee of the ZOA National Board of Directors. I had also spent more than two years as the regional director and manager of the New York Metro region, covering New York City, Rockland and Westchester Counties to the north, and all the way to our friends down the (Jersey) shore in the south.

I am looking forward to working with ZOA senior management and the ZOA National Board of Directors to help shape the future of ZOA. Executive Vice President John Rosen and I assessed our current Outreach & Engagement model and discussed strategies to grow ZOA's footprint, upgrade programming, and ensure ZOA member satisfaction.

Before we could execute our Outreach & Engagement plan, Covid-19 hit, forcing us to put long range planning on the back burner and recalibrate our efforts. In early March 2020, like everyone else, the ZOA recognized the need to adapt to life during the pandemic. We could not run in-person programs, meet with donors, or work in our offices.

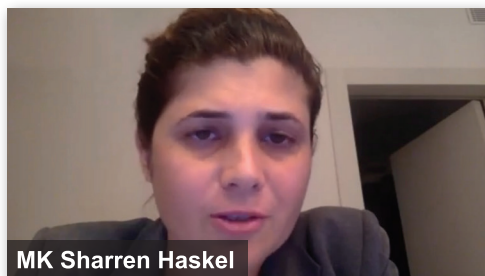
But supporting Israel and fighting antisemitism could not stop because the world was gripped by a pandemic. So the ZOA moved quickly to craft and implement a virtual programming modality.



Amb. Danny Danon



U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)



MK Sharren Haskel



Prof. Alan Dershowitz

Some of our "Zoom with ZOA" guest speakers

Supporting Israel and fighting antisemitism could not stop because the world was gripped by a pandemic. So the ZOA moved quickly to craft and implement a virtual programming modality.

Out of the gate, ZOA National President Morton Klein arranged for exclusive, off-the-record conference calls with Ambassadors Danny Danon and Ron Dermer. Based on confidentiality concerns, the calls were restricted to ZOA national and regional board members and to ZOA Donor Societies members. The ambassadors shared insights into Israel's fight against Covid-19, the state of the coalition government, and current UN affairs.

The ZOA also produced dozens of virtual events that were open to all ZOA members. We featured Mort Klein in an exclusive, no-holds-barred interview conducted by the ZOA's Steve Feldman. We featured members of Congress, including Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX). We ran a series of webinars featuring Susan Tuchman, Director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice; Dan Pollak, Director of the ZOA's Government Relations Department, Deputy Director Howard Katsoff; and the entire ZOA Campus staff. We have also hosted many esteemed guests from Israel, including Deputy

Mayor of Jerusalem Fleur Hassan-Nahoum, MK Sharren Haskell, TPS Israel news service, Ze'ev Orenstein of the City of David Foundation, and Im Tirtzu.

Our regional directors have all brought phenomenal virtual programming from around the country, and the ZOA's Director of Special Projects, Liz Berney, Esq., hosts the ZOA Book Club, which has featured an impressive array of authors, such as Ambassador Dore Gold, Professor Alan Dershowitz, Charles Jacobs and Robert Spencer. We will continue to provide quality virtual programming even while we are planning for the post-pandemic future, when we can once again run live meetings and meet face-to-face with our supporters.

I encourage everyone blessed with the means to join a ZOA Donor Society (see page 54). For a minimum commitment of \$1,000, your tax-deductible gift will help us continue our effective work in support of a safe and secure Israel and the rights of the Jewish people.

I can be reached anytime at 212-481-1500, ext. 230; ajay@zoa.org.



Amb. Ron Dermer



Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem
Fleur Hassan-Nahoum



Special Envoy Elan Carr



U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)



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

* Subject to change

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

Note: Membership in all societies is based on annual giving



More than 2500 Long Islanders heard the words of New York State Attorney General Leticia James: “We stand together in love and recognizing that hate will not be tolerated in Long Island or anywhere in the state.”

NY Metro

Local activity in the New York Metro Region kicked off in September 2019 with a ZOA Donor Society parlor meeting generously hosted by Dr. Arthur and Linda Kook. Arthur is a ZOA National Board member who opened his home for a program entitled “Judea & Samaria: Making Sure Congress has the Facts,” featuring Dan Pollak, Director of ZOA’s Government Relations Department. The Israel and Jewish advocacy IQ of the guests at this meeting was impressive and led to a lively discussion. As Dan’s presentation made clear, the ZOA is committed to Israel’s right to restore sovereignty over Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley.

In January, Long Island ZOA supporters joined approximately 25,000 other people at the Manhattan/Brooklyn “No Hate, No Fear” rally, to stand in solidarity against rising antisemitism. Soon after, Long Island ZOA members attended another rally in the fight against antisemitism in Nassau County.

More than 2500 Long Islanders heard the words of New York State Attorney General Leticia James: “It was Jewish storekeepers who allowed Black people not to go to the back door, but through the front door, and it was the blood of Jewish people that died for my freedom and your freedom. We stand together in love and recognizing that hate will not be tolerated in Long Island or anywhere in the state.” It was an impressive turnout and the ZOA definitely made our voices heard, and our presence known.

As much of our time was dedicated to the now-successful World Zionist Congress election, we ran several programs supporting both ZOA and the ZOA Coalition. Programs featured speakers from Israel, ZOA Coalition partners and other special guests, such as ZOA National President Morton Klein, former New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind, former MK Yehuda Glick, and television personality, author and Zionist supreme Siggy Flicker.



ZOA Campus Coordinator Marlene Artov registering voters in the WZC election



Siggy Flicker, the featured speaker at a ZOA Donor Society event in March 2020, inspired the audience with her passion for Israel and the Jewish people

New England

Defending Jewish History and Heritage

Many events helped to bolster the ability of ZOA supporters to advocate for Israel.

Shortly before U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo acknowledged that the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria are not in violation of international law, ZOA New England, together with Congregation Shaarei Tefillah in Newton, hosted a visitor from Israel. Rabbi Jeremy Gimpel is known to many as a radio personality from The Land of Israel Network. He has travelled around the world teaching about Israel and connecting Jews from all over the world to the land. Now, as a resident of Gush Etzion in Judea, Rabbi Gimpel is currently building the Arugot Farms there. This is quickly becoming a destination place for those who want to walk in the footsteps of King David in the Judean hills where he wrote the Psalms. ZOA New England was eager to hear Rabbi Gimpel describe what it means to live in this area, which is the very cradle of Jewish history, to live in Judea, to walk in the footsteps of our prophets and ancestors, and to build up these areas where the Jewish people have lived from the very beginning of Jewish history.

The critical importance of the WZC election was highly motivating to local ZOA members who petitioned friends and family to vote for the ZOA Coalition slate.

ZOA Defends and Protects the Right to Live as Jews

Shortly after the visit from Rabbi Gimpel, ZOA New England had the privilege of meeting with Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., Director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice. Her groundbreaking work on behalf of Jewish and Israel-supporting students on college campuses has been an inspiration to every group that has heard her speak. Susan has had an impact on the way college students across the entire country are legally protected. Under Susan's leadership, ZOA pioneered efforts to protect our Jewish students on college campuses, making sure that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applies to Jewish students and is vigorously enforced when they are confronted by antisemitism.

The year 2019 finished and 2020 began with a great deal of activism. We petitioned our local elected officials not to support H. Res. 326, a resolution that called for a new Arab terrorist state on Israel's border. Then we got out the vote for the World Zionist Congress election. The critical importance of this election was highly motivating to local ZOA members who petitioned friends and family to vote for the ZOA Coalition slate.

On February 10, 2020, ZOA New England hosted Dr. Andrew G. Bostom for a book signing and lecture about his newly updated book: *The Legacy of ISLAMIC ANTISEMITISM*. Ayaan Hirsi Ali – a former devout

“I’m a ‘Mort Klein Zionist’ after all!”

Muslim who has courageously criticized the role that Islam plays in tolerating the abuse of women – wrote of Dr. Bostom’s book, “It is one of the most important books of our time and should be read by all.”

Dr. Bostom was met with great enthusiasm as he generously shared his extensive knowledge of the subject matter, and ably highlighted the inherent problems that arise when the long history of antisemitism in Islam is not recognized, whether deliberately or unintentionally.

Amid the aggressive calls for boycotts against the Jewish state, and the deceitful labeling of Jews as occupiers in their own ancestral homeland, ZOA National President Morton A. Klein and the ZOA have provided unwavering leadership and resolve to uphold the truth about Israel. We continue to deliver this message to our supporters in New England. As one New Englander said in anticipation of participating in this year’s ZOA Israel Mission: “The idea of traveling with one of my heroes (I’m a ‘Mort Klein Zionist’ after all!) to the promised land - wow!”

West Coast

The ZOA’s West Coast continues to deliver educational programs to communities, college campuses, and young professional audiences across the state of California. The chapter also mobilized and trained activists to prepare for security risks ahead of the High Holidays and to counter an anti-Israel propaganda display at the Sacramento Public Library.

Security Course for Bay Area Synagogues Ahead of the High Holidays

The ZOA is committed to countering the growing threat posed by antisemitism and to protecting Jewish life and practices. In the wake of mass shootings targeting Jewish worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the Chabad of Poway, California, ZOA West Coast invited representatives from local synagogue security teams to learn best practices for enhancing security at Jewish institutions.

ZOA West Coast invited representatives from local synagogue security teams to learn best practices for enhancing security at Jewish institutions.



Local synagogue security teams learn best-practices ahead of the High Holidays

The Community Security Service (CSS) delivered a presentation on practical considerations for local Jewish institutions, and examined case studies of actual attacks and plots directed against the Jewish communities in the U.S. and Europe. The CSS is a Jewish security organization that actively trains volunteers to protect synagogues and Jewish community programs in cities across America. Security team volunteers from synagogues throughout Silicon Valley and from as far away as Sacramento attended the four-hour course.

ZOA's Director of Government Relations' Northern CA Tour

The ZOA's Director of Government Relations, Dan Pollak, visited the region in December 2019 for community programs in Palo Alto and Sacramento. The goal of his visit was to inspire local activists to build relationships with their elected officials to work against the BDS movement and rising antisemitism in California.

Dan addressed ZOA members at the Palo Alto JCC and spoke before a large community gathering at the KOH Library and Cultural Center in Sacramento. He explained the ZOA's role in Washington, D.C. to build and maintain relationships with members of Congress and to advocate for Israel based on unwavering Zionist principles. Dan distinguished the ZOA's approach from that of other advocacy groups, which emphasize the U.S.-Israel relationship above Israel's national security interests.

Countering Anti-Israel Propaganda Targeting Children at the Sacramento Public Library

For years, anti-Israel propaganda has served to harass and intimidate Jewish college students. Now the battle for hearts and minds is focused on progressively younger audiences as the forces against Israel target our children.

In December 2019, community members became alarmed to learn that the Arden-Dimick branch of the Sacramento Public Library was hosting a month-long display focusing on Palestinian Arab books and cultural items, including an infamous propaganda book targeting children, entitled *P is for Palestine*. The ZOA had previously raised public awareness about the insidious content of this book when a New Jersey public library hosted a book reading by the author.

The book assigns a portion of the Palestinian Arab narrative to each letter of the English alphabet, including a section for the letter "I" which glorifies the "Intifada." The book fails to explain that the Intifadas perpetrated against Israel deliberately targeted civilians in a campaign of suicide bombings, shootings, and stabbings that claimed the lives of over 1,000 Israelis and wounded thousands more.

A group overseeing Sacramento's sister-city relationship with Bethlehem commissioned the anti-Israel display at the library. Gail Rubin, president of the ZOA's Sacramento chapter, circulated an action alert to the community and elicited numerous letters from concerned citizens to the library's board

of directors. The ZOA's West Coast Executive Director, David Kadosh, met with Sacramento chapter members in January 2020 to develop a response, which included reviving the Sacramento sister-city relationship with Ashkelon and petitioning city managers to host pro-Israel displays in available libraries and the City Hall.

ZOA Address to Congregation Bet Haverim in Davis, CA

In January 2020, the Israel Matters committee, overseen by former UC Davis professor and long-time Israel activist George Rooks, invited the ZOA's West Coast Executive Director, David Kadosh, to address the community at Congregation Bet Haverim, a local reform synagogue. Davis is a small college town near Sacramento that has been plagued by radical, anti-Israel activity coming from the University of California campus and

from the local Islamic center. In July 2017, Imam Ammar Shahin of the Islamic Center of Davis delivered a series of sermons praying for the annihilation of every Jew worldwide.

The ZOA has worked directly with affected students on campus, established relations with Davis Faculty for Israel, and spoke out at the Davis City Council against the radical, violence-inciting imam. The invitation to meet with local activists and explain the ZOA's positions and capabilities was a tremendous opportunity to attract community buy-in to help our efforts in the region. David explained the ZOA's achievements in obtaining a reinterpretation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act that now protects Jewish students from antisemitism, and he covered a range of other national and local issues. The community was appreciative of the ZOA's work and eager to collaborate on future projects.



ZOA's West Coast Executive Director David Kadosh addresses the Jewish community in Davis, CA

“It’s a true honor to receive the Zionist Hero Award and be recognized as a champion of Israel. As a congressman and now as governor, I’ve worked to strengthen the bonds between Florida and Israel, as well as aggressively combat antisemitism and discrimination against Israel and our Jewish communities.” – Gov. Ron DeSantis

Florida

An Insider Briefing with U.S. Rep. Brian Mast

On November 4, 2019, ZOA Donor Society members and their guests attended ZOA Florida’s first Donor Society event, “An Insider Briefing on Counter-Terror Legislation,” featuring U.S. Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL). The event, graciously sponsored by Lionheart Capital, took place at the Ritz Carlton Residences in Miami Beach.

ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler introduced Rep. Mast, thanking him for his strong support for Israel and his tremendous sacrifices for our country. While deployed in Afghanistan as a member of the armed services, Rep. Mast suffered catastrophic injuries from an explosive device, which resulted in the loss of both of his legs.

Rep. Mast spoke about several terror attacks perpetrated by Hamas, Fatah and Hezbollah, and remembered their victims. He applauded Israel as a beacon of prosperity and freedom that must stay strong on the frontlines of terror.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Others Honored at ZOA’s Second Annual “Heroes for Israel” Gala

ZOA Florida proudly held its second annual “Heroes for Israel” gala on Sunday, December 15, 2019, at Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus in North Miami. Chaired by ZOA Florida board member Liz Brauser and attended by 350 ZOA supporters, the gala featured Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who received ZOA Florida’s highest honor, the “Zionist Hero Award.”

Gala guests welcomed ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler to the stage with a standing ovation. Sharona encouraged their increased involvement in the ZOA’s critical work in support of Israel and the Jewish people.

Liz Brauser, also a member of the ZOA’s national board, described the many facets of the ZOA’s work and encouraged participation in the live text-to-pledge campaign. Liz received an Aishes Chayil award for her activism and energetic commitment to the ZOA.



ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler introduces Rep. Brian Mast



Rep. Brian Mast



Rep. Brian Mast (center) with ZOA Florida Board members Eytan Laor, Keith Wasserstrom, Gloria Garces, Liz Brauser, and Allen Hamaoui

ZOA Florida “Heroes for Israel” Gala

The evening’s Diamond Hero Sponsor, Simon Falic of the Falic Family Foundation, presented Governor DeSantis with the “Zionist Hero Award.” Accepting the award, the Governor said, “It’s a true honor to receive the Zionist Hero Award and be recognized as a champion of Israel. As a congressman and now as governor, I’ve worked to strengthen the bonds between Florida and Israel, as well as aggressively combat antisemitism and discrimination against Israel and our Jewish communities.” In particular, Governor DeSantis noted his ultimately successful efforts to have the U.S. embassy in Israel moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which included a congressional hearing on the issue, at which ZOA National President Morton Klein testified.

Ishmael Khaldi, the then-Israeli Consul General in Miami, presented the “Pillar of the Community Award” to Young Israel of Hollywood, led by Rabbi Yosef Weinstock. The Consul General said, “I am very proud to be here, representing the State of Israel. I would also like to thank the Zionist Organization of America, National President Morton Klein and Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler for your tremendous work on behalf of Zionist causes and fighting against antisemitism and BDS.” Rabbi Weinstock accepted the award on behalf of Young Israel of Hollywood, with approximately 90 members of the shul in attendance.

ZOA National Board member and Gold Hero Sponsor Dr. Paul Tartell introduced the gala’s keynote speaker, ZOA National President Morton Klein. Mort praised the State Department’s recent policy announcement on the legality of the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, and criticized other Jewish organizations that not only failed to support this policy but also actually condemned it.

Mort condemned antisemitism perpetrated by white supremacists and the antisemitism that exists throughout the Muslim world. He spoke proudly about how the Jewish and Black communities stood together during the civil rights movement, and urged Black leaders to speak out against worrisome antisemitism in the African-American community. “Black lives matter,” Mort declared, “but Jewish lives matter too!”



Sharona Whisler (left) and Liz Brauser



Governor DeSantis (right) with Morton Klein, Sharona Whisler and Simon Falic



Sharona Whisler with Rabbi Yosef Weinstock (center) and former Israeli Consul General Ishmael Khaldi



Israeli Deputy Council Gen. in Miami, Kasa Bainesay-Harbor (center) with ZOA Florida Board member Dr. Dan and Staci Layish



Pastor Mike Davis, ZOA Florida Board members Paul and Marian Kruss, and Pastor AD Lenoir



ZOA's office manager Nancy Hollander, ZOA National Deputy Director Howard Katzoff, and Patti Klein



Florida Board member Eytan Laor, National Board member Kenneth Abramowitz, and Morton Klein (third from right) with local students

Mort praised ZOA's many effective initiatives, including our work with students. He noted that unlike other organizations, the ZOA brings students to Judea and Samaria, so that they can experience firsthand the significance of the Jewish communities in this region. Students see for themselves that the Jews in these communities are committed to living their lives in peace, in contrast to how the media and Israel's enemies portray them.

To resounding applause and a standing ovation, Mort finished with a powerful blessing for Israel and the Jewish people – to prevail as we have always prevailed, with G-d's help.

Other special guests at the gala included ZOA National Deputy Director Howard Katzoff; Deputy Counsel General of Israel in Miami, Kasa Bainesay-Harbor; former Director of Policy Planning at the U.S. State Department, Dr. Kiron Skinner; Miami Beach Commissioner Steven Meiner; Broward County Judge Michael Davis (who has since been appointed to the Circuit Court of Broward); then-Chairman of the Board of the Miami-Dade County Commissioners Esteban Bovo Jr.; Mayor of the Village of Bal Harbour Gabriel Groisman; Mayor of Hollywood Josh Levy; Reverend Dr. Mike Davis and Reverend A.D. Lenoir; the rabbis of at least nine local synagogues; and local students.

U.S. Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) and Brian Mast (R-FL), and U.S. Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Rick Scott (R-FL), sent congratulatory messages to the ZOA and its honorees.



Dr. Kiron Skinner, Morton Klein, and Sharona Whisler



Mayor of Hollywood Josh Levy (center) with Dr. Jason, Marylin, and Jeni Tache



Mayor of Bal Harbour Gabriel Groisman with wife Lisa (left) and daughter Yona



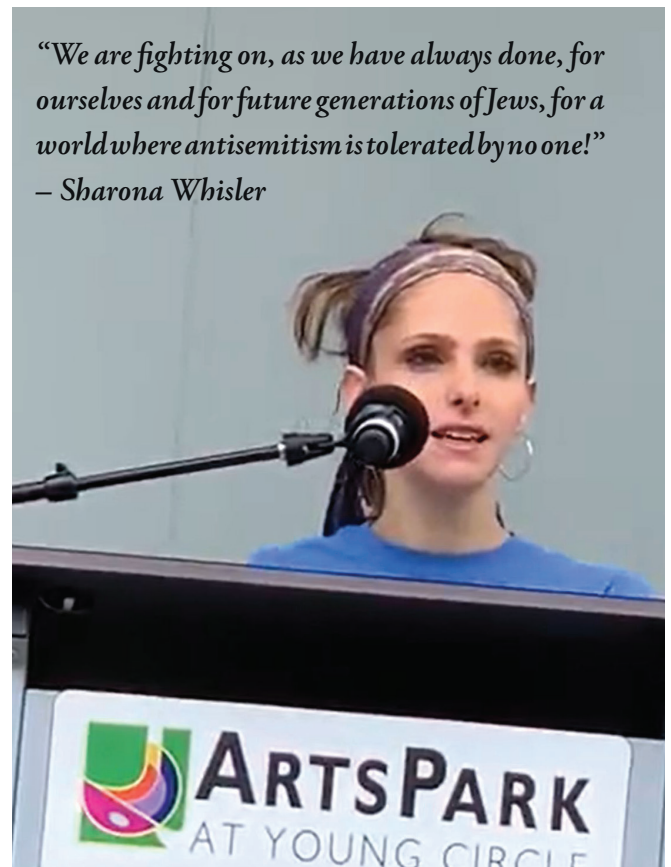
FIU student Jacob Covas with Judy Schultz, Laurie Hirsch, Cherna Moskowitz, and Sharona Whisler

ZOA Florida Director's Powerful Statements at Rally against Antisemitism

In response to recent brutal attacks against Jews and synagogues, ZOA Florida Board member Keith Wasserstrom helped organize a rally against antisemitism. ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler joined City of Hollywood Mayor, Josh Levy, and other local leaders in addressing the crowd.

In a rousing presentation, Sharona said, "Whether it be in our communities, on college campuses, in Congress, whether it is expressed by whites or Blacks, or preached in mosques, or expressed by members of the political party you associate with, Jew-hatred is Jew-hatred. It must be recognized for what it is and it must be condemned. To all the enemies of the Jewish people and enemies of Israel who don't want us to exist, who try to make us go away, through physical attacks, intimidation, hateful rhetoric, boycotting or divesting from us: We are standing up and standing proud as Jews and Zionists who say NO, we will not be quiet in the face of your hatred. NO, you will not destroy us. We are fighting on, as we have always done, for ourselves and for future generations of Jews, for a world where antisemitism is tolerated by no one!"

"We are fighting on, as we have always done, for ourselves and for future generations of Jews, for a world where antisemitism is tolerated by no one!"
– Sharona Whisler



“While the team’s statement was strong, it spoke in generalities and omitted any specificity with regard to Jackson’s actions against the Jewish people.” – from Greater Philadelphia ZOA’s letter to the Eagles

ZOA “Zoom” Webinars: “Getting Justice for American Victims of Terror” and “Campus War against Israel and Jews”

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, ZOA Florida’s community programs and opportunities quickly adapted to virtual offerings, starting with an interview of Steven Perles, Esq., a renowned and pioneering attorney for American victims of international terrorism. Interviewed by ZOA’s Susan Tuchman, Esq., Mr. Perles discussed his groundbreaking legal work in which he has made material supporters of terrorism pay a serious price for their heinous acts.

Another ZOA webinar featured ZOA Florida board member, Professor Richard Cravatts, who described the demonization of Israel and the marginalization of pro-Israel students on campus. His analysis of these problems led to a discussion of the strategies that ZOA Campus and the ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice have been using effectively to address these problems.

Congratulations to New National Board members From Florida

ZOA Florida proudly congratulates new additions to the ZOA national board: Florida’s Dr. Paul Tartell, Sheryl Silver, and Liz Brauser.

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



Dr. Paul Tartell Sheryl Silver Liz Brauser

Greater Philadelphia

Maintaining Our Activism during the Pandemic

Sadly, a number of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter’s members and supporters have succumbed to COVID-19. May their memories be for a blessing and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Yerushalayim.

Despite the hardships and inability to host in-person programs, Greater Philadelphia ZOA has already presented 13 webinars/virtual events via Zoom, on a wide range of topics. These have included a panel discussion with Zionist leaders from five continents; a number of educational workshops about Israel and effective pro-Israel advocacy; a profile of journalist and Jewish activist Ben Hecht; a reading for families of a new children’s book about Zionism; examinations of the intersection of Judaism and Zionism; and an inspirational interview with Greater Philadelphia ZOA board member and past president Howard Katsoff, who looked back on his first trip to Israel in 1955.

Many of these events are viewable on our Greater Philadelphia ZOA YouTube channel. More events are planned for the coming months as we strive to educate the community and promote advocacy for Israel.

We send out notices in advance of each program via email. If you are not receiving our emails, please write to us at office@zoaphilly.org. Our office is up and running as usual from our headquarters.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Greater Philadelphia ZOA sent a letter to Philadelphia Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie and team president Don Smolenski, calling on them to suspend wide receiver DeSean Jackson for



the season, after Jackson praised and endorsed notorious Jew-hater Louis Farrakhan on social media. Jackson also posted an excerpt from a book with a quote that Jackson erroneously attributed to Hitler, accusing “white Jews” of blackmailing and extorting the United States as part of a plan to achieve “world domination.” If the team did not suspend Jackson, then Greater Philadelphia ZOA suggested that Jackson’s jersey be emblazoned with the slogan “Jewish lives matter.”

The team refused to suspend Jackson and instead released a statement indicating that Jackson was fined in an unspecified amount. Earlier, the team issued a statement calling Jackson’s posts “offensive, harmful, and absolutely appalling,” but did not specify that they were anti-Jewish.

Despite a Staggering Loss, Greater Philadelphia ZOA Presses On

On September 11, Greater Philadelphia ZOA and the cause of pro-Israel advocacy suffered the tragic loss of our long-time co-president, Lee Bender, who passed away after a heroic battle against cancer. Lee was as dedicated to an organization and a cause as any lay leader could be. From leading our executive committee meetings, speaking publicly at numerous programs and events, and writing prolifically, to representing our organization at gatherings of lay leaders from other organizations, recruiting new members to the ZOA, and schlepping materials to our events, Lee was an invaluable member of our team.

Lee was also an attorney and co-president of his synagogue’s men’s club. In addition, he volunteered at a food pantry, raised research money for and awareness about cancer, and was involved in so many activities inside and outside the Jewish community.

We know that there are other potential “Lee Benders” in our community – passionate, committed Zionists who are interested in taking an active role in our organization and helping us become even more successful. We are confident that we will find them and they will be drawn to us, so that our chapter will continue to make great strides for Zionism and *Am Yisrael*. If you would like to get more involved in Greater Philadelphia ZOA, please call Executive Director Steve Feldman at (610) 660-9466.



Lee Bender was such a larger-than-life figure, and devoted Zionist and ZOA chapter leader, that his absence continues to be felt by all who knew him.

The Fantastic Four

Just 10 days after Lee Bender’s death, Greater Philadelphia ZOA held its ninth annual Gala. With Lee in the thoughts of our ZOA family, we honored and heard from some of our region’s leading pro-Israel advocates, as well as a leading national activist for Israel whose fame and reach continue to grow.

More than 300 people – Jews and non-Jews, young and old, and from all walks of life – attended our celebration of America and Israel. Together, we basked in the atmosphere of American patriotism and full-throated Zionist spirit as the ZOA gave awards to four individuals, each of whom delivered passionate acceptance speeches that moved everyone in the hotel ballroom.

Our honorees, plus Morton Klein, revved up the room with their stirring remarks and calls to action.



Businessperson and sabra **Malka Kantor-Rapkin**, who has been active in ZOA for many years, received our Pillar of the Community Award. Her son, Avi, gave a warm, inspiring introduction that added to the special moment.

ZOA National Board member **Cliff Rieders, Esq.** received our Lee Bender Defender of Israel Award for his pro-Israel activities in the legal community and beyond. Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, introduced Rieders.

Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch, religious leader of Congregation Mekor Habracha, received our Guardian of Israel Award in recognition of his many efforts to instill and increase his congregation's love of Zion. David Morley, a member of the rabbi's congregation, introduced him.

Our keynote speaker and final honoree of the night was Professor **Jason D. Hill** of DePaul University, who was the first recipient

of our Education Beacon Award, in recognition of his courageous work promoting and defending Israel in academia. ZOA member Andrew Teitelman, Hill's friend, introduced him. Hill's riveting, fervent speech will be long remembered by everyone in attendance.

ZOA National President Morton A. Klein also spoke, delivering what has become his annual Philadelphia address. A hometown hero, Mort's speech was enlightening and stirring.

Our Gala is an important opportunity to introduce ZOA's mission and work to people with no previous affiliation with our organization. Some who attended the Gala to support an honoree were unfamiliar with the ZOA and are now members.

Video of our Gala is available on YouTube. We eagerly look forward to our milestone 10th annual Gala, which will likely be held virtually.



Howard Katzoff, Malka Kantor-Rapkin, and Steve Feldman (Photo by Richard Chaitt)



Professor Jason Hill (second from right) with Morton Klein, Steve Feldman, and Andrew Teitelman (Photo by Aaron Benau)

Members of the community have a variety of options to protect themselves. At Greater Philadelphia ZOA, we seek to educate them about those options.



Lee Bender Defender of Israel Award recipient Cliff Rieders (second from left) with Steve Feldman, Greater Philadelphia Treasurer Len Getz, Susan Tuchman, Rieders' son Joshua, and Howard Katzoff (photo by Richard Chaitt)

Greater Philadelphia's Presence at the ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel

We were delighted that eight ZOA members from our area, led by Morton and Rita Klein, participated in the ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel last February. We know that each of them had a special and meaningful experience. There is no Israel mission quite like the ZOAs. We encourage our friends and supporters to join our mission next year.

Emphasizing Education

As attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions increase and become more deadly, we want to help the Jewish community understand the variety of ways in which they can protect themselves, their families and Jewish institutions. In the past, Greater Philadelphia ZOA offered programs on self-defense, situational awareness and first aid, as well as a fire-arms safety class.

As a service to the community, Greater Philadelphia ZOA was going to offer a session at a local firing range, which would have included multiple hours of classroom training followed by hands-on experience with a firearm. Due to the pandemic, the event had to be canceled. It will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

Executive Director Steve Feldman was a guest a few times in recent months on the popular Dom Giordano Radio Show, broadcast on 1210 AM WPHT in the Philadelphia region. Feldman discussed a variety of issues dealing with Israel and the Middle East, as well as the rapid increase in attacks against Jews in America.

Steve was also a guest on "The Chris Stigall Show," guest-hosted by journalist Christine Flowers, on 990 AM WNTP. Steve discussed the Nation of Islam and its leader, Louis Farrakhan, and the Jew-hatred fomented by Philadelphia Eagles player DeSean Jackson and entertainer Nick Cannon.

In July 2020, Steve marked his chai anniversary in his position with ZOA.

Pittsburgh

2019 Awards Dinner

ZOA Pittsburgh held its annual Awards Dinner on October 29, 2019. The evening began with a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue one year earlier.



Jeffrey L. Pollock, ZOA Pittsburgh President, delivers opening remarks



Attendees listening to the presentations

Keynote Speaker

Jonathan Tobin, JNS Editor-in-Chief, our keynote speaker, addressed "What American Jews Don't Get About Israel?" Tobin spoke about what the pro-Israel community can do to reverse the tide of anti-Israel sentiment and why embracing or appeasing anti-Zionists is a mistake.



Each year ZOA presents three awards: the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Israel Service Award, and the Ivan and Natalie Novick Community Leadership Award (Ivan was a ZOA National President).

Lisa & Rabbi Stephen Steindel, Recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award

Rabbi Stephen E. Steindel is a graduate of Columbia College and the Jewish Theological Seminary. He came to Pittsburgh in 1973 to serve as the spiritual leader of Beth El Congregation, a position he held for ten years. While at Beth El, he helped establish the South Hills Interfaith Ministries and the Solomon Schechter Day School. He also led numerous trips to Israel and was the first rabbi elected to the Board of the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh.

After three years at Hillcrest Jewish Center in Queens, New York, Rabbi Steindel returned to Pittsburgh to become the senior rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom. During his leadership at Beth Shalom, he oversaw the establishment of the High Holy Day Service for Singles, the pre-school, the Library Minyan, High Holy Day parallel services and the rebuilding and rededication of the synagogue following a 1996 fire. Rabbi Steindel was a leader in Catholic-Jewish relations and served twice as president of the Greater Pittsburgh Rabbinic Fellowship. He has received numerous local and national awards from Israel Bonds, UJF, JNF, the City of Pittsburgh, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Lisa Steindel grew up in Erie and attended the University of Pittsburgh. She quickly became the USY advisor and a Sunday school teacher at B'nai Israel. Lisa later earned a master's degree in vocational counseling and worked at the Career Development Center of Jewish Family & Children's Services, resettling Russian refugees. She served on the boards of Solomon Schechter, Hillel Academy, and Community Day School. Lisa was also on the



Mark Horvitz holds the Lifetime Achievement Award as Rhonda Horvitz presents it to the Steindels

board of the Rainbow Kitchen and chaired its capital campaign.

In addition, Lisa was the Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and designed its transition to the independent, affiliated Pittsburgh Area Jewish Committee. She helped establish the Squirrel Hill Kosher Pantry and is a life member of Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, ZOA, and Na'amat, where she served as Pittsburgh council president and a national board member. She is currently on the executive board of the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition.

Lisa was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to the Judicial Conduct Board and currently serves as its secretary and chair of its personnel committee.

The Steindels have four children: Sara (Andrew) Dauber, Shiri (Josh) Friedman, Sivya (Keith) Leventhal, and Avi (Dominique) Steindel. They enjoy spending time with their nine grandchildren.

Steve's Jewish zeal was renewed at age 11 when he joined Florida's only Klezmer band, Solomon & the Wise Guys. As a regional USY president at age 15, he made his first of many pilgrimages to Israel.

Steven Irwin, Esq., Recipient of the Israel Service Award

As a youngster, **Steve Irwin** attended Hebrew school at an Orthodox congregation in the heavily Jewish neighborhood of Belle Harbor, in Queens, New York. His world changed when, at age 10, his family moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. The Gulf Coast had few Jews; Steve became a target for proselytizing, bullying, and violence. Steve's Jewish zeal was renewed at age 11 when he joined Florida's only Klezmer band, Solomon & the Wise Guys. As a regional USY president at age 15, he made his first of many pilgrimages to Israel.

After Harvard College, while he earned his law degree from Georgetown University, Steve worked for Senator Arlen Specter. He made Pittsburgh his home when he moved there to clerk for Judge Joseph Weis of the U.S. Court of Appeals. For several years, he rotated as a cantorial soloist at Tree of Life Congregation.

Steve served as a trustee of the Jewish Federation and chaired its Community Relations Council. He chaired the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition, and his work as Anti-Defamation League chair led to his appointment to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission's Pennsylvania Advisory Committee, which he vice-chairs.

Currently Steve is a trustee of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, co-chairs the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, chairs



(Left to Right) Michael Machen presents Steve Irwin with the Israel Service Award, while Jill Machen delivers the formal presentation

Sustainable Pittsburgh, serves on the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters and Three Rivers Rowing, and hosts "Political Jungle" on TV.

Steve is an equity partner with Leech Tishman. He served as a commissioner on the Pennsylvania Banking and Securities Commission and is a recipient of the Blue Sky Cube, the highest award of the North American Securities Administrators.

Steve is married to artist Andi Irwin. They have three children: Jillian (David Diederich), Jesse, and Rose.

Marilyn Swedarsky, Recipient of the Ivan & Natalie Novick Community Leadership Award



ZOA Pittsburgh Exec. Dir. Stuart Pavilack presents award to Marilyn Swedarsky, while Bobbi Kahn delivers the formal presentation

Marilyn Rabhan Swedarsky, a native of Savannah, Georgia, received her B.A. degree from Washington University in St. Louis and her J.D. degree from American University's Washington College of Law. She practiced law with both the General Services Administration and the Securities and Exchange Commission in our nation's capital.

Thirty-six years ago, after Marilyn's husband Robert fulfilled his military obligations, the Swedarsky family moved to Pittsburgh. Marilyn has a passion for Jewish organizations, and her volunteerism speaks volumes. She is a past treasurer of ZOA Pittsburgh, Shaare Torah Congregation, and AMIT Women. Marilyn is a past president, vice-president, and treasurer of Pittsburgh Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations. She has also served as vice-president of NCJW and Hadassah's Pittsburgh chapter, and serves on the Board of

Marilyn has a passion for Jewish organizations, and her volunteerism speaks volumes.

Directors of the Jewish Women's League.

At present, Marilyn is the chairperson of Congregation Poale Zedeck Sisterhood's Treasure Chest and treasurer of Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh's parent-teacher organization. She also serves on the JFilm Festival Committee, is an active member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, and is a trustee of the Jewish Women's Foundation. Marilyn has been an active volunteer with the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, serving on the Board of Directors and the Women's Philanthropy Board of Directors. Marilyn has chaired the Lion of Judah Luncheon and Super Sunday. She has also been on the Israel Programming Committee, Israel and Overseas Funding Committee, and the Community Relations Council.

Marilyn is a life member of Congregation Poale Zedeck's Sisterhood, Hadassah, Jewish Women International (formerly B'nai B'rith Women), NCJW, AMIT Women, and Na'amat USA-Pittsburgh Council.

Marilyn and Robert are blessed with four children: Joshua (Aviva), David (Beth), Richard (Mindy), and Jessica. They like spending time with their many grandchildren.

Now in its 58th year, the ZOA Scholarship to Israel Program has helped hundreds of Jewish high school students travel to Israel.

ZOA Tolerance Education Program

ZOA Pittsburgh's Tolerance Education Program was reinstituted in 2012 and has been conducted every year since. Pittsburgh public high school students, who study the Holocaust in their sophomore year, visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Over a two-week period in late February and early March 2020, 11 motor coaches took students from nine area high schools to visit the museum. To date, the ZOA has taken over 7000 students to the museum. The program is fully funded by donations.



Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts students at the Holocaust Museum



Carrick High School students meet with a Holocaust survivor

ZOA Scholarship to Israel Program

Now in its 58th year, the **ZOA Scholarship to Israel Program** has helped hundreds of Jewish high school students travel to Israel. Scholarship applicants are judged on their involvement in Jewish activities, their volunteerism, and an essay on Zionism.

ZOA Pittsburgh awards three \$1,000 scholarships, 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.

This year's scholarship recipients are Rachel Lessure, a sophomore at North Allegheny Intermediate High School; Natan Marcus, a sophomore at the Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh; and Alex Zatman, a sophomore at Fox Chapel High School.

Since all summer trips to Israel were cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these students hope to visit Israel with the ZOA's support in 2021.

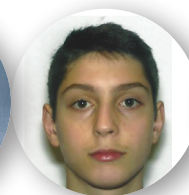
ZOA Pittsburgh Executive Director Stuart Pavilack can be contacted at Stuart.Pavilack@zoa.org.

Mazel Tov

To This Year's
Scholarship Recipients



**Rachel
Lessure**



**Natan
Marcus**



**Alex
Zatman**

Michigan

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ZOA's switch to virtual programming, ZOA Michigan brought timely and informative webinars to all of the ZOA's members and supporters.

Standing up to Antisemitism

In May 2020, ZOA Michigan hosted a webinar featuring Dr. David Tenenbaum. Tenenbaum, a U.S. Army civilian employee and engineer for more than 30 years, recounted his and his family's 23-year ordeal after he was falsely accused of treason and spying for Israel beginning in 1992.

Although Tenenbaum was cleared in February 1998 from all of the baseless accusations, it was not until 2008 that the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General officially dispelled the accusations and pronounced that they had been initiated with discriminatory intent. The Inspector General concluded that Dr. Tenenbaum "is, and has always been, a dedicated, loyal and professional civil servant in the service of our Nation."

As Tenenbaum described during the webinar, the retaliation against him has nevertheless continued. In addition, no one has been held accountable for the discrimination which led to these egregious charges. Tenenbaum wrote a book about his ongoing ordeal, entitled *Accused of Treason: The U.S. Army's Witch Hunt for a Jewish Spy*.



Dr. David Tenenbaum

Tenenbaum, a U.S. Army civilian employee and engineer for more than 30 years, recounted his and his family's 23-year ordeal after he was falsely accused of treason and spying for Israel beginning in 1992.

An In-Depth Analysis of Israel's Supreme Court

In June 2020, ZOA-Michigan hosted another webinar featuring ZOA Michigan Executive Director Kobi Erez. Kobi discussed why Israel's Supreme Court is among the most powerful supreme courts of the western democracies.



Israel's Supreme Court

Helping Pro-Israel Students on Campus

In July 2020, ZOA Michigan hosted a webinar featuring Jesse Arm, a political strategist and government affairs consultant. When Arm was an undergraduate at the University of Michigan, antisemitic campus groups targeted him after he publicly supported Israel in the wake of 2015's "Knife Intifada." They also called for his removal from his position in the student government. With the ZOA's help, Arm was exculpated. His story drew international news coverage.

In addition to sharing his personal experiences as an undergraduate, Arm discussed the current climate on campus for Jewish and pro-Israel students, the efforts to intimidate them, and strategies for dealing with these problems.

Recordings of all three webinars are viewable on the ZOA's YouTube channel.



Jesse Arm at the University of Michigan

Honoring Our Members

ZOA Michigan was delighted to present awards of merit to distinguished community members. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Sheryl Silver, a lifelong, pro-Israel activist and a ZOA national board member, who makes advocating for Israel and the Jewish people, particularly on Capitol Hill, a priority. ZOA was also proud to present the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award to Dr. Sanford J. and Carol Vieder, dedicated lifelong supporters of Israel.

For more information about ZOA Michigan, or to get more involved in our work, please contact Michigan Executive Director Kobi Erez at kobi@mizoa.org. 🇺🇸



Dr. Sanford J.
and Carol Viede



Sheryl Silver

ZOA Mourns the Passing of Dr. Daniel Mandel



The Zionist Organization of America mourns the passing of Dr. Daniel Mandel, its brilliant director of the ZOA Center for Mideast Policy. He leaves behind his devoted wife Grace, and a son and daughter.

Daniel was a brilliant historian, writer, researcher, activist, orator, and Mideast analyst, who received his PhD in Mideast history from Australia's University of Melbourne. Daniel was a key and integral part of fulfilling ZOA's sacred mission to fight for Israel and the Jewish people. Above all, he was a devoted and loving husband, father, and son.

Daniel was unique in his extraordinary and deeply insightful understanding of the truth of the Arab/ Islamic war against Israel and the West. And he acted on his substantial knowledge and wisdom with a fervency and commitment and actions few people ever achieve. Daniel was a warrior for his people, the Jewish people, and for the Jewish State of Israel that he loved second only to his family. He was a wonderful and elegant writer, so ably utilized in the cause of Eretz Yisroel.

Dr. Daniel Mandel has left a huge gap at ZOA that can really never be filled.

Daniel was the paragon of a gentleman, who never raised his voice and treated the most difficult and pressure-filled trying situations with aplomb and dignity. He treated everyone with respect and kindness. He was a pleasure to work with.

May his wife and children be comforted among the mourners of Daniel's beloved Zion and Jerusalem. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten and always in our hearts.

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