



# ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

## LOUIS D. BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



Dr. Miriam Adelson and Sheldon Adelson presenting Gov. Mike Huckabee the Adelson Defender of Israel Award with ZOA Vice Chair Dr. Alan Mazurek



Myron Zimmerman receives the Brandeis Award from ZOA President Morton A. Klein



Columbia U. student, Dan Cohen receives ZOA Essay Contest Award from ZOA Campus Director Sharona Whisler



Rabbi Shmuley Boteach



Left: U.S. Cong. Michele Bachmann, Dr. Kathy Lawrence, Brandeis President Frederick Lawrence, Moskowitz Awardee Tyler Korn, Esq., Gov. Mike Huckabee, Dinner Co-Chairs James S. Tisch and Kenneth J. Bialkin, Esq.



Dr. Anne Bayefsky



Dr. Ben Chouake, ZOA National Vice President (rt)

## MORT KLEIN WINS LANDSLIDE REELECTION AT ZOA CONVENTION



ZOA President Morton A. Klein

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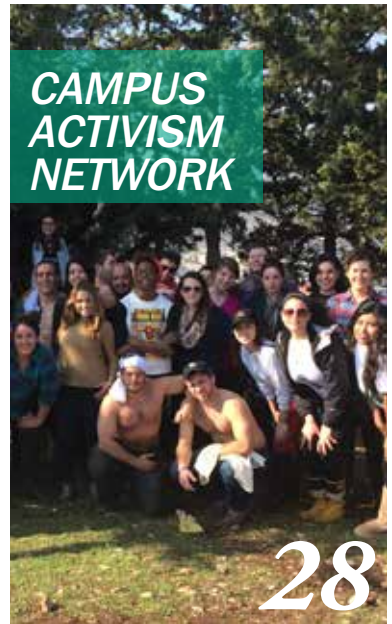
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## THE GENEVA DEAL IS A DISASTER

We all watched with trepidation when the P5+1 (Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States as well as Germany) and Iran signed the interim nuclear agreement in Geneva. The ZOA said at the time that it was a serious mistake and nothing that has happened in the past three months gives us cause to think that we were mistaken.

Put simply, the Geneva deal is a disaster. President Obama has said that this deal dramatically reduces the likelihood of war. Ironically, it increases it. It certainly dramatically increases the likelihood that Iran will develop nuclear weapons.

Why? Because the Geneva agreement permits Iran to retain intact all the essential elements of its nuclear weapons program.

During the six-month period of the deal, the Iranians can continue construction related to its plutonium reactor at Arak. It can continue work on its intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) programs which, according to U.S. intelligence, will enable Iran to strike the U.S. itself by 2015. Iran can also continue to enrich uranium to 5%. It merely has to reduce its existing enriched uranium stocks to an oxide which can be restored to weapons-grade uranium in a matter of weeks. Iran can become a break-out nuclear state in a matter of months.

The interim agreement also grants Iran substantial sanctions relief totaling some \$20 billion—far more than the \$6-7 billion originally forecast by the Administration.

Thus, President Obama and the P5+1 opted for an interim agreement which lets Iran off the sanctions hook. If we could not obtain a final agreement with Iran that terminates its nuclear weapons program when international sanctions were at their height, how likely are we to obtain a final agreement that accomplishes that, now that sanctions have been relaxed?

We all know that this is a regime whose leadership has stated frequently that it intends to destroy Israel. Indeed, during the Geneva negotiations, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei—speaking before a mass rally in which militiamen were chanting “Death to America”—obscenely declared that “Zionist officials cannot be called humans.... The Israeli regime is doomed to failure and annihilation.”

The matter would be serious enough if Iran could be deterred, like the Soviet Union was during the Cold War. However, Tehran probably cannot be deterred from using nuclear weapons, because, as the doyen of scholars of Islam, Emeritus Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton, Bernard Lewis, noted years ago, “MAD, mutual assured destruction ...will not work with a religious fanatic. For him, mutual assured destruction is not a deterrent, it is an inducement.” Indeed, the Islamic Republic’s founder, Ayatollah Khomeini, once declared, “We do not worship Iran, we worship Allah...I say, let this land [Iran] go up in smoke, provided Islam emerges triumphant in the rest of the world.” Destroying Israel is central to its vision of Islamic triumph.

The big problem is not only Iran becoming a nuclear weapons state, but an international agreement that permits Iran to remain just outside a nuclear weapons capacity while readying itself in every aspect of its nuclear program so that it is able one day to break out and quickly become a nuclear weapons state before anyone can stop it. That is really what we have now.

What could have been done to stop Tehran? Continuing and increasing sanctions alone might have induced Tehran to abandon its nuclear program. Intent on obtaining nuclear weapons and becoming a regional superpower, Tehran might have yielded on the nuclear



MORTON  
A. KLEIN  
President,  
Zionist Organization  
of America

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

issue to preserve its regime. After all, its ability to advance the radical Shia Islamist cause that animates it depends on its remaining in business. If it was endangered, we can't be certain, but it might have yielded on the nuclear issue, rather than risk a run to the bomb.

However, now that sanctions have been relaxed, Tehran will refuse to sign them away. When that happens, contrary to President Obama's contention that the deal leaves us "no worse off," we will find that the tough sanctions we abandoned in Geneva cannot be reinstated, let alone strengthened.

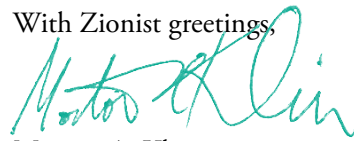
Indeed, this is the end of the sanctions regime. But even assuming that the sanctions regime does not break down, it takes time for new contracts to be halted. Even if, with hard work and good luck, certain sanctions are reinstated, it would take many months for this to occur and many more months for them to take their toll on Tehran.

In other words, at best, we have lost a year—if not two or three—to bring the regime around to the hard choice of abandoning its nuclear weapons program. Given Iran's ability to become a "break-out" nuclear power in a matter of mere months, we no longer have a year to spare.

Perhaps a credible threat of U.S. military action even now might suffice; the only time Iran halted its nuclear program was during 2003-5, when the U.S.-led coalition dismantled Saddam Hussein's regime. (Recall this was also the time that Libya voluntarily relinquished its nuclear program.) Clearly demonstrated U.S. willingness to use force produced results.

It will be extremely hard now for President Obama to credibly threaten military action. If he failed to honor his red line and take military action when Syria actually murdered thousands with chemical weapons, Iran is unlikely to take seriously any red line he might lay down now on building nuclear weapons. Yet he should do so without delay. But even if he does, there is now probably no way Iran can be prevented from going nuclear, except through military action.

With Zionist greetings,



Morton A. Klein  
National President



# AWARD DINNER

LOUIS BRANDEIS DINNER

## ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA ANNUAL LOUIS D. BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER

On November 24, over 900 people attended the Zionist Organization of America's (ZOA) 115th Louis D. Brandeis Award National Dinner at New York City's elegant Grand Hyatt Hotel. Former Republican presidential nomination contenders, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and U.S. Representative Michele Bachmann (R-MN), were keynote speakers at the Dinner. Governor Huckabee, host of the popular "Huckabee" show on Fox TV, was awarded the Adelson Defender of Israel Award, presented by global philanthropists and humanitarians Sheldon Adelson and Dr. Miriam Adelson, who also addressed the Dinner. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the crowd by video. Major ZOA donors Dr. Bob Shillman, Ira and Ingeborg Rennert, the Adelsons, James Tisch and others provided tables for 200 thrilled students from various colleges and universities.

Myron Zimmerman of San Francisco, real estate magnate and pro-Israel philanthropist, received the Louis D. Brandeis Award, previous recipients of which include Natan Sharansky, Simon Wiesenthal, Elizabeth Taylor, Dr. Miriam Adelson, Abba Eban, Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, Ronald Lauder and Mortimer Zuckerman. Dr. Anne Bayefsky, Director of Touro College's Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust, received the Ben Hecht Award for Outstanding Journalism, whose past recipients include A.M. Rosenthal, David Bar-Ilan, Cal Thomas, Daniel Pipes, Caroline Glick, Jeff Jacoby and William Kristol.

Michael Orbach, former ZOA National Chairman of the Board, presented the Cherna and Irving Moskowitz Award to Tyler B. Korn, Esq., managing member of The Korn Law Firm, and formerly with the firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind,



ZOA Board Member Dr. Rosalie Reich (center) with husband Leon, and Marilyn Hertz (right), wife of ZOA Board Member Eli Hertz



ZOA President Morton A. Klein



ZOA Board Member Jay Miller (right)



ZOA Campus Activism Network members enjoying dinner

# BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER

*The Prime Minister said, "Sheldon and Miriam Adelson are the greatest Zionists in the world."*

Wharton & Garrison in Mahattan. Previous recipients of the Moskowitz Award include U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), former Chair of the House Foreign Relations Committee, and Jean-Pierre Lecaillon, a member of the Senate of France.

Prior to the speeches, internationally-known Rabbi Shmuley Boteach delivered the D'var Torah. In his video address to the Dinner guests, Prime Minister Netanyahu lauded the ZOA for being "clear, consistent and courageous" in defending the righteous cause of Israel, fighting for the truth and working to advance the cause of

Israel with the government, media and the American public. The Prime Minister said, "Sheldon and Miriam Adelson are the greatest Zionists in the world. They don't only talk, they do and if the Adelsons put their names to an award, it really means something....The ZOA is indefatigable. Go from

strength to strength, you deserve it...I'd like to thank Mort Klein for his strength of character and striving for truth. Thank you very much."

Ben Hecht Awardee Professor Anne Bayefsky spoke next, praising the ZOA for having "an exceptional and resolute president, Mort Klein." Before returning to the theme of human rights, Professor Bayefsky recalled how her father had been among the allied troops that entered the Nazi concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. "For three decades, I have been following developments at the UN. There seems to be human rights on offer to everyone except Israelis. Colleagues vanish when it comes to opposing anti-Semitism. The line one gets is, 'If only Israel would do this, if only Israel would do that, Israel would be OK.' Israel is portrayed within the UN as a perpetual villain while Palestinians are portrayed as perpetual victims. Yet it is Israel that uses cement to build hospitals while Palestinians use cement to build arms-smuggling tunnels....There have been 10 emergency sessions in the UN's history, half of them devoted solely to Israel. In fact, since 1997, all of them have been on Israel. There is only one permanent agenda item—Israel. Only one country—Israel—is condemned annually for violating human rights." Professor Bayefsky noted the absurdity of the operation of the UN system which permits Iran to sit on the General Assembly Committee for Disarmament and the Committee on the Status of Women and, in June, to chair the Conference on Disarmament. "Now, for the first time, Jews serving in an accredited NGO have been excluded because they support Israel. It's an outrage. Why haven't American leaders protested this degradation of values? The answer lies in misplaced trust, fear of loneliness, moral impoverishment and moral relativism."

ZOA Board Member and president of Norpac Dr. Ben Chouake introduced ZOA National President Morton Klein, speaking of his "vision, the eternal optimism that carries him. Mort meets with dozens of governors, senators, congressmen. He has always impressed them with his passion and knowledge. He is a force



ZOA President Morton A. Klein and ZOA National Vice President Dr. Ben Chouake



ZOA Board Member Stanley Rosenberg and wife Judy (center) and ZOA Board Member Dr. Arthur Kook (right)

# BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



Susan Tuchman,  
Director of the Center  
for Law and Justice



Dinner Co-chair Kenneth Bialkin, National Vice Chair,  
Dr. Alan Mazurek, ZOA President Morton A. Klein



U.S. Cong.  
Michele Bachmann

of nature. Give thanks that he's on our side."

Mort Klein opened by saying he was "speaking tonight in the presence of the greatest Zionists in America, people like Governor Huckabee, Congresswoman Bachmann and the Adelsons." Speaking of those gathered, Klein said, "Had you all existed in the 1930s, history would have been very different, especially Jewish history." Turning to the issue of Iran, the deal between the P5+1 and Iran having been concluded only in the previous 24 hours, Klein spoke of the tendency in international affairs to seek appeasement, noting how everyone is ignoring the horrific, obscene speech in the past week by the Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who spoke of Israel as a "rabid dog" and of the U.S. as "an enemy who smiles," while Iranian mobs chanted "Death to America" and while Iranian statements have asserted that Israel's destruction has jurisprudential ground. "Yet the world calls this regime 'moderates,' whose new president, Hasan Rouhani, was involved in the Iranian terrorist attacks on Jews in Argentina, the Khobar Towers attack on U.S. servicemen, and has bragged about his record of deceiving international negotiators over Iran's illegal nuclear weapons program," Klein said.

Klein also noted that various sources, including the anti-Israel lobbyist James Zogby, have been compelled to take notice and acknowledge ZOA's successes, Zogby even writing about "a muscular and increasingly vocal ZOA. If we don't stop them they'll win," to which we say, "Yes Mr. Zogby, we will win." Klein noted also that U.S. intelligence experts believe that Iran will have an intercontinental ballistic missile capacity with the range to strike America by 2015. He also observed that an Iranian nuclear bomb would mean that much of the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey, would probably go nuclear as well. "This will make the Middle East a tinderbox, the most unstable imaginable. The Iranian terrorist regime must be stopped. It is a regime that hangs gays, oppresses women, sends its youth through minefields to clear the way for their forces, accuses the U.S. of orchestrating the 9/11 attacks and denies the Holocaust. They and their proxies have committed scores of terrorist attacks around the world, murdering thousands of people—and that's what it does when it hasn't got a nuclear bomb. How will it behave when it does have a nuclear bomb? It's time we started talking about the danger

*U.S. intelligence experts believe that Iran will have an intercontinental ballistic missile capacity with the range to strike America by 2015.*

# BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



VIP Table at the ZOA Brandeis Award Dinner



ZOA Board Member Dr. Stanley Benzel (right) with family

*“Appeasement has always failed and ultimately led to violence and war.”*

Howard Berman to bring to the floor of the House for over a year a sanctions bill. He appointed Chuck Hagel as Defense Secretary, who previously had spent years advocating against economic sanctions and military action against Iran and in favor of containment when Iran goes nuclear. Secretary Clinton spoke openly about providing a missile shield for U.S. Arab allies if Iran becomes a nuclear power—all pointing to acceptance of a nuclear Iran, contrary to President Obama’s public reassurances on this point. And Israel has also been repeatedly pressured against undertaking military action against Iran. Vice President Joseph Biden and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey both publicly warned Israel against attacking Iran, while President Obama’s friend

of not stopping Iran militarily.”

Moving to President Obama’s response to this crisis, Klein said, “The President said that he will do ‘everything, everything to stop Iran, Period.’ He said you ‘could keep your health care if you liked it. Period.’ His promise on Iran seems to be as false as his promise on health care. He didn’t allow Congressman

and long-standing adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, publicly stated that, were Israel to launch a military attack on Iran, America should down Israel’s planes. With this record, the Obama Administration has sent the message that it is not going to act to stop Iran. As Frederick the Great once said, ‘Diplomacy without arms is like music without instruments.’ The deal just concluded in Geneva leaves untouched all the essential elements of Iran’s nuclear weapons program. It can continue construction of its Arak plutonium reactor, suspending, but not terminating, heavy water-related projects and not being required to dismantle the site; it can keep all its centrifuges—it doesn’t need to dismantle a single one; it can continue to enrich uranium to 5% enrichment for the next six months—enough, given Iran’s recent, hugely expanded number of centrifuges, now numbering over 18,000, to become a ‘break-out’ nuclear state at a time of its choosing; and it can maintain without any limitations its UN Security Council-prohibited intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) program, which already enables Iran to strike Israel and Europe and, within a few years, to strike the U.S. as well.

“This whole agreement is an act of appeasement and Dr. Donald Kagan, renowned Professor of Classics at Yale University, has written in his book, *The Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace*, having studied appeasement throughout history and concluded, ‘appeasement has always failed and ultimately led to violence and war.’

“We might sometimes ask,” Klein continued, “can it be that we are right and everyone else is wrong?” The answer is yes, it can be true. When Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor at Osirak in 1981, the whole world condemned Israel—and now everyone knows it was the right thing to do. In the ancient world, we were derided by everyone for having a day of rest; people said we were lazy, but we were right. In the Middle Ages, people thought we killed gentile children to use their blood in matzah, only we knew otherwise, we were right. People believed we poisoned wells, we never did, they were wrong, we were right.”



# BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER

Following Klein's address, Ken Bialkin, Esq., Of Counsel to the firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom and former Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, introduced Susan Tuchman, Director of the ZOA Center for Law and Justice, who spoke of ZOA's pioneering fight to defend Jewish students on American campuses from anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation. Ms. Tuchman spoke of ZOA's work with Jewish and pro-Israel students at Brooklyn College to address problems they have been facing on campus, including being ousted, without justification, from an anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions event co-sponsored by the College's political science department, giving the event legitimacy it did not deserve. Ms. Tuchman also spoke about problems for Jewish students at Northeastern University in Boston where, after a long struggle to have issues of anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation addressed, the University president has now stated that there would be zero tolerance for anti-Semitism on campus.

ZOA Campus Director Sharona Whisler presented ZOA's award for the best student essay on Zionism to Daniel Cohen, a student at Columbia University.

ZOA Board Member James Pollack introduced Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, and said that if either Mike Huckabee or Michele Bachmann had been elected President, the security situation of Israel, the United States and the world would be very different today. No one in Washington, Mr. Pollack said, is more focused, more supportive intellectually, or more knowledgeable about Israel than Michele Bachmann.

Michele Bachmann opened by saying that she was "absolutely thunderstruck at the events in the world of the past few weeks and especially last night in Geneva, when the hinge of history turned. A spiritual darkness has descended on our world with this decision of the P5+1 and Iran, a decision with the import to change the world. Yet I think this agreement

has more to do with Israel than with Iran. Israel may be forced now, when abandoned by the world, not to strike Iran even if Iran continues its march towards a nuclear bomb. I served on the House Intelligence Committee. There have been intelligence leaks regarding Israel's preparation to deal with Iran in the event that it has to do so, leaks that Israel might be planning to strike in the next two to four months, Israel investigating the possible use of airbases in Azerbaijan. Many of the secrets coming up would be secrets known to only about ten people in the whole country. Every leak puts Israel in a more dangerous position than it has been in before. Meanwhile, Iran has obtained six months in which to continue its deceptions and preparations to become a nuclear power. Prime Minister Netanyahu will be forced to make a decision to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities. One can't believe the Ira-

*"Iran has obtained six months in which to continue its deceptions and preparations to become a nuclear power."*



Co-Director, Government Relations Department Dan Pollak (left) and Ken Abramowitz (center)



U.S. Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, Chloe Valdary and ZOA Director for Development Howard Katzoff

## BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER

*“I think few Jews are as true Zionists as former pastor and governor Mike Huckabee.”*

nian regime is serious about this agreement. Ali Khamenei made a vile speech attacking Jews, and crowds in Tehran have been chanting ‘Death to America’—this, at a time you’d think they’d be trying to put their best foot forward. Where has the Senate been? Where has the House been? Where have the pro-Israel organizations been, besides the ZOA? Where are they all at a time like this? Meanwhile President Obama is permitting Iran to keep on keeping on. Iran has been made to give up nothing or next to nothing.”

Mort Klein presented the Brandeis Award to Myron Zimmerman, enumerating Mr. Zimmerman’s many extraordinary contributions to Jewish and pro-Israel causes over the years. Klein noted that Mr. Zimmerman “cares about our people and our ancient homeland with all his heart and all his soul.” In accepting the Brandeis Award, Mr. Zimmerman said, “I only wish I had more money to give away for this cause.”

Introducing Dr. Miriam Adelson and Sheldon Adelson to present the Adelson Defender of Israel Award to Governor Huckabee, Mort Klein noted that the ZOA is honored to give this award in the Adelsons’ name. Klein presented the Adelsons with a beautiful, hand-carved, authentic Jerusalem stone mezuzah for their new home in Las Vegas, and said that after having visited the Adelson home, “This is exactly the sort of house G-d would have lived in—if He could afford it.”

Sheldon Adelson introduced Governor Huckabee, saying that “I think few Jews are as true Zionists as former pastor and governor Mike Huckabee.” Governor Huckabee then addressed the crowd saying, “The Land of Israel was promised to the Jews by G-d. The division of Jerusalem is unimaginable. You don’t negotiate with those who don’t want you to exist. I support a Palestinian state—outside Israel.... The ZOA is the strongest Jewish voice for Israel on the face of the planet. Other Jewish organizations are sometimes afraid to ruffle feathers. Mort Klein and ZOA are prepared to pluck the chicken. It is time for the

others to get over their throat colds and speak out as well.” Turning to the deal with Iran signed in Geneva, Governor Huckabee said, “This is the equivalent of giving them a shot of whisky, the keys to the sports car and telling them to go out and impress their girl. Yet Secretary Kerry spoke, in fact, he is still talking, about what a good deal this is. This is the time that we need a Churchill and instead we have a Chamberlain. It is Israel that has a Churchill in Benjamin Netanyahu. It is also time that we took the jackhammer to the United Nations, disassemble it, and let it float out into the East River. The UN takes our money and insults us....Our relationship to Israel is not organizational, it’s organic. The greatest gift of G-d is to be free, and Israel is free and its borders are not set by the UN or the Balfour Declaration, but by G-d Almighty....Israel cannot talk peace to people who deny it the right to breathe. The U.S. should be saying, ‘You cannot attack Israel. An attack upon them is an attack upon us.’....Israel has been revived. The dry bones that Ezekiel saw have been revived because G-d’s hand is upon her. Standing with Israel is standing with G-d’s Chosen. G-d has never abandoned Israel and he’s not about to start and I don’t want to be on the wrong side of history.... Never, never, never, never again—that is the true basis for peace.”

ZOA publicly praised the President of Brandeis University, Frederick Lawrence, who attended the Dinner with his wife, for abrogating Brandeis University’s relationship with the anti-Semitic Al-Quds University.

James Tisch, CEO of Loews Corp. and a past Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Ken Bialkin, Esq. were Dinner Co-Chairmen. Tizmoret, Queens College’s award-winning Jewish a capella singing group, performed at the Dinner, and a Klezmer band performed at the pre-dinner reception. Dr. Alan Mazurek, Chairman of the ZOA’s National Advisory Council, served as the Master of Ceremonies at the Dinner with his usual eloquence and humor. [ZOA](#)

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# LAW AND JUSTICE

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## ZOA NEGOTIATES IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE

Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould issued a public statement on March 7, 2013, apologizing in full to the four Jewish students who were forcibly thrown out of an anti-Israel, anti-Semitic boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) event at Brooklyn College on February 7, 2013. The BDS event was sponsored by a campus anti-Israel group, the so-called “Students for Justice in Palestine” (SJP), and co-sponsored by the political science department. President Gould’s public statement was part of a negotiated settlement between the ZOA and Brooklyn College, after the ZOA challenged the college’s response to campus anti-Semitism, including how it handled the BDS event, as a violation of federal law.

Prior to the BDS event, several Jewish students came to the ZOA and reported that as Jews and Israel supporters, they felt threatened and intimidated at Brooklyn College, particularly in the political science department. Many students were shocked and horrified by the department’s decision to co-sponsor the BDS event which would be one-sided and promoting Israel’s destruction. They were also shocked and horrified by what occurred at the event itself. One of the students who was thrown out of the event was a vocal pro-Israel activist on campus. Two of the other students were obviously Jewish, wearing kippahs.

When efforts to resolve the campus problems informally with Brooklyn College failed, the ZOA took legal action. In July 2013, the ZOA filed a student-backed complaint against Brooklyn College under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, alleging a hostile campus environment for Jewish students, particularly in the political science department. If the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR)—which enforces Title VI—concludes that a school has violated the law,

the school risks losing its federal funding.

Triggered by the ZOA’s Title VI complaint, OCR notified the ZOA in September 2013 that it would be investigating what occurred at the BDS event. OCR offered the ZOA and Brooklyn College the option of engaging in OCR’s Early Complaint Resolution (ECR) process, which is essentially mediation. (The process could be terminated at any time, at which point OCR’s investigation would proceed.)

The ZOA and Brooklyn College agreed to the ECR process and the mediation session took place on December 3, 2013, with the aid of mediators from OCR. Three students—Melanie Goldberg and Ari Ziegler, who had been forcibly expelled from the anti-Semitic BDS event; and Abraham Esses, student body president at the time of the forced expulsion—accompanied the ZOA’s Susan Tuchman, Esq. to the mediation session and participated fully. Negotiations were completed in the weeks after the mediation session, facilitated by the OCR mediators.

As a result of the ECR process, Brooklyn College President Karen Gould issued the following statement to the college community, to Hillel, and to the ZOA:

### STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT GOULD REGARDING THE FEBRUARY 7, 2013 BDS FORUM

Last summer, I had the opportunity to meet with Melanie Goldberg, Michael Ziegler, and Ari Ziegler, who, along with Yvonne Juris, were students at Brooklyn College who were forced to leave the BDS event sponsored by the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) club and held in the Student Center on February 7, 2013. While I had expressed my regrets to the students in person and in individual letters to



SUSAN TUCHMAN  
Director, Center  
for Law and Justice

them, I wish to publicly apologize on behalf of Brooklyn College to Melanie, Michael, Ari and Yvonne over the treatment they received.

The students were removed from the event based upon allegations by Carlos Guzman, an event organizer not affiliated with Brooklyn College, that the students were being disruptive and passing out flyers. As I stated last spring in a campus-wide communication, based upon the findings of a two-month CUNY investigation of what occurred and interviews with more than 40 witnesses, Mr. Guzman's allegations proved to be false. The CUNY investigation concluded that "there was no justification for the removal of the four students." Melanie, Michael, Ari and Yvonne had every right to retain the papers they were holding and to remain at the event, as they had not done anything to give rise to a reasonable belief that a disturbance was about to erupt.

The CUNY report stated that a plausible inference could be drawn that Mr. Guzman was motivated by political viewpoint inasmuch as he was apparently aware of the views of Melanie Goldberg from a prior event sponsored by the same student club. The CUNY report went on to state that it could not draw that inference with sufficient confidence to make a definitive finding. I was not present at the event. However, it seems to me likely that Mr. Guzman sought the removal of these four students from the event because they held viewpoints contrary to those being promoted by the SJP.

The CUNY report also concluded that administrators and public safety officers on site deferred to Mr. Guzman, rather than determining independently if the students had disrupted the event. Deferring to Mr. Guzman's assessment was clearly wrong, and I have conveyed this judgment to the administrators involved in the incident.

Regrettably, without independent verification of what actually occurred, the Brooklyn College spokesperson released an erroneous statement to the press after the BDS

event, about the removal of the four students. The college spokesperson told some reporters that the four students were being disruptive, which turned out to be false.

In the aftermath of the BDS forum and the CUNY report, members of the college administration, the Policy Council, and student government leaders worked extensively to develop and institutionalize new policies and guidelines for the management of public events hosted by student clubs, in order to ensure that such a situation does not occur again. The new policies and guidelines for student-hosted events address event planning, registration, press access, and administrative oversight and responsibility. Beginning with the fall 2013 semester, these new policies and guidelines for student club events are fully operational and can be accessed on the following websites: <http://students.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pdf/epi.pdf>[http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/off\\_communications/MediaAccessGuidelines.pdf](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/off_communications/MediaAccessGuidelines.pdf)

Since its founding in 1930, Brooklyn College has excelled at providing a high-quality, affordable education to students of diverse backgrounds. The remarkable diversity of our student body, faculty, and staff is in fact one of our most important assets, and we celebrate it. The diversity of our community means, of course, that there will be diversity of viewpoints about a wide range of issues and topics, some of which may be highly controversial. At all times, and however much we disagree with one another, we must be a place where every member of our community—students, faculty, and staff—feels welcome and is treated with dignity, regardless of his or her background, beliefs or faith. Brooklyn College is an institution committed to fostering an engaged and civil learning environment where all views may be expressed without fear of intimidation or reprisal. Brooklyn College will not tolerate any form of discrimination, including among others, discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or age. We will be steadfast

*The CUNY investigation concluded that "there was no justification for the removal of the four students."*

# CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

in our commitment to ensure that all events on our campus transpire in an atmosphere of civility and mutual respect.

President Gould's public statement is a huge victory for Jewish students at Brooklyn College. The college administration publicly acknowledged and accepted full responsibility for the wrongdoing that occurred in connec-

tion with the BDS event, it identified the perpetrators, and it issued a full public apology. In addition, the college publicly affirmed its commitment to a civil learning environment where all views may be expressed without fear of intimidation or reprisal. And the college publicly confirmed that it would not tolerate discrimination based on religion or ethnicity.

## ZOA PLAYS KEY ROLE IN NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ADDRESSING CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM—ANTI-ISRAEL “STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE” GROUP SUSPENDED

Boston's Northeastern University has recently taken several important steps toward remedying a hostile campus environment for Jewish and pro-Israel students—and the ZOA played a key role in achieving this result.

That Northeastern should be tainted by anti-Semitism is surprising. In 2013, Hillel listed the school as one of the top 30 private universities in the U.S. by Jewish population. But over a period of several months in 2013, the ZOA received reports from student after student who felt threatened and intimidated

on campus, as a result of the Israel-bashing conduct of a student group that calls itself “Students for Justice in Palestine” (SJP). In addition, professors were promoting vicious anti-Israel falsehoods in the classroom which crossed the line into anti-Semitism.

In July 2013, the ZOA wrote a detailed letter to Joseph Aoun, the president of Northeastern University, describing the problems that students were facing. The letter was based on ZOA's interviews with almost 20 students, as well as with faculty and others in the community. An August 2013 op-ed in *The Jewish Advocate*, the major Jewish newspaper in the Boston area, praised the ZOA's letter, noting that it “exposes with intense moral clarity the stark failure of Jewish leaders and American educational institutions to keep Jewish students safe from a hostile environment.”

In addition to describing the anti-Semitic hostility, the ZOA proposed in its letter that Northeastern take several steps calculated to remedy the hostility. The ZOA called on President Aoun to publicly and forcefully condemn campus anti-Semitism, and called on Northeastern to enforce its Code of Conduct and hold wrongdoers accountable when Jewish students are threatened or harassed.

Shortly thereafter, Northeastern began implementing these steps. In late October 2013,



Northeastern University

President Aoun gave his state of the university address. To an audience of thousands, he publicly proclaimed, for the first time, that Northeastern would have “zero tolerance for anti-Semitism.” Then, in November 2013, Northeastern issued a written message to faculty that students must be able to express their views without fear of intimidation or reprisal.

In March 2014, Northeastern cracked down on the SJP after this group put fake “eviction notices” under students’ doors in several Northeastern residence halls. These notices contained false and demonizing information about Israel, calculated to incite hatred of the Jewish State. The “eviction notices” were designed to look genuine, leading some students to believe that they were actually being evicted. These actions, like previous actions of the SJP, caused alarm and even fear in students, especially Jewish students.

Northeastern took strong and decisive action, suspending the SJP for at least one year; permanently banning its current executive board members from serving on any future board in the organization; and mandating training led by university administrators as a condition of reinstatement.

In a letter to President Aoun and also in a press release, the ZOA strongly praised Northeastern for responding forcefully and appropri-

ately to the SJP’s harassing, intimidating and bigoted behavior. The ZOA wrote to President Aoun, “You have now told the SJP, loud and clear, that it is accountable for its infractions, just like everyone else. You have also sent an equally important message to the rest of the university community—that while Northeastern supports a robust exchange of diverse ideas, it will not be at the expense of anyone’s physical and psychological safety and well-being. Fostering a climate of hostility, which is the SJP’s modus operandi, is against the mission and core values of Northeastern University.”

The ZOA played a key role in getting Northeastern to take the necessary steps to remedy the campus anti-Semitism. Also key were the efforts of Northeastern’s Hillel, which strongly stands up for Jewish students, and the work of Charles Jacobs, a Boston activist who exposed the anti-Semitism at Northeastern, particularly by producing several videos documenting the anti-Semitic hostility that Jewish students were being subjected to.

The students at Northeastern who had the courage to come forward played an equally crucial role. Several were the ZOA’s guests at its annual Brandeis Dinner in November 2013. They received applause and cheers for bravely standing up to campus anti-Semitism and vicious Israel-bashing.

## **ZOACALLS ON UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA TO INVESTIGATE AND CONDEMN ANTI-SEMITIC “GAME SHOW”**

The ZOA has called on the University of South Florida (USF) to take action after USF’s Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter sponsored an outrageous anti-Semitic game show last November, called “Battle of the Bulls,” styled after the television show “Jeopardy!” Seven other student organizations participated as contestants.

The SJP claimed that the game show was intended to “raise awareness of the Israeli

occupation of Palestine”—itself a lie. But in fact, the game show demonized Jews and Israel by promoting the following falsehoods:

- That Israelis “snatch” Palestinian children from their beds;
- That Israelis are “massacring” Palestinians on sacred Muslim ground”;
- That there are roads in Israel that only Jews can use;

# CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE



University of South Florida

*The SJP provided the student group participants with an incentive to endorse the hateful and bigoted falsehoods about Jews and the Jewish State of Israel; the group that endorsed the most anti-Semitic lies was rewarded with \$1000....*

- That Israeli “settlers” are putting poisons in the Palestinian Arabs’ water supply to make the water undrinkable;
- That Jews use a derogatory term for “African” and Israelis use this term to refer to President Barack Obama;
- That a Palestinian Arab child named Muhammad al-Dura was shot and killed by Israeli gunfire in 2000, which is a complete hoax fabricated by the Palestinian Arabs.

Even the categories of questions at the SJP event were anti-Semitic. One category was called “blood profits,” an obvious reference to the ancient anti-Semitic blood libel, which demonizes Jews by falsely accusing them of murdering non-Jewish children in order to use their blood for ritual purposes.

The SJP provided the student group participants with an incentive to endorse the hateful and bigoted falsehoods about Jews and the Jewish State of Israel. According to the USF student paper, the “winning” student organization—i.e., the group that endorsed the most anti-Semitic lies—was rewarded with a \$1000.00 cash prize, to be donated to the organization’s charity of choice. The paper reported that the “winning” group originally planned to donate the prize

money to disaster relief in the Philippines. But at the SJP’s suggestion, the organization decided to donate the money to aid “Palestinian refugees” instead.

After this anti-Semitic event was exposed in the student paper, and after a student wrote a letter to the editor complaining that the event “spread blatant falsehoods” and asked “highly skewed, dehumanizing questions,” the USF administration said and did nothing.

The ZOA took action, sending a letter to USF President Dr. Judy Genshaft, urging that this hateful and bigoted event be investigated to determine (1) whether the SJP and the seven other student groups violated USF policies; (2) where the \$1,000.00 cash prize came from and whether the prize money was donated to a legitimate and preapproved charity; and (3) what role the faculty advisors played in this anti-Semitic debacle.

In addition, the ZOA urged Dr. Genshaft to speak out, finally, and publicly condemn the “Battle of the Bulls” event as anti-Semitic and against the values of USF, and also to publicly condemn the student group participants by name. USF would surely speak out if African Americans, Hispanics, Muslims, women or gays were targeted—and rightly so, the ZOA reasoned. The USF leadership should be making it clear that targeting Jews and the Jewish State of Israel was equally reprehensible.

USF responded to the ZOA’s letter with complete indifference. While USF agreed to verify the source of the cash prize, as well as the organization that received it, USF did not condemn or even criticize the hatred that eight USF student groups expressed and promoted toward the Jewish people and the Jewish State of Israel. Indeed, USF seemingly justified it, touting the “diverse interests, viewpoints and ideas” of its student body—as if targeting and demonizing Jews were acceptable.

In February 2014, the ZOA wrote to USF’s Board of Trustees, informing them that USF had failed to take any steps to remedy the campus anti-Semitism, including even acknowledging that the anti-Semitism occurred. The Board’s response was just as callous. The ZOA is continuing to pursue the matter. [ZOA](#)



# GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT RELATIONS



JOSH  
LONDON

Co-Director, Government  
Relations Department



DAN  
POLLAK

Co-Director, Government  
Relations Department

## FOCUSED AND EVER VIGILANT

The issue of Iran and its pursuit of a nuclear weapon have dominated the agenda of pro-Israel advocacy in Washington, DC. Monumental blunders in US diplomacy have unfortunately made it likely that only the use of military force, or its imminent threat, can stop Iran from achieving a nuclear weapons capability. At the time of this writing, we are approaching the climax of the peace initiative begun by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, and significant U.S. pressure on Israel is expected to continue. Other priorities include ending unconditional aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA), standing up against the European Union's attempts to isolate Israel, moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, and working with the ZOA Center for Law and Justice to protect Jewish students under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

The interim agreement between the U.S., Iran and the permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany went into effect on January 20, 2014. While its details can be understood by going to the ZOA web site, it is fair to summarize the agreement as a gift to the Iranians. Sanctions are significantly eased, while nothing irreversible is expected of Iran. The congressional response, while supported by ZOA, is not a solution to the problem. As of this writing,

a non-veto proof majority of the Senate supports the imposition of new sanctions on Iran as a way to force progress towards negotiations that would make a difference. The new sanctions legislation, though, suffers from a fatal flaw, like the legislation passed in 2010 and in retrospect, all of the many sanctions imposed on Iran since 1996. The President and his appointees remain the most decisive element in determining when and how foreign countries and their financial institutions are sanctioned, and the will to make the sanctions truly crippling has not been present with Presidents of either party. The President and his allies in the Senate are currently blocking even this inadequate legislation from being voted on in the Senate, while besmirching those who support the measure.

ZOA has been warning for more than a year that time is running out to prevent Iran from achieving its goal of having the capability to produce a nuclear weapon. The sanctions bill passed by the House was lobbied for by participants in the ZOA's Mission to Washington, DC in 2013. Now, though, time has run out. Iran has enough enriched uranium that it can move to the final steps of assembling a nuclear weapon at a time of its choosing. The only thing that might prevent this catastrophe for American policy in the region is the threat of an attack on Iran by the U.S. or our allies. Instead, American policy seems focused on creating the illusion of progress so that a military attack on Iran is unthinkable. Every opponent of military pressure should be forced to explain for history why they are acquiescing to Iran's achievement of a nuclear capability.

Meanwhile, the changes in the Arab world that optimists began calling the "Arab Spring" have revealed themselves to be a turbulent transition to Islamist control of most of the Arab world. In both Syria and Egypt, American policy remains very confused. ZOA has been a loud and clear voice demanding that the U.S. stop cozying up to the Muslim Brotherhood around the region. It is not often appreciated that the opposition in Jordan is also affiliated with the Brotherhood, and both the

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

*The Palestinian Arabs continue to insist they will never agree to recognize Israel as a Jewish State.*

Egyptian and Jordanian branches have close ties to Hamas, which is the Palestinian branch of the same organization.

Upon taking office as Secretary of State, John Kerry has gone out of his way to demonstrate that he has not learned anything from previous failed attempts to make peace between the Jews and Arabs of the world's most turbulent region. One thing that every player outside the U.S. government has now grasped is that there is no connectivity between any of the most challenging acute crises in the region—whether in Syria, Iraq or Egypt—and the Arab-Israeli dispute. Kerry, though, insists on going for the prize as though no one with any energy had ever tried it before. The ZOA's reaction has been to ask Congress to stand up against the idea that Israel should be pressured in order to appease the PA. There are a number of proposed laws that ZOA supports that would demand an end to incitement, require U.S. funds to be audited to ensure there is no contribution to Palestinian Arab terrorists by U.S. taxpayers, and would demand the reform of UN institutions that support Palestinian Arab rejectionism and unilateralism as a condition for accepting U.S. aid.

As this publication is being edited, the critical moment in the artificial and wholly arbitrary timeline created by Secretary Kerry is coming into focus. Kerry has asked both Israel and the PA to agree to new terms of discussions to extend the talks. The framework agreement asks virtually nothing of the Palestinian Arabs, while the conditions to be imposed on the Israelis are essentially all of the core Palestinian pre-conditions that Israel has been resisting over the past eight months, namely, Palestinian Arab statehood based on the 1949 armistice lines with land swaps to enable most of the Jews living in the disputed areas of Judea and Samaria to remain under Israeli sovereignty, which means Israel would be committed to uprooting 150,000 Jews, or about roughly half of the Jews in Judea and Samaria outside of Jerusalem. The status of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel is not addressed in the framework; neither

is the Palestinian Arab claim for their bogus "right of return." In terms of Israeli security, this new framework in effect abandons UN Resolution 242 as it does not entail that Israel's sovereign legitimacy and secure boundaries be recognized by the Palestinian Arabs or any Arab states; instead Israel's borders will be determined by the United States, guaranteed by high-tech electronic surveillance monitors (to be paid for by the U.S.) and possibly also the presence of international forces for a delimited period of time. The Palestinian Arabs continue to insist they will never recognize Israel as a Jewish State, and are threatening to take their grievances to the UN for additional action. Since the UN has designated 2014 as the "UN Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People," absent determined U.S. opposition, the PA expects to be successful there.

All the while, Kerry is increasing pressure only on Israel, voicing concern for Israel's future if a deal isn't reached. Each pronouncement appears increasingly like a veiled threat to the Jewish State. In May 2013, for example, Kerry told reporters in Jerusalem, "People in Israel aren't waking up every day and wondering if tomorrow there will be peace because there is a sense of security and a sense of accomplishment and of prosperity." This criticism of Israeli prosperity was followed up in November with: "If we do



Secretary of State John Kerry

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

not find a way to peace, there will be an increasing isolation of Israel, there will be an increasing campaign of delegitimization of Israel that's been taking place on an international basis." In case a picture of his concerns for Israel's future was not sufficiently clear to all, he followed this up with, "Does Israel want a third intifada?" In February 2014, Kerry seemed to warm to his theme when he averred: "There is talk of boycotts and other kinds of things. [...] Today's status quo absolutely, to a certainty, I promise you 100 percent, cannot be maintained. It's not sustainable. It's illusionary. There's a momentary prosperity, there's a momentary peace."

Seemingly in concert with Kerry's "concerns," the European Union (EU) published a directive to its 28 member states—"Guidelines on the Eligibility of Israeli Entities and their Activities in the Territories Occupied by Israel since June 1967 for Grants, Prizes and Financial Instruments funded by the EU from 2014 Onwards"—which forbids EU organizations and institutions from funding or cooperating with any Jewish entities based in Judea and Samaria, eastern Jerusalem or the Golan Heights. (Arab entities are exempt, as are entities that promote or are otherwise in line with the EU's anti-Israel policies.) The directive—which took effect on January 1, 2014—includes a requirement that all future agreements between the EU and Israel include a clause in which Israel accepts the EU position that none of the territory beyond the so-called "Green Line" belongs to Israel. Due to the boost this initiative has given the international "boycott, divestment and sanctions" (BDS) movement against Israel, within Israel this EU measure is widely perceived as, and has been dubbed, an "EU boycott."

Making matters worse, Kerry announced on September 8, 2013, that he asked the EU to delay implementing the new guidelines to show the Israeli public the benefit of pursuing a peace agreement with the Palestinians—thereby encouraging the widely held belief that Kerry is partly responsible for the policy's adoption and formulation, especially as he appears to be trying to add this to the list of immediate repercussions against Israel should the

peace talks fail. The underlying message is that the US intends to blame Israel for the failure of Kerry's initiative, regardless of what the Palestinian Arabs say or do.

ZOA immediately mobilized when news of this EU directive came to light, educating Members of Congress about the issue. Multiple Congressional letters were sent to EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, urging her to halt the EU directive. Several Members of Congress successfully reached out to various EU parliamentarians to do likewise. Several Members of Congress also published editorials condemning the measure.

Unfortunately, ZOA remains the only credible voice on Capitol Hill trying to stop the flow of U.S. financial and material aid to the PA and to halt the misguided U.S.-Israeli effort to create a Palestinian Arab terrorist state out of Judea and Samaria. ZOA continues to push legislative efforts to set further conditions on continued U.S. aid to the PA and ultimately to end them, based on the PA's ongoing non-compliance with its many "peace" agreements with Israel.

In addition to dealing with our elected officials, the Government Relations department interacts with other Jewish and Christian organizations in DC. We also participate in written and broadcast media opportunities to spread the word on ZOA's issues. In December, one of the Co-Directors spoke to ZOA members in Florida to mobilize our activists to engage in political activity without visiting Washington, DC. More regional visits are planned.

For activists who can make it to Washington, the May 21, 2014 ZOA Mission to Washington is an opportunity to make a difference yourself. It is anticipated that many members of Congress will be addressing our delegates during the lunch program. The ZOA's annual Mission helps underscore that, at the heart of all of ZOA's Government Relations efforts, stands the dedication, passionate advocacy and depth of knowledge of ZOA members across the country. Please continue to stay involved in the grassroots advocacy that is so critical to our being effective in Washington, DC. [ZOA](#)

*ZOA remains the only credible voice on Capitol Hill trying to stop the flow of US financial and material aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA).*

# PICTORIAL

ZOA'S BRANDEIS AWARD



1. ZOA Board Member Malvina Halberstam, Esq. and son, with U.S. Cong. Michele Bachmann and Gov. Mike Huckabee
2. Morton Klein, Sheldon Adelson, U.S. Cong. Michele Bachmann, Gov. Mike Huckabee, Janet Huckabee, ZOA Board Member Henry Schwartz and Joseph Frager
3. Gov. Mike Huckabee and Dr. Miriam Adelson
4. ZOA President Morton A. Klein, Joyce Chernick, Dr. Anne Bayefsky and Vice Chairman Dr. Alan Mazurek
5. Audience singing the Star Spangled Banner
6. Dinner Co-Chair Ken Bialkin, Esq.
7. Susan Tuchman, Director of the Center for Law and Justice
8. Dr. Daniel Pipes and ZOA Board Member Jim Pollack
9. U.S. Cong. Michelle Bachmann, Elyse Siegel and ZOA Board Member Ed Siegel

# PICTORIAL

ZOA'S BRANDEIS AWARD



1. Dr. Gerald Platt, U.S. Cong. Michele Bachmann, Morton Klein, Gov. Mike Huckabee, Dr. Vicki Deutsch
2. Morton Klein and U.S. Cong. Michele Bachmann
3. Morton Klein and Gov. Mike Huckabee
4. Kevin Ross, Co-President of the Philadelphia chapter, Aaron Ross and U.S. Cong. Michele Bachmann
5. Morton Klein, Campus Director Sharona Whisler, Columbia University student Dan Cohen, and Vice Chairman Dr. Alan Mazurek
6. ZOA Board Member Bart Blatstein, Chairman of the Board, Dr. Michael Goldblatt
7. ZOA Board Member Henry Schwartz, U.S. Cong. Michele Bachmann, Gov. Mike Huckabee, Chairman of the Board, Dr. Michael Goldblatt, ZOA President Morton Klein

# PICTORIAL

DC ADVOCACY MISSION

1. Morton Klein with Tyler Korn, Esq.



2. Dinner Co-Chairs Jim Tisch and Ken Bialkin (center) with Gov. Huckabee and Morton Klein



3. Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson with Morton Klein



4. Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson



5. ZOA Board Member Sylvia Freyer and grandson with Gov. Huckabee and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gross



6. ZOA Board Member Martin Sokol and wife, ZOA Board Member Dr. Rosalie Reich and Dr. Leon Reich



7. Sivan and Patrick Dumont, the Adelsons' daughter and son-in-law, and Mrs. Tyler Korn



8. DeeDee Fein and friends with Gov. Huckabee and Rita Klein



9. Morton Klein, Myron Zimmerman, Gov. Huckabee



# ZOA CONVENTION<sup>97<sup>th</sup></sup>

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) held its 97th National Convention at the Hilton Hotel in Philadelphia on March 9-10, 2014, where Morton A. Klein was reelected National President of the ZOA by 93% of the vote of ZOA delegates from around the country. This landslide victory reflected a clear mandate for Mort Klein's leadership of the ZOA and an overwhelming repudiation of his opponent's false and outrageous allegations.

Delegates from around the country attended the Convention and participated in the vote for National President and other ZOA National Officers, and also considered other ZOA issues. The delegates came from Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, New York, Detroit, Cleveland, Washington D.C., as well as from Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland and other states.

The delegates elected Mort Klein's slate of officers by unanimous vote. Mr. Klein's opponent in the election did not submit any candidates for the national officer positions.

Dr. Michael Goldblatt, a distinguished clinical psychologist and professor, was elected Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Irwin Hochberg, a renowned Jewish leader, former Chairman of the UJC-UJA Jewish Federation of NY, and National Campaign Chair of Israel Bonds, was elected Vice-Chair. Dr. Alan Mazurek, a distinguished neurologist on the faculty of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, was also elected Vice-Chair.

Mr. Henry Schwartz, an outstanding businessman, was elected National Treasurer. Mr. Bart Blatstein, a world-class real estate developer, was elected Associate

Treasurer. Mr. Mark Levenson, a prominent real estate attorney and former leader of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey, was elected National Secretary.

The National Vice Presidents elected by the delegates are:

Dr. Stanley Benzel  
Dr. Ben Chouake  
Professor Malvina Halberstam, Esq.  
Eli Hertz  
Daniel Katz, Esq.  
Jay Knopf  
Dr. Arthur Kook  
Joshua Landes  
Rubin Margules  
Jay Miller  
Cherna Moskowitz  
Nelson Obus  
Michael Orbach  
Stanley Rosenberg, Esq.  
Kevin Ross  
David Schoen, Esq.  
Gene Shusman  
Martin Sokol  
Myron Zimmerman

At the Convention Dinner, the delegates were treated to a passionate and inspiring keynote address from former contender for the Republican presidential nomination, U.S. Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN). Rep. Bachmann congratulated Mort Klein on his re-election victory. And she spoke about the ominous increase in the dangers facing Israel, exacerbated by the hostile policies of the Obama Administration, including the veiled threats that were issued in recent weeks from both President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry if Israel did not conform to American dictates for Israeli/Palestinian Arab negotiations.

Mort Klein gave a passionate speech about the anti-Israel myths surrounding the Arab/Israeli situation, including such issues as Jerusalem, the so-called "occupation," "settlements," Palestinian Authority (PA) statehood, the anti-Israel apartheid slur, and the falsity of PA President Mahmoud Abbas' image as a moderate and peace-maker.

Convention delegates also heard addresses from senior ZOA staff. Susan Tuchman Esq., the Director of the ZOA Center for Law and Justice, was one of the luncheon keynote speakers. Ms. Tuchman discussed ZOA's critical work protecting students from anti-Semitism and Israel-bashing at colleges and high schools, most recently at Brooklyn College and Boston's Northeastern University. She also described the many amicus briefs the ZOA has submitted in court cases on issues that promote the interests of the Jewish People.

The Director of the ZOA's Israel Office, Jeff Daube, gave a detailed account of ZOA's efforts in Israel to promote the 2013 Levy Report. This report was prepared by a distinguished legal commission appointed by the Israeli government, under the chairmanship of former Israeli Supreme Court Justice Edmond Levy. It made clear the legality of Jewish residence in Judea and Samaria. Mr. Daube also spoke of the ZOA's efforts to secure the historic Mount of Olives Jewish cemetery from desecration and vandalism by Palestinian Arabs.

ZOA Government Relations Co-Director Dan Pollak elaborated on the major dangers posed by the Geneva Interim Deal on Iran's nuclear weapons program, signed last November. He noted that Iranian ex-

# ZOA CONVENTION

ports had spiked 73% in January, following the relaxation of sanctions on Iran contained in the Geneva deal. ZOA Government Relations Co-Director Josh London spoke about the U.S. House committee investigation, convened at the ZOA's urging, into U.S. funding of the PA, which had used U.S. aid to pay special salaries to convicted Palestinian terrorists jailed by Israel to reward them for murdering Jews. Mr. London noted that the more Jews they murdered, the larger their salaries.


The Managing Director of ZOA's Campus Programs, Sharona Whisler, gave a comprehensive outline of ZOA's expanding initiatives on various college campuses to protect Jewish students from anti-Semitic intimidation masquerading as pro-Palestinian activism. She also spoke of the highly successful ZOA campus leadership mission to Israel, in

which a record number of students had participated, and ZOA's campus programs which train students on how to answer propaganda lies from Israel-haters on campus. Ms. Whisler proudly noted that the ZOA was the only major Jewish group to send college students to visit Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria.

The Director of the ZOA's Center for Middle East Policy, Dr. Daniel Mandel, delivered an address exposing some of the gaping deficiencies of the Geneva Interim Agreement on Iran's nuclear weapons program.

Co-President Lee Bender and Vice President Jerry Verlin of the ZOA's Greater Philadelphia chapter delivered a detailed address outlining the vocabulary of biased media reportage which compromises Israel's case and misleads the public. Mr. Bender and Mr. Verlin drew on their book on the subject, *Pressing Israel*.

Steve Feldman, Executive Director of the ZOA's Mid-Atlantic Region, spoke about the activities and responsibilities of the various ZOA regional offices.

The Convention lunch featured a rousing keynote address by Chloe Simone Valdary, an African-American junior and international studies major at the University of New Orleans. Ms. Valdary, an innovative and tireless activist in support of Israel, spoke passionately of Israel's righteous and just cause and recounted the profound effect that participating in the ZOA's Student Leadership Mission to Israel had on her activism and understanding of the truth of the Arab war against Israel. Ms. Valdary noted that on the ZOA trip, she became aware that the so-called "Jewish settlements" were in fact beautiful Jewish towns and cities. 

## AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH MORT

### Some Highlights of Morton A. Klein's Speaking Engagements:

**Mort had a very busy several months** speaking at numerous venues, including speaking for ZOA at synagogues in Cleveland and Detroit. These were arranged by ZOA Cleveland leader Mikhail Alterman and ZOA Detroit leaders Eugene Greenstein and Koby Erez. Mort also spoke at synagogues in Lake Worth, Florida, arranged by ZOA leader Larry Paper, and at the Palm Beach Synagogue in Florida. At that synagogue, renowned Efrat Chief Rabbi Shlomo Riskin called Mort a heroic Jewish leader and ZOA the only true Zionist organization in the United States that has consistently told the truth no matter what pressures were brought by political or other Jewish leaders. In early May, Mort spoke for ZOA in Naples and Sarasota, Florida, arranged by ZOA leaders Jerry Sobel and Dr. Brent Rubin. Several churches in Omaha Nebraska, inspired by ZOA positions on the disastrous Iran deal and the farce of the negotiations process between the PA and Israel, invited Mort as a resident scholar at their churches.

**Temple University Hillel brought out 200 students** for Mort's speech in late February despite a demand for Mort to be cancelled by the so-called Students for Justice in Palestine. The Arab students showed up and never asked a question during Q&A. Young Israel of the Main Line outside of Philadelphia also hosted a lecture by Mort, and he was a keynote speaker at a major Aish Hatorah event in Bala Cynwyd, PA.



# ZOA ARTICLES THE NEWS

## **FORBES MAGAZINE CALLS ZOA “HUGELY INFLUENTIAL,” NEW YORK TIMES CALLS ZOA “PROMINENT” GROUP**

**F**orbes Magazine and The New York Times wrote articles about Mort Klein’s one-on-one meeting with Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ) in Las Vegas concerning Christie’s use of the inaccurate term “occupied territories”; they called Mort and the ZOA “hugely influential in pro-Israel circles” and “prominent,” respectively.

Mort had explained to Christie why this term was inaccurate and was rebuffed when Christie refused to agree to use an accurate term, either “Judea and Samaria,” West Bank,” or “disputed territories.” These territories are not “occupied” because when Israel captured them in a defensive war in 1967, the land was not Jordan’s legally sovereign land. Jordan had illegally occupied it from 1948-67. It was unallocated international land, not to mention that King Hussein had publicly relinquished his claim to Judea and Samaria in 1988.

Numerous news media around the world covered this story, highlighting Mort Klein and ZOA’s important involvement. Then, after Gov. Christie met with political donor and ZOA supporter, Sheldon Adelson, Christie said he “misspoke.” But he did not apologize as many media reported.

Other media that carried the story include the *LA Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, *US News & World*

*Report*, *CNN*, *Salon*, *Politico*, *Huffington Post*, *Algemeiner*, *Jerusalem Post*, and many Jewish papers in the U.S. and Israel. It was even discussed by Jon Stewart on his show on Comedy Central.

# Forbes

## The New York Times

*This audience understands that Israel captured this land from Jordan in a defensive war. More importantly, Jordan had no legal sovereignty there, but had illegally controlled this territory from 1948 to 1967.*

### **MY 7 MINUTE PRIVATE MEETING WITH GOV. CHRISTIE: ABOUT HIS “OCCUPIED TERRITORY” REMARK, AND RADICAL ISLAM**

Potential presidential candidate, Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey, spoke to hundreds of Jews at the pro-Israel Republican Jewish Coalition meeting at Las Vegas’ Palazzo Hotel. Surprisingly, Christie didn’t mention Israel in his prepared remarks but during the Q & A, he inaccurately referred to Judea and Samaria as “occupied territories.” This is the language of those hostile to Israel, designed solely to delegitimize the Jewish state’s claims to that land. Gov. Christie later claimed that he “misspoke.” But I don’t believe him. Here’s why.

The audience noticeably gasped and murmurs quickly spread throughout the room when Christie used this term. This audience understands that Israel captured this land from Jordan in a defensive war. More importantly, Jordan had no legal sovereignty there, but had illegally controlled this territory from 1948 to 1967, only being recognized by 2 countries. And Jordan’s King Hussein publicly relinquished all claims to that territory in 1988. These activist Zionists know that Israel has a greater political, religious, legal, and historic right to that land than do the Palestinians. For G-d’s sake, even the term Jew comes from the fact that we Jews come from Judea.

Having been in the room and as someone who has delivered many public speeches, the audience reaction was so pronounced that Gov. Christie should have realized he upset many in the room, giving him his first opportunity to say that he was wrong and misspoke. But he didn’t. Despite that, I still wanted to give him another opportunity to do so.

It’s important to note that I wanted to

like Gov. Christie. As the head of the Zionist Organization of America, I, like anyone—Republican or Democrat—who supports the Jewish State want to find reasons that important politicians also want to maintain and strengthen U.S. support for our most important ally. When I alone approached Christie after his talk in a small hallway outside the auditorium, I respectfully explained why he should not use the erroneous term “occupied territory” but should instead use one of the more accurate terms—either “Judea and Samaria,” “West Bank,” or “disputed territories.” Then I asked him if he would do so. Christie responded brusquely and dismissively with a scowl and a non-answer. “I saw you shaking your head,” he proclaimed. I asked him again if he would use one of the more appropriate terms. He again responded with the same non-answer, refusing to say he misspoke and saying instead, “Yeah, I saw you shaking your head in the front row when I used that term.” Now I was concerned and thoroughly frustrated.

It was only after I then spoke to the many journalists covering this event, which triggered over a hundred twitters, and after Gov. Christie



Judean Desert

## ZOA ARTICLES

met with important donors Sheldon and Miriam Adelson, that Christie stated that he “misspoke.” What the Governor didn’t say is that he sincerely apologizes, or that he now understands Israel has a legitimate claim to this land, or that Jews have every right to live there. And remember—he only said that he “misspoke” after speaking to a major donor whose support he was seeking. He never said it to me, someone he didn’t know and whose support he was not seeking. Clearly to non-donor Mort Klein he would likely express his true feelings, while to donor Adelson he would more likely say whatever was necessary to gain his support.

It pains me to say that Gov. Christie either has a woeful lack of knowledge and understanding of the reality of the issues facing Israel or that he is simply hostile to the Jewish State and sympathetic to the Arabs.

After my encounter with Gov. Christie, several conference attendees told me to look into his record with respect to how he approaches radical Islam. So I did. And it’s not encouraging.

Christie shockingly kissed, embraced, and praised New Jersey radical Imam Mohammed Qatanani as a “man of great good will,” even though Qatanani openly calls for U.S. funding of Hamas, a U.S.-designated terrorist group, whose charter calls for the murder of Jews and the destruction of Israel. Qatanani has also proclaimed, “On the 15th of May, 1948 was the greatest disaster which occurred on the face of the earth... the State of Israel was established on the land of Palestine.” Christie even designated a top aide, Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles McKenna, to testify as a character witness for Qatanani. Furthermore, in his Vegas speech, Christie mischaracterized the controversy over his appointing So-hail Mohammed as a judge to the New Jersey Superior Court as “anti-Muslim bigotry” and then went on to profusely praise Mohammed. The truth is that people were concerned about the fact that Mohammed was general counsel for the American Muslim Union which has blamed Israeli commandos for the 9/11

terrorist attack and that Mohammed defended Palestinian Islamist jihadist operative Sami Al Arian whose indictment Mohammed said was “nothing but a witch hunt.” As terrorism experts Dr. Daniel Pipes and Steven Emerson wrote, “Mohammed is not only a lawyer for Islamists but is one of them.”

Christie also turned a blind eye to the deeply troubling record of the people who were trying to build the Ground Zero Mosque, deriding anyone concerned about their radical statements and questionable motives as “crazies.” He blasted the New York Police Department’s surveillance of Muslim communities—which has been responsible for stopping multiple attempted terror attacks—as possibly “born out of arrogance, or out of paranoia, or out of both.”

All this and more is why Daniel Pipes and Steven Emerson wrote “time and again Christie has sided with Islamist forces against those safeguarding American security and civilization.” ZOA



Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey

*Gov. Christie either has a woeful lack of knowledge and understanding of the reality of the issues facing Israel or he is simply hostile to the Jewish State and sympathetic to the Arabs.*

# CAMPUS NETWORK ACTIVISM

## WESTERN REGION

ZOA's West Coast Campus Coordinator, David Kadosh, attended two major conferences of the Jewish Agency's Israel Fellows, one comprised of fellows from Southern California and the other from the entire region, in order to foster new relationships and expand the reach of the ZOA. The Jewish Agency for Israel appoints Israelis to work on college campuses throughout the country to promote Israel on campus. These fellows are natural allies of the ZOA Campus Department and help to bring ZOA programs to campus.



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David's program on the importance of Jewish self-defense with an introductory Krav Maga (Israeli hand-to-hand combat) component continued to be the program in greatest demand in the Western region. It was brought to California State University (CSU) Long Beach, CSU Fullerton, the University of California (UC) at Berkeley, UC Davis, and San Francisco State University during the fall semester. At SF State, the Israel club co-sponsored a program with a campus women's rights group, to teach women how to better defend

themselves and promote a positive image of Israel. This program empowers Jewish youth and builds self-esteem while explaining the contributions of the Zionist movement to overall Jewish strength and pride.

In January 2014, David joined the AMCHA Initiative and other Israel activists at a meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees, and called for an investigation of Professor David Klein's abuse of powers. Klein, a math professor at CSU Northridge, is using the CSUN web site to call for a boycott against Israel, posting false and hateful lies about Israel including inflammatory photos of dead babies which imply that they were murdered by Israeli soldiers. ZOA and other activists have been arguing that Klein is inappropriately advancing his anti-Israel political agenda by posting it on his web pages on the official CSUN website, which suggests that CSUN endorses his position. ZOA has called on the university and the CSU Board of Trustees to condemn Klein's actions and remove the anti-Semitic materials from the CSUN website. Hopefully the change in leadership at CSU will mean that CSU will take a stand against promoting anti-Semitism on California state property, which the previous administration did not do.

## NORTHEAST REGION

Zach Stern starting working for ZOA in October 2013 as the Northeast Campus Coordinator. During his first three months at ZOA, Zach formed positive relationships with pro-Israel student leaders at nearly two dozen universities in the northeast. Additionally, he has worked closely with these students to plan pro-Israel events and bring various speakers to campuses. He is also in the process of helping student leaders at two different schools start a pro-Israel club on campus.

Since October, Zach has given educational presentations at Rockland Community College and the College of Staten Island, and he has more appearances scheduled for the spring of 2014. He has also been meeting with stu-

# CAMPUS ACTIVISM NETWORK

dents at Hunter College and Boston's Simmons College to help start an active Israel group on campus. Moreover, he is currently scheduling a speaking tour for IDF Col. Bentzi Gruber to appear at roughly ten campuses in March of 2014.

In addition to forming relationships and giving educational presentations on campus, Zach spent a majority of his time in October and November of 2013 recruiting students for the ZOA Annual Dinner. After meeting with students and promoting the event as an excellent opportunity for pro-Israel student leaders, the largest ZOA event of the year hosted nearly 200 students from campuses throughout the Northeast, many of whom are active pro-Israel student leaders.

## MID-ATLANTIC REGION

The ZOA is proud to welcome Brian Albert as its new campus coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Brian grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia and studied International Relations at the University of Delaware. At UD, Brian was president of the student group then known as "Blue Hens for Israel."

After graduating in 2006, Brian made aliyah and in 2007, he was drafted into the IDF and served in the Golani infantry brigade. In January 2009, he participated in Operation Cast Lead, Israel's military campaign against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Brian earned his master's degree in Middle Eastern History at Tel Aviv University, and worked at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern & African Studies before returning to the U.S. in 2012 to be closer to his family. Working for the ZOA, Brian hopes to help students take back the "Z word" from anti-Zionists who equate Zionism with racism. Students will gain an appreciation of what "national self-determination" really means to a people historically caught between persecution and assimilation. As a campus activist, new immigrant, IDF soldier, and now as a ZOA Campus Coordinator, Brian is looking forward to making his contribution to the Jewish People.

## SOUTHEAST REGION

ZOA's Campus Director and Southeast Campus Coordinator, Sharona Whisler, has been busy working with students at several campuses in the southeast region of the country, including helping with some big events in the region. ZOA was a co-sponsor of the Future Leaders of Israel Conference (formerly, the Florida Loves Israel Conference) hosted by Florida Atlantic University in March 2014. Sharona was actively involved in FLI's debut conference at Florida State University and played a key role at this year's conference as well. ZOA will also be co-sponsoring New Orleans' anticipated pro-Israel festival, Declare Your Freedom, hosted by the University of New Orleans' pro-Israel club, Allies for Israel. This is the University of New Orleans' second year of hosting the successful event which will feature a mix of Zionist speakers and musicians. Both events, FLI and DYF, are being arranged by student alumni of ZOA's Student Leadership Mission to Israel. University of New Orleans' DYF was such a hit that the University of Central Florida will be initiating its first DYF Festival this spring, with ZOA's help. ZOA's Southeast Region is also proud to boast the participation of nine area students on this past year's Israel trip, all of whom hold leadership positions on their campuses.

*David's program on the importance of Jewish self-defense with an introductory Krav Maga (Israeli hand-to-hand combat) component continued to be the program in greatest demand in the Western region.*



Knesset meetings. Jerusalem, Israel

# CAMPUS ACTIVISM NETWORK

Of course, combatting anti-Israel propaganda and responding to anti-Israel activities on campus continue to keep ZOA busy and are a priority. The most horrendous example of such activities in the Southeast region, and a blatant display of anti-Semitism, came at the end of the fall semester when the University of South Florida's Students for Justice in Palestine group hosted a "game show" type event that featured questions suggesting Jewish blood libel and presenting Jews as racists and brutal murderers. After reporting the incident, and the university's unfortunate failure to respond, to Susan Tuchman, Director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, ZOA has been calling on the school to condemn the anti-Semitism and conduct a full investigation into what occurred.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL

*"An enriching experience for all pro-Israel advocates, that develops the confidence and strengthens the will to fight hatred for the State of Israel."*

—Yoni Michanie,  
Florida International University

*"It was absolutely amazing to learn about Zionism and about modern Israel with people that were passionate about fighting for the truth instead of saying what is easy to say—the trip showed me that I am not alone."*

—Ron Feingold, University of Minnesota

*"This trip with ZOA gave me the opportunity to experience on the ground, first hand, the kind of environment Israel actually faces. It is a lot easier to fight for the Zionist cause when I can say I have been to Hebron and I have seen the truth."*

—Tatiana Rose-Becker,  
Florida State University

The 2013-2014 ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel saw the greatest number of participants in its history. Thirty-five student activists took part from around the country, up from an average of 25 in years past—due largely to the generosity of Myron Zimmerman of the MZ Foundation. All of the student participants are active in their respective Israel clubs or Christians United for Israel chapters, and 80% hold leadership positions in those organizations on campus. ZOA student activists were given a unique look into Israeli politics and the opportunity to visit the areas critical to the security and future of Israel, including Judea and Samaria and the borders with Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria.

The trip was based out of Jerusalem to reinforce the pivotal role the city plays in Jewish and Zionist history. Just as Jerusalem is geographically central and provided a good home base to explore other areas in Israel, so too is it central as the undivided capital of the Jewish homeland. The director of ZOA's Israel office, Jeff Daube, set up a number of important meetings in the Knesset. Students heard from MK Ayelet Shaked and MK Yoni Chetboun of the Bayit Hayehudi party and MK Moshe Feiglin of the Likud Beitenu party. The meetings were personal, allowing students to ask these representatives of the Israeli people the most pressing questions on the minds of American college students.



Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. Jerusalem, Israel

# CAMPUS ACTIVISM NETWORK

A key highlight of the trip, which was not on the itinerary, was the meeting the ZOA group had with the hotel owner during their stay at the Eshel HaShomron in Ariel, a city in northern Samaria. The ZOA group spends significant time exploring the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria to understand that the so-called “settlements” are neither pariahs nor an obstacle to peace; rather, they are an integral part of Israeli society. Upon learning the ZOA group was staying at his hotel, the owner requested to address the group and tell his story of receiving the Israeli equivalent of the Medal of Honor during the Second Intifada. He proudly told the story of how he risked his own life physically restraining a would-be suicide bomber before the terrorist reached an Israeli military checkpoint. He held the bomber in a head-lock until additional help arrived. His bravery saved many lives and his story greatly inspired the students on ZOA’s trip. The hotel itself was also targeted by a suicide bomber during the Intifada. Remnants of the blast, such as shrapnel in the glass and pockmarks in the floor, were left to immortalize the attack and remind future visitors of what was endured.

Students on the ZOA trip met with journalists such as Caroline Glick and Khaled Abu-Toameh; community leaders such as David Wilder in Hevron, and Rachel Saperstein and Anita Tucker representing the former communities of Gush Katif; and Israeli army soldiers who operate on the front lines to protect Israeli civilians from the ever-present threats on their borders. These unique discussions paint a picture of Israeli society for ZOA student participants that they cannot find on another Israel trip or replicate through classroom studies. The ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel strengthens student leaders’ advocacy and their connection to Zionism and Israel. [ZOA](#)

*Students on the ZOA trip met with journalists such as Caroline Glick and Khaled Abu-Toameh; community leaders such as David Wilder in Hevron, and Rachel Saperstein and Anita Tucker representing the former communities of Gush Katif; and Israeli army soldiers who operate on the front lines to protect Israeli civilians from the ever-present threats on their border.*



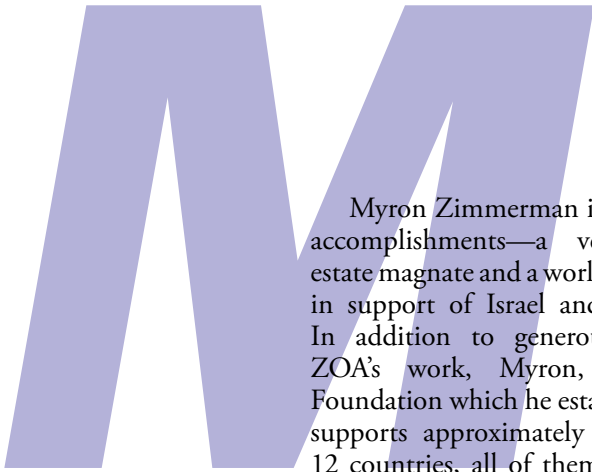
Hesder Yeshiva, Sderot, Israel



Mount of Olives overlook, Jerusalem, Israel

ZOA  
A BIOGRAPHY  
PEOPLE

Myron  
**ZIMMERMAN**



Myron Zimmerman is a man of enormous accomplishments—a very successful real estate magnate and a world-class philanthropist in support of Israel and the Jewish People. In addition to generously supporting the ZOA's work, Myron, through his MZ Foundation which he established in the 1990s, supports approximately 65 organizations in 12 countries, all of them devoted to fighting anti-Semitism and advocating for Israel.

But with all his success and achievements, Myron Zimmerman is a man of great humility.

Myron's grandparents escaped the pogroms in Russia more than 100 years ago and settled in China where both his parents were born. His family had been well-to-do in Russia, building the synagogue in their city of Vladivostok, building the railway system, and supplying the Chinese army with cattle. But the family left Russia with nothing; "Russia took all they had," he says. Myron would have been born in China, but while his mother was pregnant with him, she and his father were in the Philippines on business and she happened to give birth to Myron there.

In 1940 Myron and his family came to the U.S. looking for opportunity. They settled in San Francisco and Myron never left.

A star athlete in high school, Myron set records in track and was named city champion twice. He also played first string in the San Fran-

cisco City Basketball League and won the city championship. Myron played first string in football, too, but only briefly; his father made him quit football because Myron was always thin and his father feared he would get hurt. He was also a ranked tennis player in northern California.

Because of an athletic scholarship to San Jose State University, one of the track capitals in the U.S., Myron was able to attend college. He played other sports, too, but "track paid the groceries."

After college, Myron went into the U.S. Air Force Reserve, where he was a medic. His older brother was in the real estate business, focusing on income properties. He offered Myron a job for \$25 a week—as a loan. Myron took the job, working hard and living with his parents. At age 24, he had no money.

But Myron was a quick learner and forged a path to financial opportunity for himself. He saw that real estate speculators and developers were making money and Myron went in that direction. He started small, buying and developing small properties. "The business suited me," he says, and eventually Myron expanded into other cities and states, buying and developing income property such as apartment houses, office buildings, shopping centers, and industrial parks. Presently, Myron is selling off properties, but he is still involved in real estate, building a shopping center and engaging in other community projects.



## ZOA PEOPLE

Myron says he “wasted many years being interested in business and living a good life.” His interest in Jewish affairs was triggered only about 20 years ago. “I realized I didn’t have children and the Jews were getting a terrible deal in the world,” Myron explained. That’s when he started the MZ Foundation and began supporting Jewish and pro-Israel causes.


In 1966, when Myron was only somewhat active in the Jewish community, he received a call from someone at Israel Bonds who told him that Miss Israel was in town and asked if he would like to escort her to the Israel Bonds dinner. Myron didn’t hesitate, and six weeks later, the couple were engaged and soon after, they married. Myron’s mother was “so happy that I was marrying a nice Jewish girl.” Unfortunately, the marriage did not work out, although he and his ex-wife are still the best of friends.

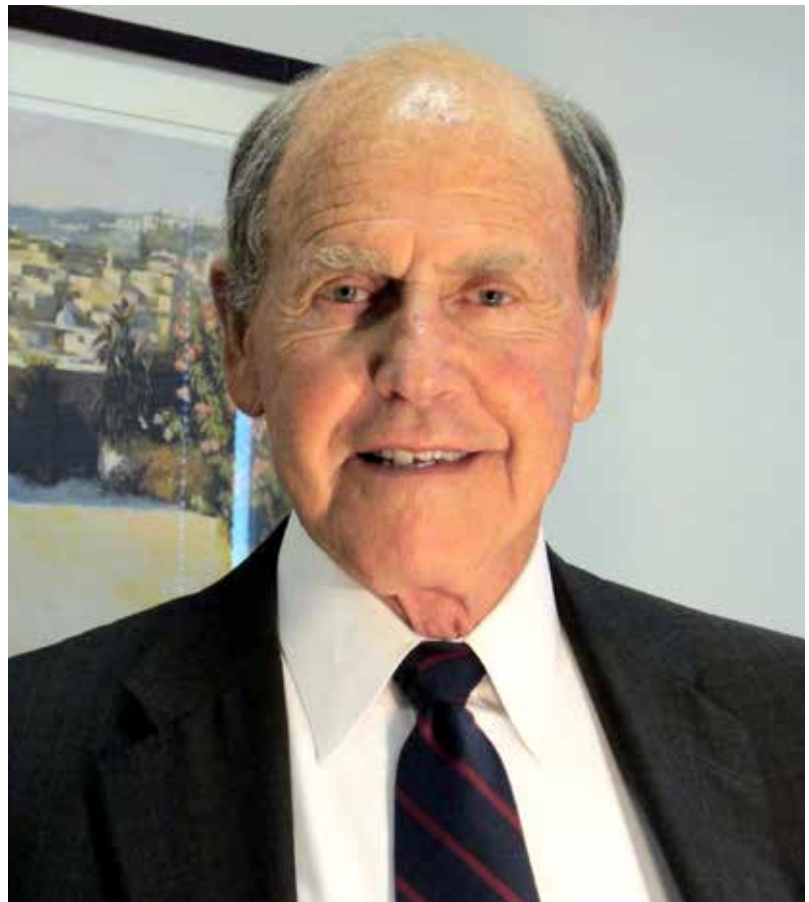
Myron no longer plays sports, but he walks five miles a day and does calisthenics five days a week. Walking gives him “time to think and time to talk to people.” While he is walking, he gets calls from all over the world. Often, those phone calls are with ZOA National President Morton Klein.

Myron knew about the ZOA before he actually became involved in the organization. He recalls that Morton Klein came to see him in his Oakland office approximately 10 years ago. Myron was “so impressed with Mort—his passion and what he said. That was it. ZOA is close to my heart as anything now.”

Myron is a generous supporter of the ZOA’s work. Last November, he received the ZOA’s Louis D. Brandeis Award at the ZOA’s National Dinner. In presenting the award to Myron, Mort Klein noted Myron’s “deep love for and deep commitment to and actions for the Jewish People and Eretz Yisrael....Myron lives and breathes these concerns. But he doesn’t just throw up his hands in frustration and disgust, he acts and he motivates. He makes things happen for our people.” In addition, Mort described Myron as a “personal dear friend.” Myron has taken a special interest in Jewish

youth, encouraging them to be committed Jews and well-informed advocates for Israel. Myron’s generosity helped the ZOA more than double the number of student participants on its 2013-14 Student Leadership Mission to Israel, as compared to the previous year’s trip.

Recently elected a National Vice President at the ZOA Convention and now a member of ZOA’s National Board of Directors, Myron views the ZOA as playing a crucial role in advocating for Israel and the Jewish People: “Not only is the ZOA’s work necessary, we need ZOA as the spearhead. ZOA breaks ground where others are afraid to say anything. We need more of Mort Klein and the ZOA—people who will speak up and say the truth.” 



Myron Zimmerman

# ZOA OFFICE ISRAEL

## WE HAVE LEGAL GROUNDS

The Levy Report probably is the most significant Zionist document produced in recent years. Yet Israel supporters have never heard of it, and those who have do not know what to do with it.

Israel's historical legitimacy, and now its legal rights, have been buried under an avalanche of lies to justify taking Israel's heartland areas of Judea and Samaria away from the Jewish People. Yet Israel's government, and the Jews and Jewish institutions who advocate for Israel, generally have responded inadequately.

Although ZOA Israel has long been active on this front, recently we established a larger scale effort, We Have Legal Grounds, to hone in on defending Israel's presence in these areas. Our co-chair, Arlene Kushner, is well known for her political analyses and Israel advocacy.

The Legal Grounds campaign draws on the seminal yet underutilized July 2012 Levy Report, which Prime Minister Netanyahu had commissioned from three highly respected Israeli jurists, including former High Court Justice Edmund Levy, of blessed memory. The Report very credibly makes the case that Israel is not an "occupier" in Judea and Samaria, it has violated no international laws, and therefore it is legitimate and legal for Israel to build communities there.

We are working hard to change the discourse everywhere, but the government is our primary venue for now. We began by educating MKs and ministers—their familiarity with the issues, as we learned, could not be assumed. Several then wrote articles, made speeches, and gave interviews using the precise wording of information we prepared for them. MK Ofir Akunis, the liaison minister between the legislative and executive branches of government, was especially eager to pitch in.

We provided the lead speaker, legal expert Harel Arnon, for a February Knesset forum on combating the anti-Israel boycott, divestment

and sanctions movement (BDS). Our translated video posted on YouTube attracted more than 3,000 viewers. Galvanized by our presentation of the facts, MKs Robert Ilatov, Shimon Ohayon and Zev Elkin asked us to help plan a much larger Knesset event, for colleagues and opponents.

Legal Grounds has generated a media buzz, with a parade of articles in the Hebrew and English press featuring, for example, Arnon's Knesset presentation; our letter to PM Netanyahu prior to his AIPAC speech; and our thanks to Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and actress Scarlett Johansson, respectively, for defending



ZOA's Legal Grounds campaign is based on the 2012 Levy Report commissioned by PM Netanyahu

Israel's legal rights and standing up to the Oxfam boycott of SodaStream.

The more public side of our campaign included a community event in Raanana, with a strongly stated keynote address by MK Ayelet Shaked. We also co-led, with Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon, a Jordan Valley Tu B'Shevat planting and rally, to publicize the special security necessitated by that location.

Our growing coalition is signing on people and organizations of prominence, backed by



JEFF DAUBE  
Director,  
ZOA Israel

# ZOA ISRAEL OFFICE

a team of legal advisors, to spread the rights-based message. We have tapped into the vast pro-Israel social media network, and Legal Grounds has a substantial internet following

of its own via our website and Facebook page. The enthusiastic feedback all around is further proof there is a major void calling for our concerted attention.

## JERUSALEM IN JEOPARDY

**T**hreats to the Mt. of Olives and the surrounding areas on the eastern Jerusalem ridge affect the integrity of all of Jerusalem—by design. The Israel Office’s continuing efforts to thwart ongoing violent attacks targeting residents and visitors recently included our testifying at two Knesset hearings, each led by MK Miri Regev after we had requested she investigate police accountability. We are pressing for more hearings, and more police activity.

ZOA Israel is working with a subcommittee of MKs to devise specific strategies for the A Tor school area, where rock attacks are most prevalent, such as busing the student body immediately after their school day ends, or moving the school elsewhere. We also have recruited several Knesset members to sponsor or support legislation aimed at the cynically orchestrated rock-throwing by minors, whose age enables them to evade punishment.

In our meeting with MK Ruby Rivlin, eighth generation Jerusalemite with family buried on the Mt. of Olives, he assured us he would do whatever he could about the incessant, potentially deadly rock-throwing. The meeting was covered widely by the Hebrew language press.

We also oriented the U.S. Jerusalem Consulate’s newly appointed chief political officer, Ryan Purnell, to the area’s many challenges. Having successfully lobbied for a wording change in the State Department’s International Report on Religious Freedom, to finally include the abuse of Jewish rights in the Mount of Olives cemetery, we have moved on with the same goal to the State Department’s Report on Human Rights.

We began by raising the idea with Purnell, and continued to propose it on Capitol Hill.

The Israel Office had brought the disgraceful situation on the mountain to the attention of U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY) when we met in Jerusalem. We also had encouraged her constituents living in Israel to contact her. So imagine our delight when Rep. Meng introduced HR 4028, The Protect Cemeteries Act, which adds “desecration of cemeteries” to the wording of the 1998 Religious Freedom Act. On our latest visit to Capitol Hill, we thanked Rep. Meng, and offered support to ensure the bill’s passing.

At a Foreign Ministry Jerusalem conference, and again in Washington, we met with the State Department’s point man on anti-



Mount of Olives cemetery (foreground), Temple Mount (background), and all eastern Jerusalem under threat of Arab takeover

## ZOA ISRAEL OFFICE

Semitism, Ira Forman, together with his senior policy advisor. We discussed classifying the stoning of mourners and grave desecrations on the Mt. of Olives as anti-Semitic. Then we put feelers out among Members of Congress and Department of Justice officials to classify the attacks alternatively as terrorism.

The Israel Office continues to educate the community about the dangers. We presented *The Strategic Mount of Olives - More than a Cemetery in Jerusalem* for Americans and Canadians in Israel (AACI) and the OU Center, and on four occasions in New York, and at ZOA's Convention in Philadelphia.

## THE JERUSALEM-WASHINGTON CONNECTION

The Israel Office briefed many distinguished visitors and advocacy groups in Israel, including ZOA vice presidents Myron Zimmerman and Kevin Ross, and an impressive coterie of campus leaders on this year's ZOA student mission. In each instance, we described our role of triangulating the connections between leadership in Israel, in the U.S., and the politically active constituents represented by the ZOA. Due to the strength of the latter, we find that ZOA's views are frequently sought after by politicians—Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat and

challenger Moshe Leon, for example, who reached out to us during the fall elections.

Several U.S. federal and local government leaders, and Senate Foreign Relations Committee staffers as well, heard us out in Jerusalem and Ariel. Our two private dinner meetings with special ZOA friend, U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN), following a request by national board member James Pollack, was a high point. Rep. Bachmann was very impressed by the foreign policy experts we had invited: former World Jewish Congress Secretary General Dan Diker, and the leading expert on Jordan, Professor Pinchas Inbari.

Another especially memorable example is South Carolina State Senator Alan Clemmons, with whom we spent much time discussing his landmark resolution affirming Israel's historical claims in Judea and Samaria. We later shared the news of its overwhelming adoption, and of similar adopted resolutions in other state houses, as evidence of solid American support.

The December conviction of the second terrorist murderer of Michael Palmer's son Asher and infant grandson Yonatan triggered a flood of new concern about the next release of terrorists from Israeli jails. We had attended virtually all of the trials in the Palmer murders and after this second conviction, provided several media interviews on the matter of U.S. pressure on Israel to release terrorists. We also helped MK Ayelet Shaked with



Mayor Nir Barkat gave Jeff Daube a pre-election tour of development activity in Jerusalem

## ZOA ISRAEL OFFICE

her sharp response to Secretary of State John Kerry's statement urging concessions for the sake of negotiations.

The Bereaved Families for Peace and Justice in Israel, whose stake in the releases is most acute, asked us to bring their complaint of indifferent treatment, and fear of terrorist recidivism, to Washington. Our jam-packed week in D.C. kicked off with attorneys Nat and Alyza Lewin, followed by re-questioning Justice Department officials about Palestinian murderers of Americans—with not a one captured for trial in a U.S. court to date. It is difficult to ascertain if actions really are being taken under the public radar, as we were told by Heather Cartwright, Director of the Justice Department's Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism.

We also sought to clarify on this trip whether U.S. taxpayer dollars are indirectly paying the salaries of convicted Palestinian terrorists. Jaws dropped everywhere we mentioned the supplemental \$46 million recently allocated by the Palestinian Authority's (PA) Minister of Prisoner Affairs Issa Karake, which brings

the portion of the PA budget designated for terrorist salaries to six percent. In addition, we re-presented a letter, on behalf of MK Moshe Matalon, requesting an investigation into the \$5,000 bonuses given by PA President Mahmoud Abbas to the 1,027 prisoners exchanged for Gilad Shalit.

Having discussed the incentivizing terrorism problem with ZOA Board member Cliff Rieders earlier in Jerusalem, we brought the data to his Pennsylvania senators, Bob Casey and Pat Toomey, and U.S. Reps. Tom Marino and Jim Gerlach. We also drafted a letter for each of them to submit to Secretary Kerry.

Our new Legal Grounds approach to opposing the State Department's Trans Green Line Boycott (TGLB), a discriminatory funding policy excluding Jewish projects in Judea and Samaria, was met with interest in nearly two dozen congressional offices. In addition, we are pushing U.S. leaders and diplomats to revisit the Senator Jesse Helms amendment to the 1986 Foreign Assistance bill, which would make funding for Jewish residents proportional to population figures. [ZOA](#)



# AROUND ZOA THE COUNTRY

## PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

ZOA-Pittsburgh District completed a highly successful 2013 with two outstanding events. The first was our Annual Awards Dinner on November 12, 2013. The Awards Dinner is growing in popularity and in 2013, with over 250 attendees, it was Pittsburgh's largest in more than ten years.

The event culminated with the presentation of awards. Receiving Pittsburgh's prestigious Life-



Phyllis Novick Silverman presents the award named after her mother to Linda Safyan Holber



Lifetime Achievement Awardees, Stanford G. Davis, Esq. and Marian Ungar Davis

time Achievement Award were Marian Ungar Davis and Stanford G. Davis, Esq. Marian and Stan consistently demonstrate their love and support for all things Jewish, centering their passion on the State of Israel.

Both have served on the Board of ZOA-Pittsburgh District. Marian was the first woman in the U.S. to be elected a chapter president, and was vice-president of the National Executive Board. She co-produced "The Golden Land," a national PBS TV series starring Wolf Blitzer. Marian hosted "Shalom America," ZOA's national weekly cable TV program and as the voice of ZOA, broadcasted live from Israel during the Persian Gulf War.

Together, Marian and Stan have helped facilitate tens of millions of dollars of investment in Israel through their involvement with State of Israel Bonds. They each have served as

the Chairman of the Pittsburgh/Tri-State campaign, and have held numerous local and national positions as well.

Marian created the national "Schindler Project" sending thousands of 12th graders to see the movie, "Schindler's List." On behalf of the Holocaust Center of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, she accepted a Joint Resolution of the U.S. Congress in Washington lauding the project as "an important tool in educating high school seniors about the Holocaust and the application of those lessons to contemporary society."

Marian and Stan Davis have two children and four grandchildren.

The Natalie E. Novick Community Leadership Award was presented to Linda Safyan Holber who exemplifies the spirit and qualities of the late Natalie Novick. Linda has been a dedicated and passionate volunteer in our community for the past 30 years. She has served on the boards and has been involved with numerous Jewish organizations including Federation, JCC, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Pittsburgh Area Jewish Committee, Association for Jewish Learning, and the Jewish Chronicle. Linda is currently on the boards of ZOA and the Jewish National Fund; and most recently co-chaired Campus Superstar for Hillel Jewish University Center.

Linda is married to Dr. Thomas Holber and they have three children.

Ellen Teri Kaplan Goldstein was presented Pittsburgh District's Israel Service Award. Ellen Teri, ET to her friends, is a thoroughbred Pittsburgher. Her involvement in Pittsburgh philanthropies spans more than 40 years.

Currently Ellen is Campaign Chair of Women's Division for the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, serves as Chair of Israel Bonds Women's Division, and is on the board of Hillel Jewish University Center. Through Federation she has been involved in and led missions to Israel five times.

Ellen and her husband Michael co-chaired Israel Bonds New Leadership Division. At Federation, Ellen was chair of the Young Business & Professional Division (now YAD Division) and on the Foundation Board. Nationally she was on the New Leadership Cabinet for Jewish Federations of North America. They have a son, Matthew Seth.

The highlight of the evening was keynote

# ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY



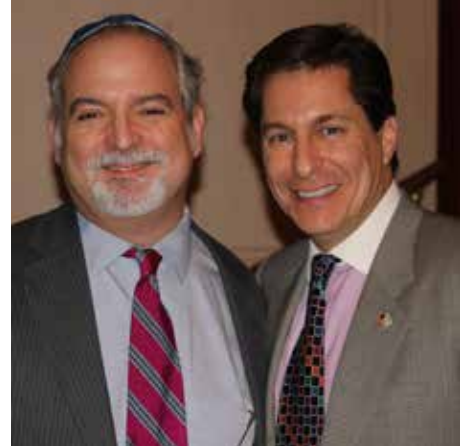
**Israel Service Awardee  
Ellen Teri Kaplan  
Goldstein**



**ZOA-Pittsburgh  
District President,  
Ira Michael Frank**



**Bret Stephens**



**Pittsburgh District Executive Director,  
Stuart Pavilack, and Pittsburgh District  
Vice-President, Jeffrey Pollock**

speaker, Bret Stephens. Stephens is the foreign-affairs columnist and deputy editorial page editor of *The Wall Street Journal*, and the winner of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary. He is also a member of the *Journal's* editorial board and a regular panelist on "The Journal Editorial Report," a weekly political talk show carried by Fox News Channel.

Stephens was previously editor-in-chief of the *Jerusalem Post*. Raised in Mexico and educated at the University of Chicago and the London School of Economics, he lives in New York with his wife Corinna and their three children.

ZOA-Pittsburgh District was a co-sponsor with the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh and others, of a program on December 2, 2013, entitled, "MIDDLE EAST 2014: The Year of Living Dangerously." A crowd packed Levinson Hall at the Jewish Community Center to hear Tony Badran and Lee Smith present their observations about the Middle East. Heavily discussed was the history of U.S. foreign policy in the region since WWII and recent decision-making that not only will hurt our Middle East allies and weaken the U.S.'s stature in the world, but may also weaken or close markets for democracies around the globe.

Tony Badran is a Research Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) in Washington, DC. He focuses on Lebanon, Syria and Hezbollah. His research includes U.S. policy towards

Lebanon and Syria; and Syrian foreign policy, with a focus on its regional relations and its ties to militant non-state actors and terrorist groups.

Born and raised in Lebanon, Mr. Badran also specializes in Lebanese affairs, including the military history of the Lebanese civil war, and has written extensively on Hezbollah.

Lee Smith is a Visiting Fellow at the Hudson Institute. Smith has an impressive career in writing and publishing. He has worked at a number of journals, magazines and publishers, including the *Hudson Review*, the Ecco Press, *Atheneum*, *Grand Street*, *GQ Magazine*, and *Talk Magazine*. He was also editor-in-chief of the *Voice Literary Supplement*, the *Village Voice's* national monthly literary magazine. He is a prolific writer, contributing articles on Arab and Islamic affairs.

As 2013 came to a close, ZOA-Pittsburgh District was heavily involved in two ongoing programs for the coming year. The first, founded in 1962, is its Israel Scholarship Program, which awards grants to assist high school students to experience Israel. The second is Pittsburgh District's Tolerance Education Program which takes Pittsburgh Public High School (PPS) students to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Pittsburgh District plans, organizes and coordinates all aspects with the PPS, including fundraising, to provide the trip at no cost to the students or the school district. Since the program's inception, 4,000 students

**ZOA-  
Pittsburgh  
District  
was a co-  
sponsor of  
"MIDDLE  
EAST  
2014:  
The Year  
of Living  
Danger-  
ously."**

# ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

*Co-President Lee Bender and Vice President Jerome Verlin have been doing quite a lot of speaking in the region in connection with their book, **Pressing Israel: Media Bias Exposed From A to Z.***

have toured the museum with ZOA. Another 550 students are scheduled for March 2014.

## **GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER**

The Greater Philadelphia District is thrilled to have hosted the National ZOA Convention.

We had our annual Gala on October 9. We honored pro-Israel human rights activist Nonie Darwish; State Senator Anthony Williams; Philadelphia ZOA Vice President Mort Gleit and his wife Ruth, who is a member of our Executive Committee; and Rabbi Eric Yanoff, religious leader of Temple Adath Israel, one of the larger Conservative synagogues in the region. Darwish also served as our guest speaker.

During his acceptance speech, Sen. Williams revealed that he had been pressured by a number of left-wing anti-Israel groups and individuals to reject our award and not attend our Gala. Obviously, their threats and pressure did not work.

We had our biennial election of officers during our quarterly meeting in November. Co-President Lee Bender was re-elected for a second term. Our new Co-President is Kevin Ross. Other officers elected were vice presidents Roberta Dzubow, Henry Frank, Mort Gleit, Marc Pevar, Jerome Verlin, Eleanor Weinglass and Roberta Weiss; treasurer, Leonard Getz; and recording secretary, Heather Berman. The officers were installed following their election. The meeting featured a presentation on “Iran: Closer Than You Think” with expert and consultant John Wood.

Co-President Lee Bender and Vice President Jerome Verlin have been doing quite a lot of speaking in the region in connection with their book, *Pressing Israel: Media Bias Exposed From A to Z*. They have also had several articles published on “The Algemeiner” Web site. Executive Director Steve Feldman has also had a number of speaking engagements and has been a guest on talk-radio programs.

We will be partnering with the Institute for Jewish Ethics for a panel discussion on “The Ethics for Supporting Israel” featuring internationally known Torah and international law experts as well as one of Israel’s top advocates. The event will take place in March.

Our regular pro-Israel counter-demonstration continues across from the Israeli Consulate, and with Pesach’s arrival we ramped up our “Buy Israel” campaign.

## **MICHIGAN CHAPTER**

Today, anti-Israel sentiment is spreading in the media and academia. Anti-Israel groups are well-funded, well-organized, and they specialize in persuading Jewish and non-Jewish people of all ages to turn against Israel. Our goal at ZOA-Michigan Region is to promote education, awareness, and support for Israel in communities and schools statewide.

As supporters of Israel, we realize Jewish teens and young adults are in danger of losing their Jewish identities, including their connection to Israel. The ZOA-MI Israel Education Scholarship Program for high school students brings teens together to learn about Jewish history and how to advocate for Israel. Participants are eligible to apply for a special ZOA-MI scholarship to help fund an Israel experience.

Advocacy on college and university campuses is a cornerstone of ZOA operations. We have formed partnerships with young leaders on a variety of campuses, including the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University. Through jointly sponsored debates, rallies and programs, we strive to raise awareness and combat anti-Israel sentiment.

ZOA-MI also hosts a number of community-wide programs each year. Our events focus on Israeli political and cultural education. We have hosted lectures and discussions featuring writers, politicians, professors, and even former terrorists. We screen relevant documentaries to educate the community.



# ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

ZOA-MI sponsors Sunday soccer and Tuesday night basketball leagues for young adults and young professionals ages 18-35. We also share our expertise on issues facing Israel and American Jewry through published op-eds, interviews, a weekly newsletter and Facebook.

## NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER

The ZOA has expanded its presence in key communities across the country, including in New Jersey with Laura Fein, Esq. as the area's new Executive Director. In announcing the new office, National President Morton Klein said, "The ZOA foresees an era of tremendous growth under Ms. Fein's leadership. She brings to the position not only her legal background and her Harvard pedigree, but also more than 25 years of experience as an outstanding pro-Israel activist. Her intelligence, enthusiasm, and outspoken commitment to the State of Israel and the Jewish people make her an exciting addition to the ZOA family."

Already, ZOA-NJ is making a name for itself. In just its first month, ZOA-NJ held two events and a successful parlor meeting. The first event, a speech by an Israeli rabbi who works as a motivational speaker for Tzahal, drew a crowd from across the state. A week later, Mort Klein spoke at Teaneck's Congregation Bnai Yeshurun on the prospect of a nuclear Iran and the threat posed to the United States and Israel. An enthusiastic crowd of about 100 people came out on a snowy January night to hear ZOA President Klein explain why Israeli military action is likely the only way to stop Iran now, in the face of the Obama-backed deal that Prime Minister Netanyahu called "an historic mistake." Rabbi Steven Pruzansky opened the evening with a warm welcome, and Klein received a standing ovation, then answered numerous audience questions, to additional applause.

In the months that followed, ZOA-NJ fielded a substantial delegation to the National Convention and held or co-sponsored several more events, including high-profile speakers such

as Edwin Black and Caroline Glick, training for high-school students about countering the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement (BDS), and well-attended membership events. A ZOA-NJ Board of Directors is in formation.

The opening of the ZOA-NJ office was covered by several newspapers, with featured articles on the ZOA and Ms. Fein. Mort Klein's speech also received extensive and very positive coverage in at least three publications. Ms. Fein was offered a column in the *Jewish Standard*, a Federation newspaper, as well as two other Jewish papers, enabling her to regularly bring ZOA's message to tens of thousands of Jewish readers.

Additional regional programs are planned, including parlor meetings around the state, a screening of "The J-Street Challenge," a partnership with students at local yeshiva high schools, and training for students at Rutgers on responding to the BDS movement. ZOA-NJ has also partnered with Yachad Vocational Services, a program of the Orthodox Union (OU), to provide meaningful volunteer employment to Jewish adults with special needs, who in turn help ZOA-NJ with clerical and publicity work.

In addition, ZOA-NJ is organizing a conference on legal issues being addressed by the ZOA Center

*Already,  
ZOA-  
NJ is  
making  
a name  
for itself.*



ZOA Board member Mark Levenson (center), and Ali and Moshe Blech at January speech by ZOA President Morton Klein

# ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

*At ZOA, we will not admonish Israel for building homes for its citizens in Eretz Israel.*



North Jersey Executive Director, Laura Fein, Edwin Black and ZOA member and BeCounted4Israel co-founder Mindy Stein

for Law and Justice. Susan Tuchman, the Center's Director, will speak on ZOA's work fighting anti-Semitism on campus. Attorney Alyza Lewin will discuss the Zivotofsky case, in which Alyza and her father Nathan Lewin, Esq. have been seeking to enforce the statutory right of American citizens born in Jerusalem to list Israel as their birthplace on their passports. And Malvina Halberstam, professor at Cardozo Law School and a member of ZOA's National Board, will address the myth of "illegal" Jewish residences in Judea and Samaria.

Ms. Fein has also taken on the role of liaison between the ZOA's Regional Executive Directors and the ZOA's National Office. She initiated a weekly roundtable discussion for the Regional Executive Directors, so that they can share program and publicity ideas, and brainstorm for new ways to raise funds, increase membership, and spread ZOA's message more broadly.

ZOA-NJ is off to an exciting start. If you would like to become involved, volunteer, or donate to ZOA-NJ, contact Laura Fein at: 201-424-1825, lfein@zoa.org, or 411 Hackensack Ave., 2nd Floor, Hackensack, NJ 07601.

## WESTERN CHAPTER

The ZOA Western Region welcomed its new Executive Director, Sam Levine, in August, 2013.

Prior to his appointment, Sam served

as an associate producer for *PJ Media*. He is an accomplished writer, whose articles have appeared in the *Jewish Journal*, *PJ Media* and *Front-Page Magazine*. In addition, Sam is the founder of Counter Boycott, an organization that exposes those individuals and groups who advocate the boycott of Israeli products and services.

Sam's passion and energy is clear: "I am thrilled to join the Zionist Organization of America which, under the leadership of Morton Klein, is virtually the only pro-Israel organization in

the United States that is not afraid to speak the truth and stand on principle, in its unsurpassed support of the State of Israel. At ZOA, we will not bully Israel into giving up land to a people who venerate terrorists and rejoice in the killing of Jews. At ZOA, we will not admonish Israel for building homes for its citizens in Eretz Israel. At ZOA, we will not applaud the failed formulas of the past that have led to the proliferation of terrorism. And at ZOA we certainly do not favor the release of 104 Palestinian prisoners—many of them murderers. I look forward to advancing these principles in the Bay Area," Sam proudly stated.

Sam has hit the ground running in the Bay Area, meeting with numerous community and campus leaders, as he builds grassroots support for ZOA's mission.

This new ZOA office is focusing many of its resources on northern California universities, where anti-Israel propaganda is unfortunately on the rise. Some students there have reported a pervasive and hostile environment for Jews on many of these campuses. With for help of the ZOA Campus Department, Sam is working closely with student leaders at UC Davis, Berkeley, Santa Cruz, Stanford, San Francisco State and San Jose State to counter the lies and defamation promoted by the anti-Israel forces.

In February of this year, ZOA West hosted a great event at San Jose State University, in con-

## ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

junction with the Hillel of Silicon Valley, featuring Dumisani Washington of the Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel, and Calev Myers of the Jerusalem Institute for Justice.

Dumisani spoke about Martin Luther King Jr.'s pro-Israel legacy and friendship to the Jewish people. He spoke about Israel as a multi-ethnic, diverse society by choice, countering the falsehood that Israel is made up of white European colonizers. He also spoke about how the BDS campaign is anti-Semitic.

Calev Myers spoke about how the Palestinian refugee crisis is a total fraud. He said the true Palestinian human rights crisis is not happening in Israel, but rather in the various refugee camps in Arab countries where the Palestinians are rotting, and are not integrated into society like every other refugee group throughout history. He said this is where true apartheid is occurring. He also spoke about the corruption within the Palestinian Authority and how our tax money is wasted away supporting imprisoned terrorists. He said giving the Palestinians a state would only serve to advance their culture of hatred and anti-Semitism.

ZOA West has also been proactive in responding to several anti-Semitic incidents at San Francisco State University. On his social media pages, Mohammad Hammad—student leader of the anti-Israel SFSU group, GUPS (General Union of Palestinian Students)—glorified the murder of Jews, threatened Jewish students, and threatened a specific Israeli soldier, writing, “I seriously cannot get over how much I love this blade. It is the sharpest thing I own and cuts through everything like butter, and just holding it makes me want to stab an Israeli soldier.” In response, Morton Klein, Susan Tuchman, and Sam Levine sent two letters to the University President and local leaders demanding that action be taken and discipline be meted out, to deter this type of detestable behavior in the future, and to re-affirm that anti-Semitism and incitement to violence have no place on campus. In addition, Sam has been in constant contact with Jewish students on campus, offering both support and ZOA’s resources. As a result of our efforts, and those of our friends at the AMCHA Initiative, Mohammad Hammad is no

longer a student at SFSU, and the San Francisco Police Department has opened an investigation into his murderous threats.

Sam is also working with high school students to promote ZOA’s values. In October, he went to the Club Z Retreat, which is a weekend camp for children ages 12-16, consisting of pro-Israel and Jewish programming. Sam gave a presentation on pro-Israel advocacy, prepared a quiz for the campers to help educate them about modern Israeli history, and lead discussions about Jewish identity and the ethical dilemmas of the IDF. Sam is still in touch with many of these students and is helping them start pro-Israel clubs at their high schools.

Sam has also initiated a ZOA Education Series at the Lisa Kampner Hebrew Academy in San Francisco. Nearly every Friday for the last couple months, Sam spends an hour with the high school students discussing various topics, ranging from campus pro-Israel activism and anti-Semitism to Palestinian incitement as a roadblock to peace. In addition, ZOA West recently hosted Caroline Glick at the Lisa Kampner Hebrew Academy to discuss her new book, *The Israeli Solution*.

ZOA West is also very active in the wider community. In December of last year, ZOA West, along with Rimon Club and help from the Israeli Consulate of San Francisco, hosted the Ariel Dance Troupe from Ariel, Israel, for a special Hannukah celebration. In his short time in Northern California, Sam says this is the best event in which he has participated: “The performance of the dancers and Avi Zimmerman—Executive Director of the Ariel Development Fund—was truly memorable.” Sam continued, “This is so much more than just a dance performance; as the dancers change between sections, Avi speaks about the wonderful city of Ariel, and the history, innovation, industry, and universities. This performance does so much to humanize the city of Ariel. As you know, the international community thinks the so-called “settlements” are the cause of the conflict. However, after seeing a performance of the Ariel Dancers, it is abundantly clear that Ariel is not a problem. Rather, Ariel is a force for good.”

Last year, ZOA West also helped organize a protest at Facebook headquarters, in response

*“All we are asking is for Facebook to follow its own guidelines, and treat Jews with the same respect it gives to other minorities.”*

*In fact, people have described ZOA as “refreshing” in a sea of communal leadership unwilling to stand up against Israel’s detractors in a meaningful way.*

to the anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial that is prevalent on its website. Facebook actually says on its website that it does not permit hate speech. Of course, when there is hateful speech directed at gays or blacks, Facebook almost immediately removes the post. “All we are asking,” Sam stated, “is for Facebook to follow its own guidelines, and treat Jews with the same respect it gives to other minorities.” This protest caused Facebook to respond with an official statement, reaffirming its previously stated position against hate speech, and it is certainly more diligent now than ever before in screening for anti-Semitic pages on its website.

It is well known that the most dire threat facing Israel and the United States is a nuclear Iran. ZOA West is educating our community about the nature of this threat, and what we can do to help. We are mobilizing our members to contact their elected representatives to encourage them to support the newly proposed sanctions against Iran.

This year ZOA West hosted Dr. Mordechai Kedar—Israeli scholar and Middle East expert—at the Palo Alto Jewish Community Center for a talk on Iran. He spoke at length about the history of Iran since the Shah, what motivates the Mullahs, and what can be done to prevent their goals of developing a nuclear weapon and expanding their Islamic empire. He then took questions from a very engaged audience of more than 100 people. The event was a great success and a worthwhile educational experience for all who attended.

Coming up, ZOA has two exciting events planned for the Bay Area community. At the end of April we are showing the new documentary, “The J Street Challenge,” at the Palo Alto JCC. Also at the end of April, we are sponsoring a visit by French Journalist, Philippe Karsenty, to speak about the al Dura hoax.


This new ZOA office is committed to bringing stimulating and thoughtful programming to the Bay Area, as well as working with local community leaders, citizens and students to defend Israel in the court of public opinion, fight anti-Semitism and expose the Arab war of aggression against the Jewish State. We have a lot of work to do.

## FLORIDA CHAPTER

ZOA welcomes its own Sharona Whisler to her new role as ZOA’s Executive Director for the Florida region. With seven years at ZOA under her belt, her commitment to the cause is clear. Sharona started working for ZOA as a campus coordinator immediately after graduating from the George Washington University. During college, she worked closely with ZOA bringing pro-Israel programming to campus, and participated in ZOA’s Student Leadership Mission to Israel.

Over the years, Sharona has risen through the ranks and served as Managing Director of ZOA’s Campus Department. During her time in the campus department, she has seen ZOA’s campus activism expand and ZOA’s message getting out to more young people. Sharona hopes to continue in this vein in Florida, where her vision is to establish an active network of members and regional board members. She is putting her connections with students to good use, keeping them involved and committed to ZOA after they graduate. Despite the fact that she has only just started in her new role as ZOA’s regional director in Florida, Sharona has already started putting together a regional board. She is finding that people in the community are very receptive to ZOA’s truthful and unapologetic messages. In fact, people have described ZOA as “refreshing” in a sea of communal leadership unwilling to stand up against Israel’s detractors in a meaningful way.

Sharona plans to work closely with the active ZOA chapters in Florida, in Naples and Sarasota. ZOA’s Naples Chapter President, Jerry Sobel, has organized several successful events, drawing crowds in the hundreds to hear speakers like Bret Stephens, Dr. Daniel Pipes, and Andrew Bostom. He has also hosted important film screenings, and ZOA National President Morton Klein is scheduled to speak in Naples in May 2014. Sarasota Chapter President, Brent Rubin, will also be bringing Mort to speak in that area in May. Mort will discuss the “Lies We Have Been Told about the Arab-Israeli Peace Process.”

ZOA’s Florida region is looking forward to increased membership and new young ZOA activists. To get involved with ZOA in Florida, please contact Sharona Whisler at [shwisler@zoa.org](mailto:shwisler@zoa.org). 

# ZOA POLICY BRIEFS BEHIND THE NEWS

## ***New Poll: Americans Show Overwhelming Support For Israeli Positions—Oppose Obama’s Positions***

A new ZOA-commissioned poll by the respected McLaughlin Associates of American public opinion has found that the vast majority of Americans support Israel on virtually every major issue concerning the Israeli/Palestinian situation, while opposing the positions of the Obama Administration. Additionally, only 31% of Americans believe President Barack Obama is a close and reliable friend of Israel. By a ratio of 3.5 to 1 (58-17%), Americans believe any future Palestinian Arab state would be hostile to Israel and support terrorism. By a ratio of over 3 to 1 (47-14%), Americans believe that Jews have the right to settle in Judea/Samaria (West Bank). By a ratio of 3.5 to 1 (39-17%), Americans want stronger Iran sanctions.

By a ratio of 4–1 (55-13%), Americans believe Jerusalem should remain the undivided capital of Israel.

By a ratio of 6–1 (63-11%), Americans recognize that Israel is the sovereign state of the Jewish people and Americans believe that the Palestinian Authority (PA) should recognize Israel.

## ***PA Official Khatib Says Any Palestinian Who Murders a Jew, Yesterday, Today, or Tomorrow, Must Be Released***

The ZOA has pointed to a recent declaration by a senior PA official, Ashraf Khatib, that Israel must free all jailed Palestinian terrorists, even if they have murdered Israelis during the current negotiations. The ZOA has condemned this astounding, ob-

scene, Nazi-like PA position that any Palestinian who murders an Israeli is entitled to immediate freedom, which amounts to a warrant for murdering Jews, free of consequences.

## ***ZOA: 20 Years of PA Incitement Against Jews & Israel Must Cease, or Peace Impossible***

The ZOA strongly supports the Israeli government giving priority to the issue of PA incitement to hatred and murder of Jews and demonization of Israel in their schools, TV and radio, newspapers, magazines, sermons, speeches and children’s camps. As a report in *The New York Times* puts it, according to a new presentation produced by the Israeli government, “Adolf Hitler is quoted on the websites of Palestinian Authority schools. A young girl appears on Palestinian television, describing Jews as ‘barbaric monkeys, wretched pigs’ and the ‘murderers of Muhammad,’ the Islamic prophet. Maps on the Facebook page of the Palestinian presidential guards do not show Israel. President Mahmoud Abbas himself embraced as ‘heroes’ released Palestinian prisoners who killed Israelis.” (The Israeli government presentation can be found at “Israelis Document Incitement by the Palestinian Authority,” *New York Times*, January 6, 2014.)

ZOA National President Morton A. Klein said, “The PA needs to immediately commit to terminating all its pro-terror, anti-peace words and deeds. In order for the conflict to end and be replaced by a genuine peace, all PA incitement must cease entirely. There must be no public events glorifying living or dead terrorists, no naming schools, streets and sports

teams after Jew-killers or would-be Jew-killers, no denial of Jewish history and connection to the land of Israel, no advocacy of murdering Jews, and so on. Indeed, Mahmoud Abbas must denounce, condemn and oppose all future glorification of terrorism and terrorists which, among other things, would require him and the PA to publicly and explicitly make clear that deliberately murdering Jewish Israeli civilians is in fact terrorism.

“Such an outcome would also necessarily involve PA President Abbas publicly rescinding the Fatah emblem—which depicts all Israel labeled ‘Palestine’ and draped in a Palestinian headdress, a Kalashnikov rifle—and his Fatah party, which controls the PA, rescinding its Constitution.

“The Fatah Constitution, drafted in 1964 (which is not to be confused with the PLO Charter) and never since amended, calls for the ‘complete liberation of Palestine, and eradication of Zionist economic, political, military and cultural existence’ (Article 12), and for terrorism as ‘a strategy and not a tactic...this struggle will not cease unless the Zionist state is demolished’ (Article 19). Indeed, 10 specific articles out of 27 articles in Chapter 1 of the Fatah Constitution call for Israel’s destruction, ‘armed struggle’ and ‘armed revolution’ against Israel to continue, call to ‘prevent Jewish immigration to Israel,’ ‘oppose any political solution,’ and label ‘Zionism as racism.’

“Last but not least, Abbas’ PA must fulfill what it is obligated to do under the signed Oslo agreements, but has never fulfilled—outlaw and dismantle the terrorist groups within the PA, confiscate their weaponry and imprison terrorists.”

# ZOA POLICY BRIEFS

## ***ZOA: It's Now Certain — PA's Abbas Is Extremist***

***Abbas: No Jewish State, No End To Right Of Return, No End to Claims Against Israel—Even After Pal. State***

The ZOA has called upon the Obama Administration to end talks and funding for the Palestinian Authority (PA) following the three no's PA President Mahmoud Abbas gave to President Barack Obama—no acceptance of Israel as a Jewish state; no renunciation of the legally baseless so-called “right of return,” whereby Palestinian refugees of the 1948-9 war and their millions of descendants would be repatriated to Israel; and no end to conflict and claims against Israel, even if a peace settlement is signed by both sides. Abbas rejected all three requirements in his meeting with President Obama, rejecting in the process Secretary of State John Kerry's framework document for continued peace talks with Israel (“TV report: Abbas said no to Obama on 3 core peace issues,” *Times of Israel*, March 22, 2014).

## ***ZOA Opposes Groups Promoting Anti-Israel Boycotts Marching In Israel Day Parade***

The ZOA strongly opposes the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)/NY Federation granting permission to groups that promote boycotts of Israeli companies in Judea/Samaria to march in the Israel Day Parade, which is taking place on June 1, 2014 in New York City. These groups encourage the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel, which seeks to delegitimize and economically weaken and stifle Israel, and there-

fore the groups have no place in parades honoring Israel.

Among these extremist groups marching in this year's Israel Day Parade are:

- Americans for Peace Now
- Partners for Progressive Israel
- The New Israel Fund (NIF), which finances numerous Israeli NGOs (non-governmental organizations) which promote BDS
- B'Tselem

## ***ZOA Praises Sen. Schumer For Backing New Iran Sanctions & Criticizing “Friends” Who Threaten Israel With Isolation If Peace Plans Not Accepted***

***Calls BDS Movement “Anti-Semitism”***

The ZOA has praised Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) for his recent criticism at the 2014 AIPAC Policy Conference of “friends” who pressure Israel to accept so-called peace deals by warning them that, if they don't, the movement against Israel will only strengthen. Senator Schumer said that such actions—which are generally regarded to refer to recent statements by President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry asserting that Israel would face increased boycotts and isolation—added to the strength of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

The ZOA also praised Senator Schumer for differing with the Obama Administration on Iran sanctions, strongly backing the Nuclear Weapons Free Iran Act, which aims to tighten sanctions on Iran in the event of Iran breaching the Geneva interim agreement or failing to reach

agreement on dismantling its nuclear weapons program. President Obama has vowed to veto the Act if it is passed by the Senate.

## ***ZOA Critical of Pres. Obama For Threatening Israel & Praising PA's Abbas As Peacemaker***

The ZOA has strongly criticized President Barack Obama's remarks in a Bloomberg interview in which he appears to have threatened Israel with isolation and lack of American support if it fails to follow his negotiating dictates, while whitewashing the PA's Mahmoud Abbas—who has consistently honored and glorified Jew-killing terrorists, and has refused to recognize Israel as a Jewish state, end incitement to hatred and murder or arrest terrorists and ban terrorist groups—as a peacemaker.

The ZOA has issued the following statement:

“The ZOA believes that this interview reflects a long-standing pattern of President Obama's hostile bias against Israel and indulgence of the unreconstructed Abbas and his terrorist-sponsoring PA regime.”



# ZOA POLICY BRIEFS

## ***ZOA Praises Scarlett Johansson for Repudiating BDS Pressure to Dissociate from Judea/Samaria-Based SodaStream***

***BDS has mounted a campaign to have all Israeli products internationally boycotted***

The ZOA has praised actress Scarlett Johansson for her moral stance in resisting the extremist, anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement's pressure to drop her endorsement of SodaStream, the Israeli company which operates a factory in Ma'ale Adu-mim in Judea, a city of 50,000 Jews directly adjacent to Jerusalem beyond the 1949 armistice lines.

## ***ZOA Questions Why AIPAC Urges No Criticism of Obama Administration's Iran Deal and Claims Deal Merely A "Difference of Strategy"***

The ZOA has questioned the positions taken by AIPAC CEO, Howard Kohr, in opposing any American Jewish criticism of President Obama or anyone in his Administration for the deal signed with Iran in Geneva and stating that the Obama Administration only has a "difference of strategy" with Israel and American Jewry on how to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. We are also troubled that Mr. Kohr declared that the only path that should be taken now is more sanctions, refusing to accept a questioner's statement that military action must now be seriously considered. Mr. Kohr

took these positions in a meeting of AIPAC leaders and activists.

## ***ZOA: Bad Deal, Doesn't Dismantle Nuke Program, Means Military Strike Only Option To Stop Iranian Nuclear Bombs***

The ZOA has issued a new statement on the Iran Geneva interim nuclear agreement between the P5+1 (Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States as well as Germany) and Iran after becoming aware of all its components.

ZOA National President Morton A. Klein said, "The Geneva nuclear interim deal with Iran is a disaster. President Obama has said that this deal will dramatically reduce the likelihood of war. Ironically, it will greatly increase the likelihood of war. It has certainly dramatically increased the likelihood that Iran will be able to develop nuclear weapons.

"The Geneva interim agreement permits Iran to retain intact all the essential elements of its nuclear weapons program—continued construction of its Arak plutonium plant (an alternative means to developing nukes); all its 18,000 centrifuges; all its intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and nuclear research programs; and all its enriched uranium (simply being required to reduce it to an oxide which can be restored to weapons-grade uranium in a matter of weeks). Astonishingly, Iran has not been required to dismantle any aspect of its nuclear weapons program.

"The interim agreement also grants Iran substantial sanctions relief totaling some \$20 billion.

"We strongly urge President Obama to make it crystal clear that

the military option is now front and center, not something he will merely consider. He must be ready to use force if Iran refuses to relinquish its nuclear weapons program and to support Israel if it decides it is obliged to take military action in defense of its security and existence."

## ***ZOA Condemns American Studies Association For Approving Discriminatory Boycott Of Israeli Academics***

The ZOA condemned the American Studies Association (ASA), an association of some 5,000 members involved in the interdisciplinary study of American culture and history, for voting by a two-thirds majority to boycott fellow Israeli academic institutions.

## ***PA's Abbas Confers Highest Award On Terrorist Leader Al-Wazir, Calling Him "Martyr," "Model Of a True Fighter"***

PA President Mahmoud Abbas has conferred the Star of Honor, the highest honor awarded by the PA, on the slain PLO terrorist chief-tain, Khalil Al-Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Al-Wazir was responsible for the murder of at least 125 Israelis in numerous terror attacks that he planned, including the 1975 terrorist assault on Tel Aviv's Savoy Hotel, in which Al-Wazir's men murdered eight hostages and three Israeli soldiers. [ZOA](#)

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