THE ARAB WAR AGAINST ISRAEL

The elusive Middle East peace.

Surrounded by hostile enemies, peace is not something Israel can simply wish into existence.
President’s Message

An Arab-Israeli peace is only possible if Palestinian society is transformed into one that genuinely supports peace with Israel. Without that, no amount of American aid or Israeli concessions will produce peace.

Therefore, American support for the Palestinian Authority – $700 million a year – must be conditional on Palestinian fulfillment of their written agreements from Oslo to the road map to end the incitement to hatred and murder of Jews in the P.A.-controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps; arrest terrorists; and dismantle terror groups.

Islamist terror is a threat to societies everywhere, and we must support Israel’s efforts to defeat Hamas and the other jihadist terror groups. Therefore, in Gaza, a mere cease-fire would be a mistake.

America must assist Israel in rendering Hamas ineffective as a fighting force that can terrorize southern Israel.

A cease-fire, in contrast, offers only a temporary respite and ensures deferring peace, entrenching Hamas further and strengthening Islamist groups everywhere.

Egypt has significant responsibility for the current conflict by permitting the smuggling of weaponry from Iran and Syria through Egypt into Gaza. Therefore, further American aid to Egypt should be conditional on Egypt stopping the trafficking of arms and terrorists into Gaza.

Otherwise, without Arab compliance, is peace really possible?
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA’S
ANNUAL JUSTICE LOUIS D. BRANDEIS DINNER
Honoring the tradition of the great American jurist and legendary Zionist, and recognizing those who display the courage of their convictions.

ZOA: An honorable history, a respected tradition, a promising future.

On November 24, 2008 over 500 people attended the Zionist Organization of America’s (ZOA) National Dinner at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City.

This year, the recipient of the ZOA’s Ben Hecht Award for Journalism was Philippe Karsenty, a journalist, deputy mayor of Neuilly, France, and President of Media-Ratings, who delivered a major address. Also addressing the Dinner was Professor Anne Bayefsky, a former Columbia University Law Professor and activist and a Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute, a prestigious Washington, D.C.-based think tank who edits the website, Eye on the UN.

The Louis D. Brandeis Award, the ZOA’s highest honor, was bestowed upon Isaac ‘Yitz’ Applebaum, a partner in Opus Capital, which funds Israeli-based investments, as well as head of the California-Israel Chamber of Commerce. Also, Ronn Torossian, the President of 5W, the fastest growing public relations firm in America, was honored with the ZOA’s Young Leadership Award. U.S. Congressman Anthony Wiener (D-NY) also addressed the Dinner, as did ZOA National President Morton A. Klein.

In his impromptu remarks, Rep. Weiner noted as is his custom that he comes from “the ZOA wing of the Democratic Party.” He emphasized that America has a duty to protect its best ally, the state of Israel, and commended ZOA for playing a leading, crucial role in that task, taking positions exposing the truth about the Palestinian Authority and Saudi Arabia that others ignore.

Mr. Karsenty, who was introduced by Beverly Baker, newly elected President of ZOA’s Michigan Chapter, was honored for his indispensible work in bringing to light the hoax regarding the alleged killing by Israel Defense Forces (IDF) of a Palestinian boy, Muhammad al-Durah, on September 30, 2000 at Netzarim junction in the early days of the Palestinian terror war launched against Israel. Al-Durah’s alleged death was filmed by a local Palestinian cameraman, Tala Abu Rahma, and the mere 55 seconds of selected footage from his 27 minutes of filming became the basis for a story by France-2’s correspondent, Charles Enderlin, who had not been present on the scene at the time. The broadcast, basing itself on Abu Rahma’s words, claimed, but did not actually show, that the boy was shot by Israeli troops. Enderlin’s story led to world-wide accusations against Israel that the boy had been deliberately killed by IDF during a shoot-out with Palestinian Authority (PA) forces. The fabricated incident led to the ferocious lynching of two innocent Israeli reservists who mistakenly entered Ramallah a few days later and was also a factor in producing anti-Jewish riots by Israeli Arabs. To this day, the alleged shooting is depicted in postage stamps throughout the Arab and Muslim worlds, including Jordan. It has been depicted on a permanent monument in Mali, Africa, and has been used in Al-Qaeda recruiting films inviting Muslims to fight because Israelis supposedly murdered this Palestinian boy. The video-taped murder of Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl also took place against a backdrop that included a poster of the alleged slaying of Al-Durah, while images of Al-Durah were prominently on display on large posters at the Durban anti-
Mr. Karsenty commenced his address by recounting the long and terrible history of anti-Jewish blood libels before placing the al-Durah incident in this perspective. He noted that just as earlier vile allegations of Jewish criminal acts had always served as a pretext to attack Jews collectively, so too, the alleged killing of Al-Durah had been fabricated to create a wave of international revulsion and pressure against Israel and to swell the ferocity of Palestinian hatred and violence against Israel.

Mr. Karsenty recounted the history of his efforts to have the Enderlin story, with its numerous inconsistencies and unanswered questions, investigated. He paid tribute to Klein and the ZOA who, he said, were first to come out and support him at a time when even the Israeli government, with the exception of former government spokesman, Daniel Seaman, had not taken up the battle. Dinner participants were provided with a DVD containing Mr. Karsenty’s documentary on the subject, which includes never before seen footage showing Al-Durah moving his arm and leg, with no sign of any blood or bullet wounds visible after he is alleged to have been “killed.”

ZOA National Chairman of the Board, Dr. Michael Goldblatt, introduced Brandeis awardee Yitz Applebaum, reminding the audience of the insights and mainsprings of Louis Brandeis’ own Zionism. Goldblatt cited Brandeis’ view that “To be good Americans, we must be better Jews, and to be better Jews, we must become Zionists.” Yitz Applebaum spoke of the successful activities in which he has been involved to build up Israeli start-up companies, especially through the Los Angeles-Israel Chamber of Commerce. Applebaum said that the greatest joy stemming from commercial success was the ability to give tzedakah that helped the up-building of Israel.

ZOA’s Executive Committee Chairman, Dr. Alan Mazurek, introduced the screening of a short documentary recounting the astonishing development of Israeli anti-missile technology and its proven successes in intercepting and destroying incoming Katyusha rockets and other projectiles, including artillery shells. Those working on these issues include Board Members Henry Schwartz and Zalman Shapiro as well as ZOA Israel Office Director Jeff Daube.

Dinner Co-Chair Ken Abramowitz introduced Professor Anne Bayefsky, while also offering this encomium to National President Morton A. Klein: “Mort repre-
introduced Ronn Torossian, the Young Leadership Award winner, who has been
Following Professor Bayefsky’s eloquent address, Board Member Eli Hertz
Thomas Pickering, were urging him to run much more of US policy through
Obama’s advisers, including Zbigniew Brzezinski, Madeleine Albright and
Bayefsky also expressed concern over the fact that several of President-elect
likely that the incoming Obama Administration would attend. Professor
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Israel festival that the 2001 Durban Conference had been. She noted the
conference which, she said, was likely to surpass the single-minded anti-
Lastly, Professor Bayefsky spoke of the upcoming Durban II Anti-Racism
sents the best of the bunch defending Israel, and we salute you for that.”
Urgent last-minute Knesset and campaign matters forced featured speaker
Likud faction chairman, Deputy Speaker and Member of Knesset Gideon
Saar to remain in Israel, and Professor Bayefsky graciously stood in to deliver
her address on short notice. Professor Bayefsky, who noted in opening that it was auspicious for her to be delivering this address on the eve of the annual United Nations Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, also stated that the UN has always gone out of its way to give this event the highest visibility. In contrast, no celebration of partition is observed by the UN, nor is Israel’s flag flown.
Professor Bayefsky also spoke about a UN exhibition ‘Palestinians – 60 years of struggle and hope’ which glorified Palestinian ‘struggle’ when in fact it was a celebration of successive wars launched against the Jewish state. She said, “The United Nations has become the largest global purveyor or anti-Semitism today.” She also noted that the UN event was being held under the auspices of the UN Committee for Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, a body that owes its existence to the since-reversed infamous 1975 General Assembly Resolution equating Zionism with Racism. She said, “Seventeen years after the UN rescinded that resolution, the organization created as a result of it continues on.” She also noted that the UN was due to pass four resolutions critical of Israel the next day, adding to the more than twenty that have already been passed against Israel in the last year alone. That made Israel the most criticized country in the UN, with Sudan, a nation experiencing genocide, a distant second.
Lastly, Professor Bayefsky spoke of the upcoming Durban II Anti-Racism conference which, she said, was likely to surpass the single-minded anti-Israel festival that the 2001 Durban Conference had been. She noted the absurdity of this, observing that Israeli Arabs have more rights than their fellow Arabs living in Arab countries. So far, the US has yet to pull out of this conference, as it did in 2001. She observed that, other than ZOA, no American Jewish organization was working actively to call for the United States government to boycott Durban II, as a result of which it was looking likely that the incoming Obama Administration would attend. Professor Bayefsky also expressed concern over the fact that several of President-elect Obama’s advisers, including Zbigniew Brzezinski, Madeleine Albright and Thomas Pickering, were urging him to run much more of US policy through the UN.
Following Professor Bayefsky’s eloquent address, Board Member Eli Hertz introduced Ronn Torossian, the Young Leadership Awardee, who has been involved in Zionist causes since his youth and was president of Betar, the youth movement founded by Ze’ev Jabotinsky. Mr. Torossian spoke about the magnificent battle ZOA wagers on behalf of Israel, sometimes alone, and the privilege it was to be involved at the level of the next generation of leadership, in furthering the work of the ZOA.
In introducing National President Klein, ZOA Vice-President Steve Goldberg said that “Mort Klein has done the good thing of telling the truth. Because of what he has done over 14 years, ZOA is, as the Wall Street Journal has said, ‘the most effective group advocating for Israel at Capitol Hill’.”
Mort Klein opened by speaking of the existential threat to Israel posed by Iran, should the present regime come into possession of nuclear weapons. He spoke of the tendency in international affairs to seek appeasement asking, “Have we learnt nothing from history?” Proclaiming that “G-d and Torah are our guide and strength,” he spoke of the unpopularity that comes with ZOA’s work, reminding the audience of President Harry S. Truman’s line, “I just tell the truth and they think it’s hell.”
Klein spoke of ZOA’s efforts to have Google Earth delete gratuitous, anti-Israel content from the Google Earth site, which is meant to be a neutral portal allowing internet users to see in detail any part of the world. Because of ZOA’s work, much of this content has now been removed. Another of ZOA’s campaigns was concerned with an Encyclopedia of Racism that scandalously included an entry on Zionism, alone among national movements around the world. At first, Gale/Macmillan, the publishers, had wanted to preserve the article and merely offer alternative information, but ZOA has insisted that this too was unacceptable and is still working on the issue: thus the absurd situation that “even the UN says that Zionism is not racism, but Macmillan says it is.”
Klein commended the ZOA Government Relations team, Dan Pollak and Josh London, for their work in obtaining the signatures of 80 members of Congress for a letter calling upon Palestinian Authority (PA) president Mahmoud Abbas to rescind the Fatah Constitution, which calls for Israel’s destruction and the use of terrorism as an indispensable element in the strategy to achieve that goal. Klein also noted that various sources, including the anti-Israel lobbyist James Zogby, have acknowledged ZOA’s successes, Zogby even writing that “a muscular ZOA has risen like a phoenix and must be stopped.”
Next, Klein explained the dangers for Israel contained in the so-called Arab Peace Initiative, first proposed by Saudi Arabia in 2002. He observed that
ZOA-INITIATED CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CONDEMNS ABBAS’ ANTI-ISRAEL CHARTER

The ZOA is pleased to report that we initiated Congressional resolutions calling upon Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and co-founder with Yasser Arafat of Fatah, the party that dominates the PA, to rescind Fatah’s murderous, anti-Israel, anti-Semitic Constitution.

(H.Res.758), introduced in the House by Republican Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO) and U.S. Congresswoman Shelley Berkley (D-NV), “urges Palestinian Authority (PA) president Mahmoud Abbas, who is also leader of the Fatah party, to officially abrogate the 10 articles in the Fatah Constitution (the PLO Charter is a separate document), which call for Israel’s destruction and terrorism against Israel, oppose any political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and label Zionism as racism.” The resolution also “condemns the continuing existence of these articles as part of the Fatah Constitution.” The resolution goes on to cite the offending articles in the Constitution:

“Whereas, in 2007, there continue to exist 10 specific articles out of 27 articles in Chapter 1 of the Fatah Constitution that call for Israel’s destruction, call for the armed struggle and armed revolution against Israel to continue, call for the prevention of Jewish immigration to Israel, oppose any political solution, and label Zionism as racism; and

“Whereas the 10 articles of the Fatah Constitution that oppose Israel and Zionism are: (1) Article (4): The Palestinian struggle is part and parcel of the world-wide struggle against Zionism, colonialism and international imperialism.; (2) Article (7): The Zionist Movement is racial, colonial and aggressive in ideology, goals, organization and method.; (3) Article (8): The Israeli existence in Palestine is a Zionist invasion with a colonial expansive base, and it is a natural ally to colonialism and international imperialism.; (4) Article (12): Complete liberation of Palestine, and eradication of Zionist economic, political, military and cultural existence.; (5) Article (17): Armed public revolution is the inevitable method to liberating Palestine.; (6) Article (19): Armed struggle is a strategy and not a tactic, and the Palestinian Arab People’s armed revolution is a decisive factor in the liberation fight and in uprooting the Zionist existence, and this struggle will not cease unless the Zionist state is demolished and Palestine is completely liberated.; (7) Article (22): Opposing any political solution offered as an alternative to demolishing the Zionist occupation in Palestine, as well as any project intended to liquidate the Palestinian cause or impose any international mandate on its people.; (8) Article (23): Maintaining relations with Arab countries . . . with the proviso that the armed struggle is not negatively affected; (9) Article (24): Maintaining relations with all liberal forces supporting our just struggle in order to resist Zionism and imperialism.; and (10) Article (25): Convincing concerned countries in the world to prevent Jewish immigration to Palestine as a method of solving the problem.”

H.Res 758 has 76 signatories (21 Democrats and 55 Republicans) and was recently publicly released in a letter. A similar resolution (S.Res. 499), sponsored by Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), and co-sponsored by Senators Robert Casey (D-PA) and Ron Wyden (D-OR), is currently before the Senate.

Additionally, ZOA has also successfully advocated within the Executive Committee of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) to adopt a resolution calling upon Fatah to rescind its Constitution.

The ZOA has also taken out full page ads in the New York Times and the Israeli newspaper Haaretz calling upon Abbas to rescind the Fatah Constitution and has argued that if Abbas fails to condemn the Fatah Constitution or abrogate its clauses, then it will be crystal clear that he and Fatah are not the peace-desiring moderates they claim to be.

NO, THEY ARE NOT PEACE PARTNERS. AND THEIR HATRED DOESN’T FADE.
...and the award for “Best Impersonation of a Peacemaker” goes to:

Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas.

Under its so-called “moderate” president Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian Authority’s long and shocking record of glorification of terror and terrorists continues, unabated. It demonstrates why the Fatah-backed PA is neither moderate nor a peace partner. Abbas’ Fatah calls to this day in its Constitution for the destruction of Israel (Article 12) and the use of terrorism as an essential element in the campaign to achieve that goal (Article 19). The PA violations of signed agreements and the continuing terrorism and incitement to hatred and murder will never lead to peace. Not in our lifetime.

Abbas’ record of words and deeds does not surprise anyone except those who willfully ignore the Palestinian Arab record.

No doubt, it would make Nobel Laureate Yasser Arafat quite proud.

YOU CAN COUNT ON ZOA TO CONTINUE TO EXPOSE THE TRUTH.
Positive Steps Taken After ZOA Challenges Encyclopedia’s Chapter on “Zionism is Racism”

In November 2008, the ZOA called on a publisher of an Encyclopedia of Race and Racism to remove a chapter it included on Zionism. In its letter to Gale (which published the encyclopedia under its Macmillan Reference USA imprint), the ZOA said, “Zionism is the expression of the Jewish people’s yearning to return to their historic and religious homeland in the Land of Israel. The Jewish people also have a legal right to the land, as recognized by the League of Nations . . . and . . . the United Nations. Zionism has nothing to do with race or racism, and thus does not belong in a reference book about those topics.”

The publisher responded by posting a statement on its Web site that apologized to those who objected to the Zionism chapter. The publisher directed readers to the ZOA’s Web site, and promised to supplement the online version of the encyclopedia with articles describing other perspectives on Zionism.

Although appreciative that the publisher was taking some steps in the right direction, the ZOA said that these weren’t enough: “We appreciate Gale/Macmillan’s apology to those who, like us, are appalled by the falsehoods in the existing chapter equating Zionism with racism and its undertones of anti-Semitic bigotry that help to delegitimize Israel’s right to exist. But there is only one way for Gale/Macmillan to rectify the wrong, and that is to withdraw the chapter from the online and print editions of the encyclopedia.”

ZOA Addresses California Campuses — Hotbeds of Anti-Semitism and Israel-Bashing

Berkeley Hillel Director Leaves After ZOA Complains

In January 2009, the ZOA wrote to the executive director of the Berkeley Hillel, raising concerns about the way in which the Hillel has responded to the anti-Israel speech and conduct on campus. On its Web site, the Berkeley Hillel describes itself as a place where Jewish students can learn about Israel advocacy and engage in Israel advocacy with their peers. According to student reports, the Berkeley Hillel has not been engaging in any pro-Israel activism to counter the false and hateful messages about Israel. Even more troubling were student reports that the Berkeley Hillel has stood in the way of Jewish students who wanted to be activists and confront and combat the Israel-bashing.

The ZOA sent copies of its letter to the president of national Hillel and a national Hillel board member. Less than two weeks later, the executive director of the Berkeley Hillel was replaced. According to a message to UC Berkeley students from the new interim executive director, the former executive director “resigned . . . after a year-long process of observations, review and evaluation of his work by Hillel’s Board of Directors.”

ZOA Writes to UC Berkeley Chancellor about Anti-Semitic Assaults and Other Problems

In December 2008, after interviewing several Jewish students at UC Berkeley, the ZOA wrote to Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau, detailing troubling reports of Jewish students who have been harassed, verbally and physically intimidated, and discriminated against on campus.

Students say that the intimidation is coming from a university-approved student group calling itself “Students for Justice in Palestine” (SJP). The SJP routinely constructs a mock checkpoint in a central part of campus, obstructing the walkway. The checkpoint is supposed to simulate the security measures that Israel has been forced to undertake in response to Palestinian Arab terrorism. SJP members hold imitation, but authentic-looking guns at the checkpoint — an intimidating tactic that violates school policy and the law. Students have complained to the university administration, which temporarily put a stop to the misconduct, but then ignored it when the SJP began using imitation guns again.

The ZOA described student reports that at anti-Israel rallies and events, SJP members and supporters hold signs that falsely accuse Israel of starting another Holocaust and that equate Israelis with Nazis. When Jewish and pro-Israel students peacefully gather and hold up signs that counter these false and hateful messages, the SJP interferes with these students’ rights of assembly and free expression. They block the pro-Israel signs and try to destroy them. Jewish and pro-Israel students are surrounded, cursed at, and encircled in a threatening manner. One SJP member physically pushed a female Jewish student holding a pro-Israel sign.

Problems reached a crescendo at a hip-hop concert sponsored by a Zionist group on campus. During the concert, SJP members deliberately and provocatively disrupted the concert by draping two Palestinian flags from the balcony overlooking the stage. When the SJP members were asked to remove the signs, a scuffle ensued during which two Jewish individuals were physically assaulted.

The ZOA called on the chancellor to take several steps including (1) meeting with the pro-Israel and Zionist student groups to discuss the threats, harassment and intimidation they have been facing, leading some students to fear for their physical safety; and (2) publicly denouncing the hateful anti-Semitic and Israel-bashing speech and conduct on campus, as well as the student groups that are sponsoring them, so that the university community, and especially the perpetrators, will appreciate what is wrong and why, and the perpetrators will understand that they are the problem. The ZOA is awaiting a response.

Students facing these problems thanked the ZOA for its efforts. One student said, “Thank you and your organization for putting in the effort to help us out here.” Another wrote, “Thank you a thousand times for this. I’m glad to see that outside of the bubble that is Berkeley, there are sane people in the Jewish community and otherwise committed to true justice.”
Investigation of ZOA’s Allegations of Anti-Semitism at UC Irvine Continue

The second federal investigation into the ZOA’s allegations of anti-Semitic incidents at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) is still ongoing. In April 2008, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) notified the ZOA that the agency would be investigating incidents of harassment and hostility against Jewish students that occurred in May 2007. These included the alleged harassment of a Jewish student reporter who was trying to interview a speaker sponsored by a student group called the Muslim Student Union (MSU). According to the reporter, a Muslim student repeatedly pushed a camera in her face; after the reporter filed a complaint with the university, officials did not take appropriate action. OCR also agreed to investigate the alleged harassment of another Jewish student at an MSU-sponsored event. The harasser called her a “whore” and a “slut” and repeatedly yelled at her, using profanity. The government’s investigation is still ongoing.

The first government investigation into UCI’s response to campus anti-Semitism, also triggered by allegations that the ZOA made on behalf of Jewish students under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, was decided in the university’s favor in November 2007. Narrowly interpreting Title VI, OCR concluded that remedies to the anti-Semitism and Israel-bashing detailed by the ZOA were not warranted. The ZOA filed a request for reconsideration with the director of OCR’s San Francisco office. The request was denied. In April 2008, the ZOA exercised a further right to appeal, requesting that OCR headquarters in Washington, D.C. reconsider the decision. The appeal is still pending.

ZOA Raises Issue of Israel-Bashing at UC Santa Cruz

In a letter to Chancellor George Blumenthal of the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), the ZOA called on university officials to respond to anti-Semitic hostility on campus occurring in and out of the classroom. Based on reports from students and faculty, the ZOA alleged that professors and academic departments were promoting and encouraging Israel-bashing, and deliberately refusing to sponsor or publicize pro-Israel programs. The ZOA called on the chancellor to review and revamp UCSC’s academic departments to ensure that (1) facts and historical truths were not being sacrificed in the classroom to promote an anti-Israel political agenda; (2) students have the benefit of the full range of legitimate scholarly views about Israel, Zionism and the Middle East conflict; and (3) students are not being discouraged or intimidated into not expressing pro-Israel views.

Chancellor Blumenthal responded without acknowledging that a problem exists that is negatively affecting Jewish students. He did not agree to take the steps that the ZOA proposed. The chancellor described two UCSC initiatives to address diversity issues, neither of which has had a positive impact on Jewish students who have been victimized.

The ZOA also brought the problems at UCSC (and at UCI) to the attention of the new President of the University of California, Mark G. Yudof. After an exchange of correspondence, the UC president’s response was disappointing. President Yudof did not acknowledge problems on these two campuses. He focused on universities’ First Amendment obligation not to censor or impede speech, including speech that is hateful, even though the ZOA had never called for the suppression of anyone’s speech.

ZOA Center for Law and Justice in the Media

In anticipation of the recent presidential election, ZOA Center for Law and Justice (CLJ) director Susan Tuchman was among the representatives from some Jewish organizations who were asked by the weekly Jewish Forward to identify an issue that should be on the American Jewish agenda, and to specify what action the next president should take. Susan described the harassment and intimidation that Jewish college students face on campus, and called on the new president to enforce federal civil rights law to protect them.

In the fall 2008 issue of B’nai B’rith Magazine, Susan Tuchman’s article was prominently featured in the Letters to the Editor. Responding to a summer 2008 article on campus anti-Semitism, Susan noted that “promoting Muslim/Jewish dialogue may not be enough to combat speeches and programs demonizing Jews, Zionism and Israel. Jewish students facing such anti-Semitism have the right to demand that their schools rectify the problem.”
It has been close to a year since the official opening of ZOA’s Israel Office. During the past few months, ZOA-Israel’s level of activity has accelerated dramatically. Fast breaking events in the Middle East, in particular in Israel, have required ZOA-Israel to work in close coordination with ZOA professionals and lay leaders in America to develop the most coherent responses possible to these momentous developments.

The following are some of the more noteworthy recent activities of ZOA-Israel starting with visits to the Gaza front during Operation Cast Lead:

The Givati Project
Shortly after the initiation of the most recent campaign to put an end to Hamas terrorist rocket fire from Gaza, word started to leak out that the IDF soldiers were relying on private initiatives to bring them food and warm clothing. ZOA-Israel teamed up with Livnot u’Lehibanot for two days, first to buy provisions from the beleaguered shopkeepers of Sderot, then to distribute the hundreds of shwarma and other foodstuffs, along with gloves, socks, neck warmers and thermal underwear, to the soldiers of the Givati Brigade. The first day was spent a few hundred meters from Gaza with units that were going in later that afternoon. On the second day Dr. Alan Mazurek, Chair of ZOA’s National Executive Committee, joined in. This time, our triumphant soldiers were leaving Gaza, hungry and cold as when they had entered but self-assured and satisfied after a job well done. They were enormously grateful for the plentiful supplies, made possible in large part by Alan’s Long Island ZOA chapter.

Collegiate Mission
Commencing just two days before the outbreak of hostilities in Gaza, the ZOA Collegiate Mission proved to be a resounding success, due considerably to the dedication of Campus Activities Network Director, Julie Sager. ZOA-Israel was able to play a significant role in facilitating arrangements for speakers and venues as plans had to be changed or adjusted on the spur of the moment because of security concerns. Ongoing communications between ZOA-Israel and ZOA’s US leadership and mission coordinators, Rachel Glaser and Josh Nason, enabled the students to experience an enriched program with little awareness of the changes. We are now providing guidance for some of their follow-up campus activities.

Nautilus/SkyGuard High-Energy Anti-Missile System
ZOA-Israel continues to lobby Israeli government officials to import and deploy the Nautilus/SkyGuard high-energy laser system. This system has proven itself more than capable of shooting down Katyushas, Kassams and even mortars. In order to promote this system and correct misunderstandings about its efficacy and availability, ZOA-Israel has been meeting regularly with Israeli leadership, including, most recently, former Chief of Staff, General Moshe Ya’alon, Major General (ret.) Uzi Dayan, MKs Shai Hermesh and Effie Eitam, and Teva Pharmaceuticals CEO Eli Hurvitz, who have all been supportive.
**Branch Office in Hebron’s Beit Hashalom (Peace House)**

ZOA-Israel established an office in Hebron’s now-shuttered Beit Hashalom to demonstrate that, of all places, Hebron, the city of our forefathers and first capital of Israel, should be open to unfettered Jewish residency. After Beit Hashalom was legally acquired from its former Arab owner for a substantial sum following 18 months of occupancy by several Jewish families, its tenants were suddenly and violently evicted by the government despite ongoing negotiations and a pending court decision. The ZOA anxiously awaits a decision from the Jerusalem District Court that will allow Beit Hashalom’s families to once again take up residency. Until this occurs, the spokesperson for the Hebron community has offered the ZOA another office in order to maintain an ongoing presence.

**Trips to the Shomron (Samaria) and Support of its Industry**

ZOA-Israel has been organizing trips to the communities of the Shomron to familiarize participants with the land’s critical importance for Israel’s security, and to acquaint them with its historical significance and highly patriotic population. We are also consulting with officials from the Samaria Regional Council regarding the opening of a ZOA branch office in Barkan, which is to be manned by a volunteer. Also being discussed is a strategy to stem the loss of companies at the Barkan Industrial Center due to European economic sanctions and pressure to leave.

**Trips to Sderot and the Gaza Periphery**

Up until the daily and incessant rocket fire that had catalyzed Operation Cast Lead, ZOA-Israel had been very busy with its branch office in Netiv Ha’asara and the neighboring communities of Sderot and Nir Am in the Gaza area. Suffering withering attacks, but neglected by media and leadership alike, the residents and storeowners were at least strengthened by our visits that included a variety of political, religious and university groups as well as activist individuals. Especially now, with Israel being censured for its defensive operation, it is vital to continue these fact-finding trips which we hope to resume once there is relative calm.

**ZOA-Israel’s Spokesperson, Dana Bar-On, on YouTube**

ZOA-Israel has actively engaged the talents of our young and articulate spokesperson, Dana Bar-on, living on Kibbutz Nir Am near the Gaza border. Thanks to Philadelphia District Co-President Marc Pevar, we were able to publicize Dana’s video of life under fire via YouTube (search Sderot Ordeal). Her heart-rending description of personal close encounters with the Kassam rockets has experienced a phenomenal popularity; nearing 39,000 hits as of this writing! As a follow-up, we are working with Marc to arrange additional Israel advocacy opportunities for Dana.

**Support Visits to the Gush Katif Refugee Communities**

On a regular basis, ZOA-Israel brings groups and individuals to the Gush Katif refugee communities of Yad Binyamin, Nitzan and Ein Tzurim in order to provide insight into their extremely difficult living and economic situation. We have also been involved in a cooperative effort with JobKatif to encourage visitors to patronize their nascent enterprises.

**Networking Campaign**

Thankfully, there are quite a number of grassroots incubators and micro-networks based in Israel that have been exploring approaches to promote the Zionist project. ZOA-Israel has been working on facilitating linkage and cooperation among many of these like-minded groups.

**Representation at Conferences, Symposia and Other Policy-Shaping Venues**

Events in this region have a profound impact on policy, as often do the gatherings of movers and shakers who visit or are based in Israel. ZOA-Israel has been a regular presence at strategy sessions of allied organizations (for example, National Council of Young Israel), think tank forums (Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Shalem Center and BESA Center) and university conferences (Bar-Ilan et al), as well as at the annual convening of leaders and luminaries at the World Jewish Congress’s Plenary Assembly and the Jerusalem Conference—our goal being to promote initiatives and policies reflecting ZOA’s ongoing concern for Israel’s security.
The political changes in Washington, DC in 2009 present some new challenges to ZOA’s Government Relations Department. A number of the strongest voices in favor of robust support for Israel have been silenced by retirement or the ballot box, and the regular shifting of committee assignments and responsibilities also means that some friendly members will have other legislative priorities to contend with. Further, some newly elected members have no experience and little knowledge of the conflict in the Middle East, and so are open to sources of reliable information, helpful advice or even guidance. There are other new Members of Congress, of course, who are already fairly knowledgeable about aspects of the conflict and who are familiar with the position of the “mainstream” Jewish institutional voices which, in turn, simply mimic the “peace process” policy perspectives of the Israeli left, the US State Department, and the international community more generally. ZOA’s Government Relations Department is working closely with members and their staffs to develop good, constructive legislation that strengthens Israel and the US-Israel relationship, and also work with them, when necessary and where possible, to derail bad legislation, diminish the effectiveness of bad policies, and curtail potentially negative advances of the Executive Branch.

In the executive branch, the Obama administration presents a variety of new challenges as well. Many of President Obama’s closest advisors have records that have caused concern at several levels to the members of ZOA. Some appointees have advocated unworkable schemes to “fix” the Arab-Israeli status quo, for example by deploying NATO peace-keepers in Jerusalem and the area around it. Others have a consistent record of blaming Israel disproportionately for all obstacles to the ‘Peace Process.’ Finally, some are simply recycled advocates for the failed policies of the Clinton administration on Israel, and seem to believe that pressure on Israel to stop building houses in the suburbs of Jerusalem will somehow lead to peace. President Obama stated consistently during the campaign that he was pro-Israel himself, and many Jews supported him passionately. If the Obama administration attempts to pressure Israel to make concessions or threats, in some fashion, the status of the US-Israel relationship or to pursue policies which actually weaken the security of the state of Israel, ZOA will be there with our friends in Congress to remind the President that Israel’s fight against Islamic extremism is also America’s fight.

The biggest immediate threat against Israel comes from Iran, operating at times through their surrogates in Gaza or Lebanon, and ultimately directly as Iran completes its nuclear capability in the near future. The time to stop Iran through sanctions is probably past us now. If military action should be required, Israel will need support from every ZOA member as well as from the United States government and Congress. The next most important issue continues to be ZOA’s efforts to stop the flow of US financial and material aid to the Palestinian Authority (over $700 million now) and to halt the US-Israeli effort to create out of Judea and Samaria, without conditions, a Palestinian terrorist state. ZOA has always held that progress towards a negotiated solution must be conditioned on compliance with signed agreements, the imprisonment of terrorists, disarming of terrorist groups, and an end to incitement. While virtually everyone in Congress and in the new Obama administration claim to recognize that Hamas is a vicious, virulent, and violent movement that must be checked, very few grasp, and even fewer will publicly recognize, that Fatah is an equally vicious and violent anti-Israel terrorist movement, which daily continues to poison the minds of the Palestinians through incitement to hatred and murder of Jews in the P.A.-
controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps. But the establishment of a Palestinian state under Fatah control continues to be the goal of US foreign policy in the region. The ZOA (supported by all but 31% of Americans in a recent poll), and experts such as former IDF chief of Staff Moshe Yaalon, Professor Bernard Lewis of Princeton University, former CIA director Jim Woolsey, and Senator Sam Brownback all take the position that it is a mistake to move towards the establishment of a Palestinian state without compliance with signed agreements and a complete end to terrorism.

The year 2008 turned out to be marked by continued attempts to somehow implement the “road map” and the “Annapolis process” and continued refusal to understand the fact that the Palestinian Authority was neither willing nor able to make peace with Israel. In Congress, there were some accomplishments. The House overwhelmingly passed resolutions supporting the people of Sderot and condemning Palestinian rocket and mortar attacks on Israel. Strong moral positions were taken by the sponsors of the ZOA-initiated Saudi Arabian Accountability Act, the Syrian Accountability Act, and multiple resolutions on Jerusalem remaining the undivided capitol of Israel. In response to Iranian threats to “wipe Israel off the map,” ZOA was involved in pushing sanctions on Iran’s banks and petroleum industries, and some of those became law, but it now appears that sanctions alone will not stop Iran from achieving a nuclear capability. The House passed a ZOA-endorsed resolution to charge Iranian President Ahmadinejad with violations of the UN Genocide treaty. Our organization was involved in legislative efforts to penalize Jimmy Carter following his illegal attempts at diplomacy with Hamas. ZOA took the lead in assisting lawmakers’ efforts to bring accountability to foreign aid directed at the Palestinian Authority, the UN, and UN refugee assistance programs. ZOA’s most important efforts on Capitol Hill were to reinforce the message that Abbas and the leaders of the Palestinian Authority continue to make statements and take actions to incite their population in hatred and towards terrorism. Forty lawmakers spoke to our annual Washington Mission last year to recognize the role that ZOA continues to play in bringing these unpleasant facts to light.
BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER

ZOA President Morton A. Klein, Eli Hertz presenting the Young Leadership Award to Ronn Torossian, NEC Chairman Dr. Alan Mazurek

Dinner Co-Chairman Dr. Gerald Platt and ZOA Board Member Steven Goldberg

Rabbi Yehoshua Balkany and his granddaughter

Lew Dashe and ZOA National Secretary Jerome Kaufman

Justice Louis D. Brandeis Awardee Isaac “Yitz” Applbaum with ZOA Board Member Joe Loshinsky

Dr. Stanley and Helena Benzel with their son (left), and ZOA Board Member Dr. Jonathan and Paula Gold

A few of the many Young Professional and College students who attended the dinner

Dinner Co-Chair Kenneth S. Abramowitz with AIPAC Board Member Sander Gerber and his son Jake

Ben Hecht Awardee Philippe Karsenty with Joel Mowbray, nationally syndicated columnist for the Washington Times, and author of Diplomacy: How the State Department Threatens America’s Security

Former national executive director of ZOA, Meir Jolovitz with Mariene Jemal
ZOA President Morton A. Klein, Philippe Karsenty receiving the Ben Hecht Award for Journalism, ZOA Michigan President Beverly Baker, NEC Chairman Dr. Alan Mazurek.

Dr. Anne Bayefsky, human rights scholar and activist, of EyeOnTheUN.org, UNWatch.org, and Bayefsky.com, with Kenneth S. Abramowitz, Dinner Co-Chair and past recipient of ZOA's Distinguished Leadership Award.

Young Leadership Awardee Ronn Torossian, with Michael Orbach, NEC Vice Chairman, and Mark Orbach.


Morton Klein was accompanied this year by his wife Rita and his mother, Sarah.

Representative Anthony Weiner greeted by ZOA's Co-Director of Government Relations Dan Pollak.

Board Member Howard Schaerf, Esq., ZOA's Co-Director of Government Relations Dan Pollak, speaking with Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC), and Board Member Stanley Rosenberg.
January 29, 2009

Angela Merkel
Chancellor of Germany

Dear Chancellor,

We are writing to you to express our profound concern at the action taken by German police in the cities of Duisburg and Düsseldorf in banning the display of Israeli flags by pro-Israel supporters. A detailed report in the Jerusalem Post (‘German police ban Israeli flags,’ Jan. 14) indicates further that, during a violent, anti-Israel demonstration by a radical Islamist group, the Milli Görüs, in Duisburg, two police officers stormed the apartment of a 25-year-old student and his 26-year-old girlfriend and seized Israeli flags hanging on their balcony and inside their window.

This police action was taken after the peaceful and law-abiding inhabitants of the apartment in question were pelted with stones and other object by the lawless, radical and hate-crazed demonstrators. They were subject to menaces and violence on one account only: for having the temerity to assert their solidarity with Israel at this time of constant Hamas war crimes and aggression against the state of Israel, a state of affairs on which you and your Government have spoken forthrightly.

Evidently, the demonstrators in question asserted their right to free speech and assembly but were unwilling to permit the peaceful exercise of the same right by others. In these intolerable circumstances, it is obvious that the role of the police forces should be the prevention of violence by extremist elements and the protection of the peaceful and law-abiding. Instead, the peaceful and law-abiding were subject to threat and loss of freedoms solely because of the illegal actions of some of the demonstrators, none of whom appear to have been arrested.

The Zionist Organization of America, the oldest pro-Israeli organization in the country, submits that this is an intolerable and unjust state of affairs. We note that the Duisburg Police Chief, Rolf Cebin, subsequently expressed regret for the action taken by his officers. We also accept that the officers doubtless acted with the good intention of seeking to prevent violence. However, the fact remains that they acted wrongly: the role of the police is to prevent and reduce violence by arresting and punishing the violent, not in abridging the rights of the peaceful and law-abiding. Moreover, Ramon van der Maat, a Duisburg police spokesman, has indicated that he would not guarantee not acting similarly again if, for example, pro-Israeli demonstrators waving Israeli flags were confronted by a menacing crowd of violent anti-Israel demonstrators.

In these circumstances, we urge you disown any such approach to law and order that penalizes the peaceful and law-abiding in order to contain the intolerant and intolerable impulses of violent mobs. We urge you to give the resources and authority to the police in any part of Germany in which it might be required to use requisite force to contain violent elements and protect the rights of the law-abiding. In particular, we urge you to intervene with the police authorities to ensure that there is no repetition of the ban on the lawful display of Israeli flags. The failure to protect the rights of the peaceful and law-abiding that was displayed in Duisberg will act as an encouragement to violent demonstrators to be even more brazen and violent in their contempt for the freedom of others. This is something that cannot be permitted to happen and therefore must not be repeated.

We look forward to your response on this urgent matter that goes to the very heart of democracy and freedom in Germany.

Yours sincerely,

Morton A. Klein
National President

Dr. Michael Goldblatt
Chairman of the Board

Dr. Alan Mazurek
Chairman, Executive Committee

Henry Schwartz
National Treasurer
MORTON KLEIN HAS HALF-HOUR INTERVIEW ON BLOOMBERG TV

In January 2009, Morton Klein, ZOA’s President, had an exclusive one-on-one 30-minute interview with Michael Schneider of Bloomberg TV. The discussion centered on Israel’s military actions against the Islamist terrorist group Hamas, the ruling party in Gaza. Mort was questioned about why military action was necessary, about the so-called issue of proportionality, the issue of civilians being harmed, and the possibilities of peace between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs. The interview can be viewed in its entirety on the ZOA website, by visiting: www.zoa.org.

ZOA NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING / BY CONFERENCE CALL

January, 2009

Special Guest: Minister Rafael Harpaz, Director of Public Affairs, Israeli Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Minister Harpaz, and military Lt. Colonel Yabinol, gave a confidential briefing on the Gaza conflict. They started by thanking ZOA for its strong support of Israel. They discussed the goals of the conflict, aside from the defense of Israel: ending the rocket firing; severely damaging and/or ending the smuggling of weapons into Israel; the defeat of Hamas.

Minister Harpaz mentioned that the demonstrations for Israel here in the U.S. are being heard. He also spoke of the humanitarian efforts by Israel for the Palestinians: “No other country does the humanitarian work Israel is doing for an enemy.” The Minister described in some detail how every attempt was being made to avoid killing and injuring the Palestinian citizenry.

ZOA NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September, 2008, ZOA House, NYC

Special Guest: Dr. Arieh Eldad, Member of Knesset

Dr. Eldad candidly stated that the Land of Israel is for Israelis, but that Israel behaves like a post-Zionist state, and Israelis are not allowed to live freely where they choose. Eldad suggested that the government of Israel has adopted the British Mandate’s mentality against building and imposing unwarranted restrictions. He posited that the media is controlled by people with left wing policies and agendas, although Israeli polls have shown that 76% of those polled define themselves politically as on the right or extreme right of center. Further, Israel can’t possibly implement peace now, given that Hamas’ position is that a “Palestinian State can only be constructed on the ruins of the State of Israel.”

As to the elections, Dr. Eldad stated that Bibi Netanyahu has said no to a Palestinian State west of Jordan, while Labor and Kadima both would accept the Palestinian state. Prime Minister Olmert has actually stated that if Israel doesn’t create a Palestinian state, it is doomed. And yet, 70% of Israelis reject the creation of a Palestinian state.

Dr. Eldad said that prime ministers are afraid of the media and the Supreme Court. Bibi wants the Center and Left to be part of his government; this would not bode well because, as a weak leader, he cannot withstand pressure. Eldad proffered that this was demonstrated when he capitulated to Sharon’s pressure.

Of great concern to Dr. Eldad was his assertion that there are more and more Palestinians who do not want a Palestinian state. Instead, they see how weak the Israeli government is, and feel this allows them to destroy Israel from within. Eldad suggested that Israel needs allies from a Europe which is afraid of Arabs and Muslims. Eldad offered: Norway, Belgium, UK and the Netherlands could form a coalition against Islamism of Europe and Israel: they should insist that Jordan is Palestine, driven by the fear that if Israel falls, Islamism will spread to Europe.
On December 18, 2008, Morton Klein of the Zionist Organization of America and 20 other representatives of Jewish organizations met with the Obama Presidential Transition Team in Washington, D.C. Obama's people included Dan Shapiro, Eric Lynn, Jim Messina, Tom Perez, Dana Singiser, Michael Strautmanis and others. In addition to ZOA, Jewish organizations represented included AIPAC, ADL, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Bnai Brith, Jinsa, Peace Now, Orthodox Union, and others.

The first half of the meeting was devoted to discussions of domestic issues of concern to the Jewish community. The ZOA, represented by Morton Klein, discussed anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and Israel-bashing on campuses. Klein discussed the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights ruling that anti-Zionism actions can be anti-Semitism as argued by Susan Tuchman, Director of ZOA's Center for Law & Justice at a Civil Rights Commission hearing last year. He mentioned that this echoed Martin Luther King's comment that "when you're talking anti-Zionism, you're talking anti-Semitism."

Klein then pointed out that recent American Jewish Committee polls show that there has been a turnaround and that polls show that a majority of American Jews support a Palestinian Arab state and one organization incorrectly stated that every Israeli political party supports a Palestinian state.

Klein then pointed out that recent American Jewish Committee polls show that there has been a turnaround and that polls show that a majority of American Jews believe "the goal of the Arabs is not the return of territories but rather the destruction of Israel"; that 59% of Israelis reject concessions on Jerusalem, even in return for a "peace agreement"; and that 65% of Israelis oppose any further withdrawals. Even among the secular non-observant Israelis, 57% oppose further giving of land to the Palestinian Arabs. Mort also pointed out that former Israeli Military Chief of Staff, General Moshe Yaalon, former CIA Director Jim Woolsey, and pre-eminent Princeton historian Bernard Lewis have all come out in opposition to a Palestinian state. Klein also stated that many Israeli parties do not support a Palestinian Arab state from Likud to Shas to Yisrael Beitenu to National Union, and others.

Klein said this may be because polls show that between 64% and 84% of Palestinian Arabs have supported the massacre of innocent Israeli civilians while 75% of Palestinian Arabs do not think Israel has a right to exist. Furthermore, the Arabs have fulfilled none of their written agreements to prevent and fight terrorism; to arrest terrorists; to end incitement to murder and hatred against Israel and Jews in their schools, media, speeches and children's camps; to confiscate illegal weapons and outlaw terrorist groups.

Klein urged the Obama Administration to hold the Palestinians accountable for their lack of compliance to their commitments and link U.S. aid to compliance while demanding that the Palestinian Arabs finally honor their agreements. "Until the Palestinians teach peace and teach that Israel has a right to exist as a Jewish State, peace will not be possible," said Klein to Obama's team. Klein then held up a picture of the Palestinian Authority's new Fatah emblem showing all of Israel with an Arab headdress covering it, a Kalashnikov Rifle prominently displayed next to it, with a picture of Yasar Arafat in the center.

A number of the participants also expressed their support for the Saudi Arabia Peace Initiative (SAPI).

Klein stressed to the Obama people that the ZOA is firmly opposed to implementing the SAPl. SAPl requires that Israel return to the 1967 border, even though 500,000 Jews live beyond this border and according to Abu Ala, the Palestinian Authority's chief negotiator, every one of these Jews would be forcibly evacuated from these territories when a future Palestinian state is established. SAPl also requires the so-called Palestinian Arab refugees of 1948 to be allowed to move back into Israel according to U.N. Resolution 194. Klein explained Resolution 194 states that millions of Arabs could move into Israel if the Arabs chose to and those Arabs who decide not to move into Israel would be financially compensated by Israel. This, of course, would end the existence of Israel as a Jewish State. A Palestinian state would be established in all of Gaza, all of Judea Samaria and half of Jerusalem, reducing Israel to a width of 9 miles, dramatically increasing Israel's vulnerability to Arab attack.

Remarkably, under this plan, nothing -- no actions -- would be required of the Arabs, except claiming they will live at peace with Israel.

Morton Klein was a panelist on a one-hour BBC World News Broadcast debating a Palestinian Arab from Gaza, a Palestinian Arab from Ramallah and a left wing Jew from Tel Aviv. Mort also appeared as a guest of the Steve Maulsberg Show on WOR Radio Monday, December 22.

Mort appeared on a Comcast Radio Show, on Fox TV, and JM in the AM Radio show in late November.

Other of Mort's recent activities includes his attending the White House Hanukah Party on December 15. Besides Mort's having a short conversation with President Bush, Mort also spoke to Congressman Eric Cantor (Republican Minority Whip); Attorney General Michael Mukasey; Radio Talk Show Host Dennis Prager; the Senior Foreign Policy Advisor Elliott Abrams; Karl Rove; Senator Joseph Lieberman; Senator Norman Coleman; Former White House Speech Writer Noam Neusner; Boston Globe columnist Jeff Jacoby; ZOA supporters Sheldon & Miriam Adelson; and, of course, many leaders of various Jewish organizations. Mort also spoke with Brad Cohen, who had a recent TV movie about his life dealing with his problems of having Tourette Syndrome while working as a teacher. (Mort also has Tourette Syndrome).

Several weeks ago, Mort attended a dinner at the Harmonie Club in New York City for European and Jewish leaders who promote strong European Israel relations. ZOA's own national board member Larry Hochberg hosted and arranged this meeting. Other attendees included ZOA board members Nina Rosenwald and Irwin Hochberg, IDT founder Howard Jonas, business leader Andrew Tisch, shoe magnate Jane Weitzman, and many other distinguished guests.

Mort gave talks in San Francisco and Walnut Creek, CA arranged by...
ZOA board members Michael Franzblau and Jacques Torczyner. Mort was also on a conference call in late October with presidential candidate John McCain.

Mort attended a Hanukah Party at the house of Israel’s Ambassador to the U.S. Salai Meridor.

PHILADELPHIA

During the past few months the Greater Philadelphia District launched its “Jihad Unveiled” series of documentaries and lectures. The series is the brainchild of Co-President and National Vice President Leonard Getz. To date: two presentations in the series in Philadelphia and two in Wilmington. More presentations are planned in the coming months. Among the videos in the series is the premiere American audience showing of “Fittai” and the American premiere of “The War on Britain’s Jews.” Other films include “Farewell Israel: Bush, Iran and the Revolt of Islam,” “First Comes Saturday Then Comes Sunday” and a short video of a young woman who lives near Sderot describing the pain of living under constant rocket fire. Executive Director Steve Feldman and Co-President Marc Pevar have delivered several speeches to area organizations. More than 20 members of the district attended the annual ZOA Brandeis Award Dinner. Leonard Getz and Chairman of the Board Dr. Michael Goldblatt had letters published in The Jewish Exponent. ZOA-Philadelphia district co-sponsored a talk and presentation by ZOA Ben Hecht Award Winner Philippe Karsenty at Har Zion Congregation, and the district was a partner in a region-wide Israel Solidarity Rally as well as an Israeli Solidarity Gathering in a Philadelphia suburb.

MICHIGAN

The Michigan Region capped off 2008 with our 75th Annual Balfour Celebration, proudly recognizing Ann and Leonard P. Baruch as the recipients of the 2008 Louis D. Brandeis Award in honor of their lifelong commitment to Israel and the Detroit Jewish Community. Keynote Speaker Ambassador John Bolton addressed over 500 attendees, on the topic of “Israel at 60.”

In December, Beverly Baker was installed as the new president, along with the board of directors for 2009 – 2010. Detroit/Michigan ZOA is pleased that many community activists and leaders have joined the board in anticipation of a great year together.

During Operation Cast Lead, members of ZOA protested outside the Federal Building in response to a pro-Palestinian rally; ZOA took a major role in planning the Community Solidarity Rally for Israel which drew over 2000 people.

In February ZOA speaker Zion Uness lectured on “Ethiopian Jews & Zionism,” about his own journey from Ethiopia to Israel, Israel’s unique record of taking Black people from slavery to freedom and Israeli humanitarian aid efforts.

LOS ANGELES

ZOA National President Mort Klein addressed the west coast ZOA membership and guests on August 28th at LA’s Luxe Summit Hotel. He was back on November 9th for the Annual meeting of the Northern California ZOA chapter on at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco.

Julie Sager represented the ZOA at several LA events, including the “30 Years After” conference on Iranian American Jews, and a Palo Alto Jewish Cultural Street Festival.

Yaakov Katz, a military correspondent and defense analyst for the Jerusalem Post, addressed a large crowd at the Luxe Summit Hotel in Bel Air, California in November, speaking about the impact and consequences of the U.S elections on Israel.

Julie Sager started a ZOA high school chapter at Beverly Hills High School, where she delivers a weekly lecture about Israel, Jewish history, and the ZOA.

PITTSBURGH

ZOA - Pittsburgh had a very busy fall. MK Arieh Eldad, MD came to speak in October to a Jewish high school and a mixed group of college students and members of the community about the true nature of the Arab world’s hostility to Israel and his proposed solution to the problem of the Palestinian refugees. In November, the district chapter hosted two programs featuring Nonie Darwish, founder of “Arabs for Israel.” The first was at the University of Pittsburgh, the second was at Carnegie Mellon University. Both events were open to the public and drew a large number of non-students as well as members of the university community.

ZOA-Pittsburgh held its Awards Reception, honoring Dr. and Mrs. Zalman and Evelyn Shapiro with the ZOA – Pittsburgh Lifetime Leadership Award for their untiring dedication to ZOA and the Jewish State, and Sister Gemma Del Duca with the Natalie Novick Community Leadership Award for her pioneering work in the field of Holocaust Education. The evening was a moving tribute to the honorees and raised some much needed funds for ZOA-Pittsburgh. The highlight of the program was the address given by ZOA National President Morton Klein. The new Israel Investment Club is starting and attracting all sorts of new faces to ZOA. The Teen Investment Club that ran at the local day school was a big hit and the kids are eagerly tracking their investments until spring, to see which team made the most (pretend) money. The Gaza operation has kept the Media Watch Team very busy being heard, and the district chapter looks forward to more successes.

ZOA offers a Members’ Insurance Program through SELMAN & COMPANY 6110 Parkland Blvd, Suite 200, Cleveland, OH 44124 • (800) 556-7614 Catastrophic Major Medical / Medical Supplement / Long Term Care / Accidental Death & Dismemberment / Term Life
Mort Klein once again demonstrated a remarkable ability to promote the cause of a strong and secure Israel throughout the media. Here is a sampling:

**CBS New York**
Mort was interviewed on the 11 PM News regarding the situation in Israel and Gaza.

**Reuters**
Mort was included in an article regarding President-elect Barack Obama’s reaction to the war in Gaza in relation to his reaction during the Mumbai attacks.

**NewsTalk 1400 WRJN**
Mort was interviewed on the Newsmakers program in Milwaukee, WI.

**WHTC-AM 1450 AM**
Mort was interviewed by Red Kingman on his show in Grand Rapids, MI about Israel’s response to the war from Gaza.

**The Zelda Show**
Interviewed by Zelda Young on her show in Toronto, Mort articulated Israel’s need to defend its citizens.

**KGNO-AM 1370**
Mort was interviewed on the morning drive show in Wichita-Hutchinson, KS about the war in Gaza.

**The Young Turks Show**
This nationally syndicated radio program carried a riveting interview with Mort about Israel’s strike against the war launched from Gaza.

**AM New York**
Mort was included in an article regarding Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s trip to Israel, and the war in Gaza.

**920-AM KVEL**
Interviewed on the Lincoln Brown show in Salt Lake City, UT, Mort spoke of the situation in Gaza.

**Stand Up! With Pete Dominick**
Mort was interviewed on this nationally syndicated radio program.

**WJBD-AM**
On the popular afternoon talk show in west Palm Beach, FL, Mort spoke about Israel’s right to defend itself against the Arab rocket assaults.

**WTRC-AM**
Mort was interviewed on the morning drive show in Raleigh, NC.

**WIBG-AM 1020**
Interviewed for this radio station in Southern New Jersey, Mort spoke of the Israel-Gaza crisis.

Mort also participated in a press conference regarding the situation in Israel and Gaza, attended by the following media outlets:

- CNN
- Fox
- NBC
- CW11
while Congress demands from automakers that they demonstrate concretely how they have changed their ways before bailing them out, people urge Israel to accept this Initiative from an unrepentant Arab world. He also quoted former Israeli Chief of Staff, Lt.-Gen. Moshe Yaalon, who said that “land for peace can only lead to war.”

Klein also shared his deep concerns on President-elect Obama, noting that the British *Sunday Times* had reported that Obama had expressed support for the 2002 so-called Arab Peace Initiative, which demands complete Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 armistice lines, contrary to the language of UN Security Council Resolution 242; the division of Jerusalem; the inundation of Israel with Arab refugees of the 1948-49 war and their millions of descendants under the legally baseless so-called ‘right of return’; and the uprooting of some 500,000 Jews living in Judea and Samaria. While adviser Dennis Ross had denied that report, Israeli President Shimon Peres had said that the President-elect had told him that he was “very impressed” with the plan. Klein noted that President-elect Obama’s advisers and others like Lee Hamilton, Brent Scowcroft, Zbigniew Brzezinski and Daniel Kurtzer were all urging Obama to support the Initiative. Klein said that he “was very worried about the way Barack Obama and his advisers want to move forward.”

Klein also noted that, after Senator Obama’s retraction of his stated support for Jerusalem remaining an undivided city, the *New York Times* had asked him for comment, noting that other American Jewish leaders were not answering, but that ZOA had immediately responded, expressing deep concern over Obama’s retraction.

Klein also spoke of the battle the ZOA waged in other spheres, making particular reference to the various divisions of ZOA, all working to further understanding of ZOA concerns and opposing anti-Israel forces. He made special mention of the Law & Justice division’s work under Susan Tuchman to obtain a new ruling by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights that anti-Zionism does constitute anti-Semitism; the vital work undertaken by the ZOA’s Department of Government Relations on Capitol Hill under Daniel Pollak and Joshua London; the important new contributions of ZOA’s Israel Office under Jeff Daube; and the crucial contributions made by the Campus Division, headed by Julie Sager and the Center for Middle East Policy, headed by Dr. Daniel Mandel.

Almost one hundred college students attended the dinner, which was co-chaired by Ken Abramowitz, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of NGN Capital Venture Fund, and Dr. Gerald Platt, President of Pomander Associates, Real Estate Principals. ZOA Board Member Jonathan Gold and his family made the blessing over the bread. ZOA Executive Director Stan Kessock and the entire ZOA staff worked hard on all aspects of the Dinner. Dr. Alan Mazurek was the Master of Ceremonies and presided over the Dinner with his extraordinary eloquence, wit, charm and intelligence.
HEADLINE NEWS
Rocket hits Ashkelon as Gaza truce talks progress
Haaretz, Sunday, February 8, 2009

Headline news? No, nothing new here.

They are people, innocent people... not simply statistics.
Peres: I Was Wrong About Disengagement

*Jerusalem Post*, Wednesday, February 18, 2009

And yet... we offer more withdrawals
STEVE GOLDBERG, Esq.
ZOA Vice-Chairman, National Board
Vice-President of LA Chapter, ZOA

Steve Goldberg is a passionate man who has climbed the professional ladder of law but whose strongest convictions center on Israel – especially its defense in time of peril. It is the belief that Israel is imperiled and that much of American Jewry is uncomprehending or compliant with hazy ideas about the strength of the American-Israeli relationship that has led Goldberg into Zionist activism.

Goldberg, who is a partner at the law firm of Russ August & Kabat in Los Angeles, where he practices in the litigation department, is well-known for his experience in entertainment, securities and real estate litigation. He has represented former and present professional athletes, including basketball legends Jerry West and Magic Johnson; Mitch Kupchak, General Manager of the Lakers; Joe “Jellybean” Bryant, father of Kobe Bryant and a former professional basketball player; baseball stars Nomar Garciaparra and Mark Langston; and former tennis champion Tracy Austin. Goldberg has also represented Hollywood movie star Samuel L. Jackson, and Hollywood movie producer Richard Zanuck.

Goldberg was born in the Bronx, New York, and raised in Hicksville, Long Island. Despite Long Island’s reputation as a concentration of Jewish suburbia, Hicksville had hardly any Jews, and Goldberg gained first-hand experience with anti-Semitism as early as elementary school. As Goldberg puts it, “I learned very early that I was responsible for killing Christ.” As he is physically large, Goldberg always felt responsible for defending smaller Jewish kids from taunts and bullying at school or at play.

Goldberg attended college at Harvard University, where he majored in mathematics. Even at Harvard, however, Goldberg encountered anti-Semitism, although of a different sort – “I was no longer in fist fights or having rocks thrown at me, but there was an anti-Semitism of the elitist, upper-crust, who had attended fancy prep schools and looked down their noses at Jews.”

Goldberg completed Harvard with his degree in mathematics, but decided not to become a professional mathematician. Instead, Goldberg turned to something “easier” – law – which he studied at New York University Law School, where he was a member of the Law Review. He began his career at the law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York, where he was trained by Thomas Barr and David Boies, two of the country’s top litigators. (Barr successfully defended IBM in the historic antitrust case by the Justice Department, while Boies represented the U.S. against Microsoft and was also Vice-President and Presidential aspirant Al Gore’s lawyer in the 2000 election controversy).

A sense of adventure, a hankering for something new, took him to Los Angeles in 1980, where he has lived and flourished professionally and personally since. He married there and now has two daughters attending college.

While always committed to Israel and the Jewish people, Goldberg freely admits that the events of September 11, 2001 were a catalyst for him when it comes to Zionist activism. At that point, he commenced a search for an effective Jewish organization whose philosophy matched his own and duly found it in the ZOA. A study of the various Jewish organizations alerted him to the fact that the ZOA was the only major one that had had the foresight to warn about dangers inherent in the Oslo process. He was unable to summon up enthusiasm for other organizations that were continuing to promote Oslo, endorse the funding of the Palestinian Authority and support Israel’s unilateral withdrawal from Gaza. Goldberg also recognized that the ZOA had a very successful track record, was highly regarded in Congress and in Israel, and had the clout to influence Middle East policy.

Goldberg had found his home at ZOA, and became involved in ZOA’s Los Angeles District. Shortly thereafter, Goldberg met Mort Klein in Israel in February 2006, when Goldberg was on a mission with American Friends of Likud, which Mort joined. Mort was so impressed with Goldberg’s knowledge and commitment that he invited him onto the ZOA’s National Board, of which he is now Vice-Chairman. Through his involvement in Israel advocacy, Goldberg has become close personal friends with several Israeli political figures, including Arieh Eldad, Effi Eitam,Gilad Erdan, Uzi Landau and Natan Sharansky. Goldberg speaks to these Israeli leaders on a regular basis and meets with them when he travels to Israel or when they are in Los Angeles.

Goldberg recounts the anecdote of the day he spent with Sharansky when the latter was on a visit to Los Angeles in 2005. Driving together from meeting to meeting, the two had time to discuss many things, including their mutual love of chess. Sharansky, who is ranked in the top 2% of world players, challenged Goldberg, a competitive tournament chess player ranked among the top 20% in the country, to a game. Goldberg pointed out that they lacked a board, but Sharansky was unfazed: they would play in their heads, he replied, something Sharansky had done quite often in his Soviet prison cell. Goldberg declined this particular challenge, but the two subsequently played a game in a private home. “He won,” said Goldberg, “but he had to work for it.” Sharansky paid him a humorous compliment: “You’re better than I thought you would be – you’re the equivalent of Charles Krauthammer.” The following year, while in Jerusalem, Goldberg was on his way to lunch with Bibi Netanyahu and bumped into Sharansky in a hotel lobby. Sharansky had played chess with Netanyahu earlier that day and told Goldberg, “You’re a better player than Bibi.” Goldberg decided not to mention this at the lunch with Netanyahu.

Of his Zionist involvement, Goldberg says, “I was never deluded by the idea that if only we’re nicer, people won’t hate us. We have to be vigilant defending our people. I am keenly aware of the failure of the Jewish establishment in the 1930s. Most other Jewish organizations are interested in giving each other plaques or getting invitations to the White House – here at ZOA, we’re determined to tell the truth and to act on it. Equally important, we have to give tangible help to Israel in these difficult times. The ZOA gets things done more effectively than any other Jewish organization. When I am on the radio, speak on college (Continued on page 26)
Israel’s Air Force – defending Israel in the skies.

ZOA – defending Israel in the media, on campuses, and on Capitol Hill.

ZOA SALUTES THE IDF

YOUR SUPPORT FOR ZOA HELPS US FIGHT FOR A STRONG AND SECURE ISRAEL.
ZOA Campus Activism Network Report

Summer Internship Program
Ten students served as summer interns at the ZOA National Office, with tasks such as working on the Israel Day Parade in Manhattan, and recruiting students to the ZOA Mission to Capitol Hill.

Memorial Service for Goldwasser and Regev
In August, 2008, the campus department organized a memorial service at Congregation Kehillat Jeshurun for Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, the Israeli soldiers kidnapped and killed by Hizbollah. ZOA’s Howard Schaefer, Esq. spoke along with former IDF soldier Avi Sandler and Rabbi Elie Weinstock.

Zionist Leadership Council
15 student leaders converged on New York City for an educational lecture series about Israeli history, campus activism, and how to combat campus anti-Semitism. Plans are underway for the group to continue meeting in the Spring.

Care Packages for IDF
The ZOA arranged campus programs nationwide in which gift bags were sent to soldiers serving throughout Israel, including on the front lines of Operation Cast Lead in Gaza.

Pro-Israel Rallies
The Campus Activism Network arranged for the ZOA to co-sponsor pro-Israel rallies nationwide, bringing hundreds of students to the rallies and distributing ZOA’s red “Stand up for Sderot!” wristbands.

ZOA Speakers Visit Campuses Fall Semester 2008
ARYEH ELDAD, head of the Hatikva party and Member of Knesset, lectured at U. of Michigan, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and George Washington University about the dangers of a Palestinian state; he also spoke at several high schools and synagogues in Ohio and Illinois.
NONIE DARWISH, founder of Arabs for Israel, and author of Now They Call Me Infidel: Why I Renounced Jihad, lectured at the University of Cincinnati, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and Miami University in Ohio about the nature of radical Islam today.
ROBERT SPENCER, director of JihadWatch, lectured at Binghamton University about attempts by Jihadists to impose Sharia law on the west.
SARRI SINGER, a survivor of an Arab terrorist attack in Israel, spoke at SUNY Oswego on the impact of terrorism and its effects on survivors.
ZION UNESS, a Jewish immigrant to Israel from Ethiopia, addressed large crowds at Michigan State University and Western Michigan University, speaking about Ethiopian Jewry.
ANDREW BOSTOM, author of The Legacy of Islamic Antisemitism: from Sacred Texts to Solemn History and many articles on Islam, spoke at the University of Southern California.

Jonathan Schanzer, author of Fatah vs Hamas: The Struggle for Palestine, lectured for the ZOA chapter at University of Maryland.
MOSHE KATZ, Krav Maga (Israeli self-defense) expert, taught students from Georgetown, University of Virginia, University of Maryland, William and Mary, George Washington University, Temple University, and Miami University in Ohio.
ARYEH GREEN, director of Media Central and former senior advisor to Minister Natan Sharansky, lectured at University of Maryland.
NICK ISRAEL, ZOA Midwest campus coordinator, spoke about the ZOA and Israel at the “Ohio Loves Israel” conference at Ohio State University, at an event in Cleveland, at Hofstra University, and at a rally at Miami University in Ohio.
NOAM BDEIN, Director of the Sderot Media Center, presented a lecture with dramatic videos of rocket attacks to hundreds of students at Cornell, Brandeis, Wellesley, Boston University, UMass-Amherst, NYU, Columbia, University of Virginia, American University, and Queens College. Bedein also toured at least a half-dozen high schools on the east coast, receiving widespread acclaim.

ZOA Young Professionals Across the Country
WASHINGTON DC
On October 28, the first ZOA Young Professionals (YP) program in Washington DC took place, called the “Pro-Israel Pre-Election Happy Hour.” At the event, organized by ZOA’s Sharona Whisler, dozens of Jewish young professionals discussed American policies and the Presidential candidates’ positions on Israel.

LOS ANGELES
Young Professionals pulled in over 1000 attendees in total at three events; two Jewish cafe experiences in which Julie Sager addressed the crowds, and a Chanukah party co-sponsored by JConnect. A Purim party is in the works.

NEW YORK
The Young Professionals group kicked off the summer with a well-attended “Zionist Happy Hour.” Nina Sherman arranged a December “Holiday Soiree” attended by over 400. More events are being planned by this very active group.

STEVE GOLDBERG, Esq.  (Continued from page 24)
campuses or appear at debates, I am proud to represent the ZOA.
“As for the new Obama presidency, I think we’re going to have to be even more outspoken. Obama has lots of intelligence and charisma, but if he pursues a Clinton-esque policy or worse, it’s going to be dangerous for Israel. The far left, including some Jewish organizations, sees this as an opportunity to pressure Israel. Other Jewish organizations will remain largely silent out of a desire to conform. But ZOA’s voice will be heard. Today, the ZOA is more important than ever.”
The trip is a great opportunity to expand one’s knowledge of the state of Israel. From the very beginning of the trip, students are immersed in a wealth of knowledge dealing with everything from the Golan Heights to the settlers of the West Bank. There are speakers that bring vivid stories and interesting perspectives that will open the door to more thought and understanding to the conflicts that face Israelis and the Jewish people on a daily basis. All of the students that participated came with open minds and strong backgrounds, but none of us were prepared for the sites we would see and the people we would meet. Each step was a progression towards a greater conviction towards the State of Israel and all that it entails. We met with Mayors of West Bank settlements, Gush Katif evacuees, soldiers fighting on the front lines, and everything in between. With this experience there is no doubt that I have new vision and a detailed perspective on what the future of Israel will be. I went there with an open mind and full of knowledge.

Michael Steckel,  
Pennsylvania State University, junior

The most inspirational moment was when we were hiking in Zichron Yaakov and we saw on one side of the mountain was the Mediterranean and the other side of the mountain the hills of the West Bank. It truly showed how little the country is.

Benjamin Rosenbaum,  
University of Maryland, senior

I must say that at first, I was a bit overwhelmed by the conservative point of view the trip tried to present. However, by the end of the trip, I realized the importance of not giving up land, because peace does not follow. I guess one of the most inspirational things on the trip was standing on the hills of Judea (notice the lack of use of West Bank) and being able to see Netanya, Tel Aviv, the electric plant near Ceasarea, etc. and realizing how small Israel is, especially if the “West Bank” became a “Palestinian” state. The second most inspirational moment on the trip was when we were on top of the Mt. of Olives. I have never been to East Jerusalem, and to be on Mt. of Olives and to see the ENTIRE Temple Mount was breathtaking. I never realized how big it is.

Elad Golan,  
University of Pennsylvania, sophomore

The ZOA trip really strengthened my belief in the importance of Jewish settlement in Israel as I, together with a great group of other concerned Jewish college students, learned a lot about the historical, political and religious connection between the Jew and his homeland, Israel. On the trip we visited communities, many in Judea and Samaria, that face terrorists daily. We heard from mothers, fathers, grandparents, soldiers, politicians, professors, writers, and students all of whom are proud to be Jews living in Israel. … We can not lose hope and we must remember that this beautiful land was, and now after 2000 years, is once again ours.

Chana Rosenthal,  
Queens College, sophomore

The ZOA trip enabled me to see a side of Israel that very few people get to see. Being able to witness first-hand strategic areas of Judea and Samaria really allowed me to see its importance to Israel, as well as reaffirmed my core belief that Jews have a right to live there freely and safely.

Leo Nayfeld,  
Miami University (Ohio), sophomore

One of the speakers that affected me in a big way was Oreet, one of the Gush Katif evacuees. She spoke of how after moving to Israel, she spent the next thirty years building up her home and her family. I could identify with that because I am an immigrant from Russia and my parents are doing the same exact thing – building up their home and family. To hear of her emotions while watching her own people come and order her out of her beloved home tore me up. She had to watch as her home was bulldozed down to nothing, thirty years in the making. She still has such dedication to Israel, even after that; it showed me the power of belief in a country, in a mission.

Elina Bank,  
Baruch College, junior
Is the ZOA in your will?

Many people list some of their favorite charitable causes and organizations in their wills. The ZOA leadership is planning for a future of activism, commitment and devotion to Zionist ideals. By remembering the ZOA in your list of bequests, you can help plan for that future. For more information on the procedure for including the ZOA in your will, call the ZOA National Office at 212-481-1500.

Dear Mort,

I support the ZOA's effort to help Israel in this time of crisis. Please continue speaking out. I am proud to help the ZOA continue its work with the following gift:

- $25,000 BUILDER
- $10,000 BENEFACOR
- $5,000 DEFENDER
- $3,600 PATRON
- $1,000 GUARDIAN
- $360 DOUBLE CHAI
- $36 STUDENTS / SENIORS
- $100 SUSTAINERS
- $50 SUPPORTER
- $36 ADDITIONAL DONATION

☐ I have enclosed a check payable to Zionist Organization of America

☐ Please charge my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

ACCOUNT NO. EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE (HOME) (WORK)

E-MAIL

Membership is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.
For information, call 212-481-1500, Fax 212-481-1515
Please mail this form to: ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
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Please visit our website: www.zoa.org

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