

# ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA



## Fall 2022

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Editors: Howard Katzoff, Esq. & Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.  
Design: Jackie Shafer  
Telephone: 212-481-1500 | Email: [info@zoa.org](mailto:info@zoa.org)  
[www.zoa.org](http://www.zoa.org) | [www.campus.zoa.org](http://www.campus.zoa.org)



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Morton A. Klein**  
ZOA National President

## ZOA Proudly, Courageously Speaks Out-While Others Are Silent or Worse

A bedrock principle at the Zionist Organization of America is that we speak out against dangers to Israel, America and the Jewish people from any source and any party. By the same token, ZOA praises good deeds and policies from any source and any party.

We are haunted by many Americans' devastating and shameful silence during the Holocaust, and we are ever mindful of the Biblical injunction, "You shall not stand by the shedding of your fellow's blood" (Vayikra/Leviticus 19:16). ZOA thus speaks up, even when we are the only major American Jewish organization to do so, and even when other major groups turn reality upside down, oppose us, or try to censor us.

ZOA's warnings and positions have consistently been proven correct. ZOA stood up alone to oppose the Oslo Accords and the Gaza withdrawal, while virtually all other major American Jewish groups cheered both of these disastrous moves. Oslo quickly quadrupled Arab terror attacks, including new spates of suicide bombings against innocent Israelis. The Gaza withdrawal subjected Israelis to 25,000 rocket attacks.

We are the only major American Jewish organization to oppose a Palestinian Arab

state. Such a state would give even more power to the current Jew-hating, Israel-hating Palestinian Authority terrorist dictatorship.

We were also initially alone in our successful fight, for which we enlisted bipartisan congressional support, to reinterpret Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jewish students from antisemitic harassment and discrimination. ZOA has since filed numerous legal complaints against universities to force them to change their actions and policies. We also initiated the ultimately successful fight to allow Americans born in Jerusalem to list "Israel" on their passports as their place of birth.

It is imperative that Jewish groups warn Jews and others not to support Jew-hating, Israel-bashing groups that the media and others wrongly promote. One such group is the organization that calls itself Black Lives Matter (BLM). Upon its renewed visibility two years ago, I wrote articles urging people not to support the BLM organization, by exposing its charter that identified Israel as a "genocidal apartheid state" and falsely and outrageously claimed that Israeli police train American police to harm and even kill Blacks. I called the BLM organization an anti-Israel, anti-Jewish racist hate group.

*ZOA speaks up, even when we are the only major American Jewish organization to do so, and even when other major groups turn reality upside down, oppose us, or try to censor us.*

Not only did no other Jewish group condemn the BLM organization; they all supported and praised the organization, even taking out full-page ads applauding BLM. Moreover, Jewish groups publicly condemned me and the ZOA as racists, even demanding the ZOA's ouster from Jewish umbrella groups.

Those demands failed. Thankfully, prominent individuals such as Alan Dershowitz, Caroline Glick, Melanie Phillips and Dennis Prager joined us in condemning BLM as antisemitic Israel-haters. Prager called them a "hate group" and the "most racist group in America outside of the KKK."

Recently, the Zoom with ZOA Book Club featured Rabbi Aryeh Lightstone – the former Senior Advisor to U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and also the former U.S.

Special Envoy for Economic Naturalization – to speak about his new book. During the program, Rabbi Lightstone noted that if the ZOA wrote a book, it would be called, "I Told You So."

Most recently, ZOA has been standing up to oppose the Biden administration's anti-Israel policies, its pressures on Israel to concede her sovereignty and safety, and its hostile-to-Israel and antisemitic appointments. Once again, ZOA has been virtually alone among major American Jewish groups in standing up against these dangers.

A case in point is the Biden administration's persistent pressure on Israel to allow the administration to open a divisive consulate in Jerusalem specifically for Palestinian Arabs. The consulate would undermine Israel's sovereignty over her undivided capital and send a message to the Palestinian Authority terror regime that Jerusalem is up for grabs. The consulate would also violate the Jerusalem Embassy Act, the Oslo Accords and the Vienna Convention on Consular Affairs. And the consulate would be a hotbed of anti-Israel activity in the center of Jerusalem. ZOA has been campaigning against this divisive consulate from the outset, with huge building-sized billboards in Israel, as well as op-eds, articles, speeches, action alerts and media appearances.

ZOA repeatedly asked other major American Jewish organizations to join us in opposing the consulate. For instance, at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and in an effort to encourage more groups to speak out, I asked the guest speaker, Israeli Minister of Interior Ayelet Shaked, whether she believed it would be important for more groups, besides the ZOA, to publicly oppose the consulate. Minister Shaked immediately

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agreed that this would be very important. She stated that all the leaders of the Israeli government oppose the consulate, and urged everyone present to publicly speak out against it. Yet despite unambiguous encouragement from an important Israeli official, the Conference and other major Jewish groups remained silent about the consulate.

Virtually all of President Biden’s nominees and appointees that deal with Middle East and Israeli issues have been so hostile to Israel and even downright antisemitic that ZOA posted a “Biden Appointments Watch” page on our website. It contains our articles and other media articles opposing these nominees and appointees and explaining why they are so problematic.

To give just a few examples: Hady Amr, whom Biden recently elevated to the position of Special Envoy to the Palestinians, stated that he was inspired by the Intifada terror wars against Israel. Reema Dodin, Deputy Director of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs, justified and even encouraged suicide bombings. Maher Bitar, Senior Director for Intelligence at the National Security Council, organized an anti-Israel conference and ran a session on how to demonize Israel. Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, appointee to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, retweeted her wife’s praise for antisemite Linda Sarsour and said Kaddish for Hamas terrorists killed while trying to murder Jews, resulting in pro-Israel members of her LGBTQ congregation leaving the synagogue. Avril Haines, the Director of National Intelligence, falsely condemned Israel for terrorism and incitement. Robert Malley, the lead negotiator with Iran, is an Iran apologist who opposes sanctions on Iran. And Tamara Cofman Wittes, nominated to be the

**BIDEN'S**  
HOSTILE-TO-ISRAEL  
**APPOINTMENTS**  
**WATCH**



**Hady Amr**  
Special Envoy to the  
Palestinians



**Reema Dodin**  
Deputy Director of the White  
House Office of Legislative  
Affairs



**Maher Bitar**  
Senior Director for  
Intelligence at the National  
Security Council



**Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum**  
U.S. Commission on  
International Religious  
Freedom appointee



**Avril Haines**  
Director of National  
Intelligence



**Robert Malley**  
U.S. Special Representative  
for Iran



**Tamara Cofman Wittes**  
Assistant Administrator of the  
U.S. Agency for International  
Development for the Middle  
East nominee



Israeli President Isaac Herzog presents President Joe Biden with Israel's Presidential Medal of Honor, Israel's highest civilian award

*President Biden advanced his hostile-to-Israel agenda during his trip to the Middle East in July 2022 – despite the fact that Israel's caretaker government wrongly gave Biden Israel's highest award.*

Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development for the Middle East, condemned the Abraham Accords as a “Naksa.” (“Naksa” is the Arabic term for “setback” or “catastrophe”; Palestinian Arabs use this term to describe the Arabs’ failure to annihilate Israel in 1967.)

Yet again, we’ve been standing up alone, opposing these nominees and appointees, while other major American Jewish organizations remained silent or, even in some cases, supported hostile nominees.

President Biden advanced his hostile-to-Israel agenda during his trip to the Middle East in July 2022 – despite the fact that Israel’s caretaker government wrongly gave Biden Israel’s highest award. During his trip, Biden called for a Palestinian Arab (terror) state on the indefensible pre-1967 lines (with illusory “mutually agreed swaps” – which means no swaps). Abba Eban called those lines “Auschwitz lines.” Biden invented history in making this call, falsely claiming that Palestinian Arabs “have deep and ancient roots in this land”; he portrayed Palestinian Arabs as victims akin to the Irish. The pre-1967 lines would divide Jerusalem and give the Jewish people’s holiest sites, including the Kotel and Temple Mount, to the Palestinian Authority terror regime.

During his trip, Biden also repeatedly

undermined Jerusalem as Israel’s eternal undivided capital by other means, including by again pressing to open a divisive consulate for Palestinian Arabs; upgrading the Palestinian Affairs Unit at the U.S. embassy; removing Israel’s flag from his limousine when he went to eastern Jerusalem; failing to visit the Kotel and Jewish sites in eastern Jerusalem; and refusing to allow Israeli officials to accompany him on a visit to a Palestinian Arab hospital while not visiting nearby Jewish sites.

Biden further undermined Israel’s security and sovereignty during his Middle East trip. He pressed for the Palestinian Authority to help control Israel’s international border crossing with Jordan; pressed for an airport for Palestinian Arabs; extracted an agreement from Israel’s interim government to notify the Biden administration prior to allowing Jews to build homes in Judea-Samaria; pressured Israel to legalize illegal Arab building in Jewish areas of Judea-Samaria to choke off Jewish communities; insisted on continuing to pursue “diplomacy” with Iran; absurdly analogized Ireland’s situation with Great Britain to that of the Palestinian Arabs and Israel; ignored the Palestinian Authority’s anti-Jewish incitement and payments of \$400 million per year to Arab terrorists to murder Jews and Americans; and violated or circumvented the Taylor Force Act by increasing U.S. taxpayer



*Biden also mainstreamed the Jew-hating Holocaust-denying terrorist dictator Mahmoud Abbas by having a smiling press conference together with Abbas.*

payments for Palestinian Authority government functions and to UNRWA to \$1.5 billion since the beginning of Biden's term in office. This funding frees up funds for the Palestinian Authority to continue financially rewarding terrorists, and enables Hamas-run UNRWA to continue hiding rockets for Hamas and teaching Arab children to hate and murder Jews. Biden also mainstreamed the Jew-hating Holocaust-denying terrorist dictator Mahmoud Abbas by having a smiling press conference together with Abbas.

In Saudi Arabia, Biden set the cause of peace backwards by apparently injecting a "Palestinian Arab" veto into the process. During Biden's trip, the Saudis announced that they will not make peace with Israel unless there is a Palestinian Arab state. This undermined the bilateral basis of the Abraham Accords, which refused to give the Palestinian Authority terror regime the power to veto peace.

ZOA again stood alone among major American Jewish organizations, writing articles and appearing on television and other

media. We explained in the *Jerusalem Post* and elsewhere why Biden's actions and policies made him undeserving of such a major Israeli honor. We condemned Biden's hostile actions and statements during his July trip. Incredibly, other American Jewish organizations, including AIPAC and the Conference of Presidents, praised the trip, and ignored all the reasons for deep concern.

The reaction to Biden's Middle East trip reminded us of the story about "The Emperor's New Clothes." While everyone praised the emperor's non-existent clothes to the skies, afraid to admit the reality of the situation, a child with clear and open eyes told the truth that the emperor was naked. ZOA is much like that child who tells the truth while others pretend that the most hostile actions are fine garments.

We often wonder, why do other groups remain silent or worse? Why haven't they learned from history?

So, we asked other groups for their reasoning.

A leader of one organization told us: "We

President Joe Biden with  
Palestinian Authority President  
Mahmoud Abbas in July 2022



*Fortunately, there have been some bright recent moments with other major American Jewish organizations.... We were pleased that other major Jewish groups co-signed a letter that ZOA authored asking New York Governor Kathy Hochul to make good on her promise to act against Unilever if Ben & Jerry's continued its anti-Israel boycott.*

just praise the administration because that will encourage the administration to do more that's positive."

Inappropriate praise for hostile actions is appeasement. As Yale Professor Donald Kagan taught us in his book, "On the Preservation of Peace and the Origin of War," appeasement always fails.

Moreover, remaining silent about anti-Israel policies has terrible consequences. It leaves the impression that American Jews and Israel are perfectly fine with the administration's hostile acts and appointees, and it encourages more antisemitic, anti-Israel actions. In addition, silence misinforms the Jewish and non-Jewish American public. ZOA's stance of both praising positives and condemning hostile acts is the appropriate and rational approach to take.

Defeatism is another problem. Another organization's leader told us that his organization doesn't lobby against anti-Israel nominees because "they'll be confirmed anyway, and even if they're not confirmed, the president will then nominate someone just as bad." That's not true. Often, confirmation votes are extremely close. If a president's nominee is defeated or widely objected to, the president will be more careful with his (or her) next selection. If more major American Jewish organizations joined in opposing anti-Israel, antisemitic nominees, then the administration could not get away with nominating them time and time again.

And then there are donations. One insider admitted to us that the real reason a major organization fails to lobby against many anti-Israel nominees and policies is because if it did so, the administration wouldn't send its

officials to speak at the organization's conferences – and then donors who want to hobnob and have photo ops with administration officials will stop donating to the organization. Needless to say, photo ops and donations are no reason to avoid speaking up honestly for fellow Jews and the Jewish state.

We've also heard the excuse of bipartisanship. But bipartisanship should *not* mean bringing both parties down to the lowest common denominator, or excusing or ignoring anti-Israel hostility because it comes from one's own party. Bipartisanship should mean pushing both parties to adopt strong pro-Israel and anti-antisemitism positions.

Fortunately, there have been some bright recent moments with other major American Jewish organizations. For instance, we were pleased that other major Jewish groups co-signed a letter that ZOA authored asking New York Governor Kathy Hochul to make good on her promise to act against Unilever if Ben & Jerry's continued its anti-Israel boycott. Smaller or newer Jewish groups are often following our lead and often working together with us.

Where do we go from here? ZOA will press on, telling the truth. We will continue to educate the Congress, the media and the public about the truth of the Arab Islamist war against Israel and the West. We'll continue to fight antisemitism and anti-Israel policies and actions. We'll continue to enlist other groups – large and small – to join with us in this noble cause. And we ask you to join with us, to help to strengthen our work and to encourage other groups with whom you are involved to join our vital efforts on behalf of Israel and the entire Jewish people. 🇺🇸

*Morton Klein*



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**David I. Schoen**  
Chairman of the Board

In my first message last year as the new Chairman of the ZOA's Board of Directors, I wrote that I considered it a great honor to be entrusted with this position and to have the opportunity to serve. In just the brief period of my tenure to date as Chairman, that sentiment has been reinforced for me over and over again.

The degree to which each member of the ZOA team is dedicated to doing her or his job at the highest level every day, not just as a matter of personal pride, but with a sense that the job has an elevated purpose – working toward strengthening the State of Israel – truly is remarkable.

Each project the ZOA takes on through its vitally important initiatives makes a difference every day. The Center for Law and Justice fights the battle each day, against powerful institutional forces, to combat antisemitism on our college campuses, in the workplace, and elsewhere, sending a strong and essential message that we will not tolerate bigotry. Our team on Capitol Hill works so hard at all times to educate and advocate in an often hostile environment, fighting against baseless attacks from the Hate Squad and their allies, joining with friends of Israel on the Hill in standing up for the principles and values shared by America and Israel, and fighting tirelessly for Israel's safety and security. Our college campus team brings ZOA's special love of Israel to so many students who participate

in our programs and wonderful, educational trips and it imbues in them a love of Israel and a dedication to supporting Israel while in college and beyond. Our team in Israel keeps us informed of important developments there and proudly represents the best of the ZOA on the ground, through contacts at the highest levels of the Israeli government and in the private sector.

The ZOA always strives to speak with the clearest and most principled voice on issues of central concern to Israel and the Jewish people and will not back down in that battle ever, no matter the consequences, even if it means going it alone. If principle demands a public stand for Israel, the ZOA is always there. This has been a hallmark of the ZOA under Mort Klein's leadership. Mort is, of course, known throughout the world for calling it like it is when Israel's vital interests are at stake, even when others remain silent.

Every member of the ZOA's Board of Directors is engaged in a personal effort of fighting to ensure Israel's safety, security, and prosperity. Many members of the Board are involved with other Israel advocacy organizations and projects, but each feels a personal stake in advancing the ZOA's goals and serves as a wonderful ambassador for the ZOA. This year we are honored to welcome some new faces and energy on the Board and we have a reconstituted Executive Committee comprised of leaders who work selflessly to

*The ZOA always strives to speak with the clearest and most principled voice on issues of central concern to Israel and the Jewish people and will not back down in that battle ever, no matter the consequences, even if it means going it alone.*

*We fight bigotry and baseless hatred toward the State of Israel and the Jewish people with the power of demonstrable facts and real evidence. That is where the ZOA shines.*

oversee the ZOA's operations and to try to facilitate the staff's ability to do the work it does with such dedication at all times.

As every ZOA member knows, Israel and the Jewish people continue to face powerful enemies throughout the world. In our own country, the Hate Squad never fails to sink to new lows, saying things in Congress and in public speeches regarding the State of Israel that bear no relation to reality and that reflect a dangerous brand of antisemitism that requires our daily vigilance and compels us to fight back with the facts.

That is where the ZOA shines. We fight bigotry and baseless hatred toward the State of Israel and the Jewish people with the power of demonstrable facts and real evidence.

We have faced outrageous levels of violent antisemitic attacks in our country this past year and we must continue to demand public action to expose this and to take meaningful action to address it and punish those so filled with hate that they resort to violence. The United Nations continues its longstanding practice of creating bodies and calls to action that are driven by nothing but pure hatred of the Jewish State, in ways that know no boundaries, advocated by public figures who know no shame. As always, there are many battles to fight, but we do it with a love of Israel and for the Jewish people in mind every step of the way. Our members should take great pride in the ZOA's motivation and sense of purpose as it fights these battles on every front necessary.

For those who have yet to understand the need to be ever vigilant in the fight to ensure Israel's safety, security, and prosperity, the ZOA will rededicate its efforts to spread the truth and encourage action even more broadly, through a bolstering of our social media presence as we move forward. As our history has shown, an understanding of Israel's central role for the Jewish people comes through a variety of means and events in one's life and each person we reach with this message becomes a vitally important ally. Some of our greatest early Zionist thinkers and writers came to this commitment only when a relevant event touched their lives.

In 1882, after experiencing one after another attack on his community simply for trying to live as a Jew in another land, the great Jewish humanist Moshe Lilienblum recognized Israel's unique historical role for the Jewish people and the imperative of returning to the Land of Israel to begin the rebuilding as a sanctuary for Jews from all other lands. He wrote of Israel: "This is the land in which our fathers have found rest since time immemorial – and as they lived, so shall we live. Let us go now to the only land in which we will find relief for our souls that have been harassed by murderers for these thousands of years. Our beginnings will be small, but in the end we will flourish."

Our role at the ZOA is to do all that we can to help this light unto the nations and all its people flourish. 🇺🇸





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EMCEE



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# Your Friends at the Zionist Organization of America Wish You and Your Loved Ones A Sweet New Year

**Morton A. Klein**  
ZOA National President

**David I. Schoen**  
Chairman of the Board





# 2022 ZOA YOM YERUSHALAYIM

By Dr. Paul Tartell, ZOA National Board Vice-Chair



*On the Mission, we were treated to intimate, in-depth conferences with movers and shakers at the forefront of crucial Zionist issues.*

I had the privilege of joining fellow Zionists on the ZOA's May 2022 Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) Leadership Mission to Israel. Expectations were high given our skillful ZOA staff coordinators – Howard Katzoff, Dan Illouz and Alan Jay. They did not disappoint. The itinerary was ambitious. Based at the beautiful and centrally located Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem, we were treated to intimate, in-depth conferences with movers and shakers at the forefront of crucial Zionist issues.

During our welcome dinner, we heard from outstanding speakers, including Jonathan Pollard, Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Fleur Hassan-Nahoum and MK Amir Ohana. The next day, after a comprehensive Israel Political Update presentation by Dan Illouz, the ZOA's representative in Israel, we visited the Knesset, where we were addressed by MK Eli Cohen, MK Simcha Rotman and “rebel” former Yamina MK Amichai Chikli. As a spe-

cial treat, Religious Zionist Party leader MK Bezalel Smotrich spontaneously addressed us when he encountered our group in the halls of the Knesset.

Notably, the MKs bemoaned the chronic problem with the composition and rulings of the liberal Israeli Supreme Court, in a country that is otherwise decidedly right of center. Given our trip's fortuitous timing with the teetering of Israel's precarious coalition government, we were schooled on the peculiar inner workings of the Knesset and its many complex parliamentary rules. Based on information and insight garnered from key contacts, we were able to predict within a few days – weeks in advance – the collapse of the coalition government.

We visited Shimon Ha'Tzaddik, an ancient Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem (referred to as Sheikh Jarrah by Arabs and the international media). An ordinary land dispute between



# LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL

the Jewish owner of property there and the Arab squatters and holdover tenants who, for decades, refused to pay rent became a pretext to demonize Israel, violently riot against Jews, and demand that Jewish property rights be ignored.

Chaim Silberstein, founder and chairman of Keep Jerusalem, and Yonatan Yosef, a Jerusalem councilman and grandson of former Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, led our tour of the neighborhood and gave us a comprehensive history, including its ancient Jewish presence. Chaim's son-in-law and pregnant daughter were shot by a terrorist in 2018; the adults survived, but the baby was lost. Our tour included ancient Jewish tombs as well as other archeological findings that further substantiate Jewish claims to this land.

We spent the next day in the south with Brigadier General Amir Avivi (of Israel's Defense & Security Forum), near the borders with Egypt and Gaza. In his characteristically unvarnished and sobering manner, Avivi meticulously detailed Israeli security concerns that cannot be ignored or dismissed. That day, we also visited the Urban Warfare Training Base near Tse'elim, the Hesder Yeshiva in Sderot, and the Camel Hill Lookout into Gaza – a stone's throw from the Gaza security fence.

An unforgettable highlight was our trip to Hebron, one of Judaism's most sacred places that is ordinarily inaccessible owing to

security and political concerns. We first had a security review with Amit Deri, founder of Reservists on Duty, who pointed out the surrounding homes in the high ground from where Palestinian Arab snipers have fired at and killed Jews, including a baby in its crib. We were then treated to an informative and comprehensive history of Me'arat HaMachpela (the Cave of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs) by Noam Arnon, an expert on Hebron and one of the few modern humans who have explored – and returned alive from – the caves.

An important part of this mission was meeting with grassroots organizations that have arisen to address specific problems. Despite limited money, labor and resources, they efficiently and effectively accomplish their ambitious goals. They are the tip of the spear for Zionist efforts in Israel and we have closely allied ourselves with them, including the aforementioned Keep Jerusalem organization, and the powerful Sovereignty Movement advanced by Women in Green, led by Nadia Matar and Yehudit Katsover at Gush Etzion.

Women in Green created a memorial park (Oz veGaon Nature Preserve) for the three teenage boys abducted and killed by Hamas in 2014. These brave, no-nonsense women are a force of nature and community heroes. They are tireless, courageous, and determined, identifying the important, difficult things that need to be done – and then just doing them.





Dr. Tartell speaking at the opening night program



Guest speakers MK Amir Ohana (left) and Jonathan Pollard



Brigadeir Gen. (Res.) Amir Avivi (right)



Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Fleur Hassan-Nahoum



Our visit to Oz veGaon in Gush Etzion



ZOA Deputy Director Howard Katzoff (right) on the Pilgrims' Road in the City of David



Noam Arnon at the Cave of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs





Nadia Matar and Yehudit Katsover, co-chairs of the Sovereignty Movement founded by Women in Green



Sara Haetzni-Cohen, My Israel Chairwoman



ZOA's Alan Jay (left) and Yaakov Hagoel, WZO Chairman



Visiting Caliber 3

Another such grassroots leader and catalyst is Sara Haetzni-Cohen (chair of My Israel) who discussed “Violence in Mixed Cities” — a problem that came to the fore during the May 2021 conflict with Hamas in Gaza – where Arabs in Israeli cities attacked innocent civilians in their cars, homes and neighborhoods, just for being Jewish.

We also met with another female dynamo, Naomi Kahn (of Regavim) at Ma’ale Adumim. She provided us with detailed, irrefutable evidence of illegal Arab construction in Area C as we toured and viewed sites of encroachment. Ironically, EU nations – that demand that Israel adhere to international law – are, in fact, hypocritically breaking those same international laws by unlawfully building structures for Arabs in Area C, in violation of the Oslo Accords. There was more evidence of this problem when we visited Kfar Adumim and saw the illegal Arab settlement of Khan Al Ahmar. I firmly believe that if Israel is to be saved from itself it will, in large part, be due to the extraordinary efforts of its courageous, principled and determined women, much in the tradition of the heroines and matriarchs of the Bible.

Of course, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the bountiful breakfasts, luscious lunches and delicious dinners that we all enjoyed. They included several meals at wineries that have produced Israeli wines that have attained elite status.

Another unique aspect of our mission was a visit to Caliber 3, a world-class counter-terrorism training center that has clients from all over the world. This is unequivocally the most macho place I’ve ever been to — and I never felt safer. It’s not a venue for anyone offended by extreme (albeit not “toxic”) masculinity — the testosterone levels there were off the scale! Upon leaving, I think all the guys, to some extent, questioned their masculinity – certainly a humbling experience!

On a more solemn note, we then visited Har Herzl. There we met and dined with Yaakov Hagoel, Chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Acting Chairman of the Executive of The Jewish Agency.

*An important part of this mission was meeting with grassroots organizations that have arisen to address specific problems. Despite limited money, labor and resources, they efficiently and effectively accomplish their ambitious goals.*



*We visited Yatar, an elite volunteer police auxiliary counter-terrorism unit, and were privileged to ride in Yatar's signature, highly equipped, military grade ATVs.*

On Shabbat, we heard from award-winning journalist Khaled Abu Toameh, a proud Arab-Israeli who actually chastised Israel for not doing more to assert its sovereignty (“Israel should take what is hers.”). He stressed that the only thing that his Arab brethren will yield to is power; any other efforts are and will be futile.

We then met with and had a Shabbat lunch with several lone soldiers (IDF soldiers who do not have immediate family in Israel) who shared their experiences of serving in the Israeli military. Later that afternoon, we were privileged to engage in an interfaith dialogue with the wonderful pastors who joined us on the mission. They are genuine Zionists who were profoundly apologetic for the millennia of misdeeds against Jews in the name of Christianity. Needless to say, some of the most ardent Zionists are not Jews and we cherish their friendship.

On the last full day – Yom Yerushalayim – we were treated to a comprehensive lecture explaining modern Israel's historical relationship to the land, given by our wonderful Keshet tour guide, Danny Ehrlich. We subsequently visited Yatar, an elite volunteer police auxiliary counter-terrorism unit, and were privileged to ride in Yatar's signature, highly equipped, military grade ATVs.



ZOA Director of Outreach & Engagement Alan Jay beside a Yatar ATV





Naomi Kahn, Director of Regavim's Int'l Division



Nachala activists Daniella Weiss (right) and Lital Marmorosh Slonim



Celebrating Yom Yerushalayim, commemorating the 1967 reunification of Jerusalem, Israel's capital

Following that, we had the aforementioned sobering Area C encounter with Naomi Kahn, who, along with her small group of Regavim colleagues, single-handedly document and sound the clarion with regard to unlawful Arab building in, and usurpation of, Area C land in Judea and Samaria. That experience made our next activity even more meaningful and exhilarating. Upon returning to Jerusalem, many of us took part in the Jerusalem Day celebrations and marched in the Flag Parade through the Old City that ended at the Kotel Plaza. Aside from commemorating this seminal event, we bore witness to the fact that contrary to media reports, this was a peaceful and festive parade. Jews of all stripes, with parents carrying infants, pushing strollers and hoisting young children on their shoulders, were singing and dancing.



On our last day, we went to Pedu'el in the Shomron to meet Yigal Dilmoni, the CEO of the Yesha Council. Yigal used the scenic lookout at Pedu'el to discuss the strategic importance of Judea and Samaria. After another gourmet lunch, this time at Tura Winery, we toured an Israeli community that has been forcibly abandoned by the Israeli government until certain legalities get resolved. Finally, before drop-off at Ben Gurion Airport for return flights, there was a bon voyage dinner at JEMS Restaurant & Pub.

These are just a few of the many experiences, pearls of knowledge and insights we gained on this ZOA mission. I hope that everyone who has a genuine interest in Zionism will make sure to participate in the next one. It will enhance your understanding of the pressing Zionist issues with which we must contend as we strive to achieve ZOA's mission. 🇺🇸



Yigal Dilmoni, CEO of the Yesha Council



Listening attentively to Yigal Dilmoni's lecture



Bon voyage dinner at JEMS Restaurant & Pub



Visiting Kedumim and Shomron on the final day of the Mission

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



## Dan Pollak

Director, Government Relations

**T**he ZOA's Government Relations Department is focused on three major issues and several additional issues. There is nothing more important to the ZOA than preventing Iran from achieving a nuclear military capability. The second issue that confronts the ZOA is almost as important – the problem of the poor behavior of the Palestinian Authority (PA). A related issue is the failure of some parts of the U.S. government to see the reality that U.S. financial aid to bad actors invariably makes things worse. Finally, there continues to be a real issue with antisemitism in this country, and a refusal to address it quickly and effectively.

## The Iran Issue Since 2007

The fall of 2022 marks 15 years with ZOA for the director of Government Relations, Dan Pollak. When Dan joined the ZOA in October of 2007, George Bush was President of the United States, but President Obama was already running for that office. It is striking how similar some of the work that was done by the ZOA in 2007 is to the work that must be done today. At that time, too, the ZOA was sounding the alarm about Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons. Democratic and Republican Senators were united then in arguing that it was critical to prevent Iran from completing work on nuclear weapons. The basic tools that the U.S. and Israel could use were economic and military coercion against Iran, and the power of alliances to

deter Iran from moving forward into a position to threaten its neighbors.

Unfortunately, looking at things over this period shows a disappointing mix of results. Iran has not yet achieved a nuclear military capability. But it is much closer, in both the amount of uranium processed and in its ballistic missile program, to possibly delivering weapons against Israel than we would have hoped. Regrettably, red lines that should have alerted the world to take decisive action have repeatedly been crossed. Iran now has several paths to create the needed concentration of enriched uranium or plutonium to fuel a bomb, and no stopping points where international pressure is likely to force them to pause indefinitely.

*Iran now has several paths to create the needed concentration of enriched uranium or plutonium to fuel a bomb, and no stopping points where international pressure is likely to force them to pause indefinitely.*

### HOW IRAN SEES THE NUCLEAR DEAL

- 2030** Iran achieves Nuclear Weapons capability without any constraints  
Iran can stockpile enriched uranium
- 2026** Iran can scale nuclear centrifuges
- 2025** UN & International sanctions end against Iran
- 2024** Iran's nuclear centrifuge restrictions begin to end
- 2023** U.S. & EU sanctions on Iran lift  
Iran can import missile parts  
Iran can launch ballistic missiles
- 2020** UN Arms embargo on Iran ends

[NoNuclearHolocaust.com](http://NoNuclearHolocaust.com)



## *No PA decision maker thinks that there will be a reduction in aid from the U.S. if they behave badly. And they continue to behave badly.*

On the political front, the nearly unanimous opposition to Iran has fractured due to the Obama administration's disastrous 2015 "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action" (JCPOA), which was in effect until President Trump exited the deal in May 2018. The very existence of the deal allowed the Iranians to move forward with their plans to become a nuclear power after the deal, and the world has become embroiled in details instead of focusing on stopping Iran in the last five years. Many Democratic senators who were in favor of sanctions to stop Iran now are persuaded that a return to the JCPOA would not be that bad. Anything that reverses an action taken by former President Trump is sometimes simplistically applauded by partisan crowds.

### **Pay to Slay Then and Now**

Looking at the PA's behavior over the past 15 years is also instructive for understanding where we presently stand. The ZOA has always had a clear vision about the Palestinian Arab objective to wage war against Israel and Jews everywhere. Many of the controversies and proposed bills the ZOA has pushed for over this entire period have a unifying theme; to achieve peace with the other side, they have to be made to be accountable for their violations of all the agreements they have signed. It is an unpleasant fact that over this period, neither Israel nor the U.S. has managed to establish a pattern of accountability with the terrorist leadership of the Palestinian Arabs. Mahmoud Abbas, for example, is now in the 18th year of his four-year term as president.

Despite the passage of the Taylor Force Act, which requires the PA to stop using U.S. funds to pay terrorists to kill Jews, U.S. funds continue to make their way to the PA during the Biden administration. In fact, the

ZOA is currently engaged in fights to stop the amounts from getting much larger. U.S. aid to Palestinian Arabs currently is provided via three paths, and each of them is problematic. We give funds to UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency), which has been providing relief to Palestinian Arab "refugees" since 1950. Recent analysis by the U.S. government shows that the vast majority of the people receiving aid via UNRWA do not fit the internationally accepted definition of refugees, and unfortunately, the terrorist group Hamas has infiltrated virtually every UNRWA paid position in Gaza. Direct aid is also provided to the PA itself, and the Congressional Budget Office has found that large amounts of aid has made its way to terrorist recipients. Finally, there are humanitarian needs — for example, hospitals in eastern Jerusalem — and unfortunately, adequate controls and audits of those funds are also not fully implemented. The problem is that the linkage established during the Trump administration has been totally shattered. No PA decision maker thinks that there will be a reduction in aid from the U.S. if they behave badly. And they continue to behave badly.




Former ZOA Israel Representative Dan Illouz (L), and ZOA Government Relations Director Dan Pollak (R) visit U.S. Rep. Louis Gohmert at his D.C. office





## New Realities in the Left of the Political Spectrum

The biggest change in Washington, D.C. over the past 15 years has been the emergence of an organized anti-Israel caucus in the Congress. There have always been one or two members of Congress from either party who would oppose AIPAC and even announce antipathy to Israel on occasion. For years they were isolated and ridiculed. Since the establishment of J Street in 2007, a group of left-wing Democratic lawmakers have banded together to consistently oppose the American-Israeli alliance and have now reached a critical mass in Democratic politics. The majority of Democrats are still pro-Israel, of course. Leaders, including the relative newcomer Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY) and the veteran Majority Leader, Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), are strong supporters of the Jewish state. Every Democratic candidate has to be aware of the organized anti-Israel fringe, which in many cases give them their say in the affairs of the party. This is the direct cause of the softness encountered against the antisemitism of Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and others.

There is no doubt that the current Congress is still committed to keeping ties with Israel as close as possible, despite these challenges. In addition to dealing with our elected officials and communicating ZOA's insights and reactions to the news of the day, ZOA's Government Relations Department interacts with other Jewish and Christian pro-Israel organizations. We also work closely with our ZOA regional directors. We participate in meetings, public forums and policy discussions with foreign policy and political professionals and continue to engage in print and broadcast media opportunities to spread the word on ZOA's issues. 





**Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.**

Director, Center for Law & Justice

*The ZOA's complaint documents years of antisemitism that FCPS officials knew about but did not respond to effectively.*

## ZOA Files Civil Rights Complaint Against Fairfax County, VA Public Schools

Backed by parents in the community, the ZOA filed a complaint against Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) in Virginia, alleging longstanding antisemitism problems there that FCPS officials have failed to address, in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. FCPS is one of the largest school districts in the U.S.

The ZOA's complaint documents years of antisemitism that FCPS officials knew about but did not respond to effectively, including but not limited to the following:

- Jewish students have repeatedly endured ethnic slurs, "Heil Hitler" salutes and Jewish "jokes" from their peers. One Jewish student received hundreds of antisemitic texts from two other students, which referred to the Jewish student as a "f\*\*king Jew ass whore," "f\*\*king Jew," "dirty Jew," "Jew F\*\*ktard," and "dollar dealer";
- Swastikas have repeatedly defaced school property, which FCPS officials failed to condemn or even acknowledge to the FCPS community;
- For years, the religious observance of Jewish students and staff has not been accommodated, with back-to-school nights, quizzes and other significant events being scheduled on Rosh Hashanah and Yom

Kippur. Teachers have singled out Jewish students in class to question their religious observance.

- In violation of FCPS's own policies, a school board member used her official position to viciously attack Israel with falsehoods and misleading statements during Israel's May 2021 defensive operations against the U.S.-designated terrorist group Hamas in Gaza. The school board member incited antisemitic hatred and divisiveness in the FCPS community, without condemnation or consequences for her misconduct.

The ZOA filed its Title VI complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) after efforts to resolve the problems informally were unsuccessful. OCR is still reviewing the complaint.



Fairfax County Public School Board



## ZOA’s Complaint Triggers Federal Investigation of Antisemitism at CUNY Law School

More than a year after the ZOA filed a Title VI complaint against the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law, OCR notified the ZOA in January 2022 that it is opening an investigation into the complaint’s allegations.

The ZOA filed the complaint after a CUNY Law student posted a video on social media in which she threatens to light someone on fire because he is wearing a sweatshirt bearing the emblem of the Israel Defense Forces. Though the conduct violated CUNY policies and possibly New York’s penal laws, CUNY failed to condemn or punish the student. Instead, CUNY justified her conduct as free speech and acceptable activism.

CUNY Law has a history of tolerating a hostile antisemitic environment for Jewish students, the ZOA’s complaint shows, which OCR is investigating as part of a separately filed Title VI complaint.

## ZOA’s Susan Tuchman Testifies at NYC Council Hearing on Campus Antisemitism

On June 30, 2022, Susan Tuchman, director of the ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice, testified at a hearing about antisemitism at CUNY, which was conducted by the New York City Council’s Committee on Higher Education. Susan’s testimony documented CUNY’s long history of antisemitic harassment and intimidation.

In 2013, the ZOA filed and successfully resolved a student-supported civil rights complaint against Brooklyn College after four Jewish students were ousted from an anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) program, allegedly because they were disrupting it. As Brooklyn College eventually publicly admitted, the Jewish students were ejected without justification. They were expelled to prevent them from expressing their anti-BDS, pro-Israel views.

In 2016, the ZOA alerted CUNY’s leadership to the antisemitic harassment and intimidation that Jewish students were enduring at four CUNY schools. At Hunter College, for example, a rally to protest rising tuition turned into a frightening attack on Jews, with protesters shouting, “Death to Jews,” “Jews out of CUNY,” and “We should drag the Zionists down the street.” The ZOA’s letter to CUNY triggered an independent investigation into campus antisemitism, which confirmed that Jewish students at CUNY felt harassed, threatened and unsafe, and that some students were afraid to identify openly as Jewish on campus.

As Susan informed the City Council members, antisemitism has infected the CUNY

*The ZOA filed the complaint after a CUNY Law student posted a video on social media in which she threatens to light someone on fire because he is wearing a sweatshirt bearing the emblem of the Israel Defense Forces.*





ZOA's Susan Tuchman describes longstanding antisemitism problems at CUNY in her testimony before the NYC Council

School of Law, too. In 2020, the ZOA filed a civil rights complaint against CUNY Law, alleging that the law school was a hostile antisemitic environment that CUNY officials were failing to address in violation of Title VI. (The complaint's details are described above.) A CUNY Law student threatened to set someone on fire for showing support for Israel and has also openly called for the death of Zionists and for Israel's destruction. She also openly supports and promotes terrorism and violence against Jews. Yet CUNY Law rewarded this student by featuring her as a speaker at its May 2022 commencement ceremony. As Susan told the City Council members, this law student "was treated like a celebrity there, with cheers and applause."

Susan also submitted written testimony to the City Council, detailing years of antisemitic harassment and intimidation that Jewish students have been subjected to at CUNY, without redress by CUNY officials. The written testimony recommends several steps for the City Council to consider taking, with the goal of finally making CUNY a safe and

welcoming place for Jewish and pro-Israel students.

After the hearing, the ZOA strongly criticized CUNY Chancellor Felix Matos Rodriguez for failing to appear. The hearing had been slated for earlier in June, but was postponed at the Chancellor's request, reportedly due to scheduling conflicts. At the June 30 hearing, City Council members stated that at the last minute, they were informed that the Chancellor would not be present. Instead, three CUNY officials attended, but they appeared virtually, not in person. These actions sent the wrong and unacceptable message to Jewish students, staff and faculty at CUNY, to the City Council members, and to members of the public – that CUNY does not take seriously the antisemitic harassment and intimidation that Jewish students are facing, or CUNY's moral and legal obligation to address these problems.

The ZOA looks forward to working with the City Council to ensure that Jewish students at CUNY have the safe and welcoming environment that every student deserves.





Clifton, NJ Board of Education

## ZOA Appeals Decision Dismissing Ethics Complaint Against Israel-Bashing School Board Members

The ZOA is representing Elisabeth Schwartz in her appeal of a decision issued by the New Jersey School Ethics Commission (Commission) dismissing her complaint against two members of the Clifton, New Jersey school board. In her complaint, Ms. Schwartz alleged that the two board members violated New Jersey’s School Ethics Act when they made false and antisemitic statements attacking Israel during the “commissioner comments” portion of the school board’s virtual meeting on May 20, 2021.

This school board meeting took place during Israel’s defensive war against the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza, when there was a consequent surge in attacks against Jews in the U.S. and around the world. Using their official podiums for their own personal purposes, having nothing to do with board or district matters, the two board members falsely accused Israel of “ethnic cleansing” and of being an “apartheid” and “colonialist” state. One of the board members falsely claimed that American police forces were going to Israel to learn “abusive tactics” that they were bringing back to communities in the U.S., and he effectively blamed Israel for the tragic death of George Floyd.

Instead of giving Ms. Schwartz the opportunity to prove that these board members potentially compromised the public’s trust in the board in violation of the School Ethics Act, the Commission summarily dismissed Ms. Schwartz’s complaint. The Commission’s decision was arbitrary and capricious, the ZOA’s brief explained, and should be reversed, particularly given the Commission’s decisions in other similar cases. In one such case, a school board member allegedly violated the School Ethics Act when he made comments ostensibly offensive to Muslims. This board member did not make his comments using his podium at a school board meeting; he made them on his personal, private Facebook page. Yet instead of dismissing that complaint, the Commission permitted the case to proceed to a hearing, after which the Commission concluded that the board member violated the School Ethics Act and should be censured.

The ZOA’s brief also demonstrates that the Commission’s decision to dismiss Ms. Schwartz’s case prevented her from showing that the board members’ comments were false and antisemitic, compromising the public’s trust in the board, particularly among its Jewish students and their families. The board members’ comments fell squarely within the internationally accepted International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism.

Ms. Schwartz’s appeal is pending before the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division. The ZOA thanks Elisabeth Schwartz for taking the initiative to hold these board members accountable under the law. The ZOA is proud to be partnering in this case with Jeffrey Schreiber, Esq., an experienced and accomplished litigator and the managing partner of Meister Seelig & Fein’s New Jersey office. Together, we are sending the much-needed message to Clifton’s board of education and to others in positions of public trust that they cannot compromise that trust by fomenting Jew-hatred. 🇺🇸

*Using their official podiums for their own personal purposes, having nothing to do with board or district matters, the two board members falsely accused Israel of “ethnic cleansing” and of being an “apartheid” and “colonialist” state.*

# ZOA ISRAEL



**Dan Illouz**

Former ZOA Israel Representative

*Reopening this consulate in Jerusalem would be an affront to Israel's sovereignty there. The ZOA decided that this was something we needed to fight.*

**T**he last year has been a challenging one for the ZOA's Israel Office, mostly because of the political environment in Israel.

In June 2021, Naftali Bennet surprised many when he became Prime Minister, building a coalition with left wing parties and including an anti-Zionist Islamic party. This government has been controversial throughout the year, and ZOA Israel has had to navigate the various political interests in order to advance the ZOA's agenda, regardless of existing political tensions.

ZOA Israel promoted policies both through opposition parties that put pressure on the government, and through coalition parties. We also used public campaigns to focus on specific issues of particular interest to the ZOA. At the same time, we continued providing quality educational programming to our membership, including regular Zoom updates from Israel.

## **Opposition to Islamist Party**

As the government in Israel was established, the ZOA took a strong stance against collaboration with anti-Zionist, terror-supporting Islamic parties. ZOA Israel was instrumental in making sure that the various political actors in Israel knew our position.

As the ZOA's representative in Israel, I met with countless MKs, highlighting the serious problems with the United Arab List political

party in Israel, commonly known as Ra'am, and advocating against collaborating with them. Unfortunately, the government was ultimately established with Ra'am's support. But our lobbying helped encourage some MKs to take a strong moral stance even against their immediate political interests, and to refuse to sit in this government.

## **The Biden Administration's Pressure in Jerusalem**

Jerusalem has been on the radar of the Biden administration ever since President Biden took office. The administration has focused on reopening the Palestinian Arab consulate in Jerusalem.

Reopening this consulate would not only be an affront to Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem; it would also encourage an international precedent and bring back the previous situation where the State Department would get its reports from Israel from an anti-Israel perspective, fed by the Palestinian Arabs.

The ZOA decided that this was something we needed to fight. We created a broad campaign against the establishment of a Palestinian Arab consulate, which included huge banners around Jerusalem, organizing large rallies next to the offices intended for the consulate, lobbying government officials to stay strong against the demands of the Biden administration, and writing op-eds in the media.





Dan Illouz speaking at the ZOA's national headquarters

The results speak for themselves: The Israeli government stood firm and refused the Biden administration's demand to reopen the consulate.

As of the time of writing this article, the Biden administration has not abandoned the idea of reopening the consulate. It is trying to find ways to do it without calling it a consulate. We will keep fighting against any attempt to hurt Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem.

Aside from the consulate issue, we also helped fight against U.S. pressure on Israel not to act against Arab squatters in the Shimon Ha'Tzaddik neighborhood in Jerusalem. In addition, we fought U.S. attempts to promote a building freeze in the eastern parts of Jerusalem.

## Judea and Samaria Mega Event

For the second year in a row, in partnership with My Israel and the Yesha Council, the ZOA organized an incredibly successful three-part virtual series on Judea and Samaria. The series included presentations by several current and former highly ranked ministers, regional council leaders, and more.

Our first session focused on how Judea and

Samaria presented an opportunity for solving Israel's many challenges – economic, demographic, diplomatic, and security. We then looked at Judea and Samaria from a historical perspective, followed by a session on the illegal foreign-funded building in Area C.

Hundreds of people attended the three-part series. They learned facts about Judea and Samaria that ordinarily are not accessible to the public.

## Speaking Tour in the U.S.

In March and April 2022, I engaged in a speaking tour around the United States, bringing ZOA Israel's field expertise to ZOA supporters across the country. I spoke in Miami, New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia. In addition, together with our Government Relations director, Dan Pollak, I met with U.S. Senators, Representatives, and their staff people in Washington, D.C., to discuss issues of concern to the U.S. and Israel.

The trip was very successful. In total, I addressed hundreds of people, educating them about the challenges we face in ensuring Israel's safety and security. After years of Covid, this was the first opportunity many people had to engage in person with the ZOA or with any Israel-related activity.



Mission visit to the Tomb of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs in Hebron

## Mission to Israel a Huge Success!

In May 2022, the ZOA's Leadership Mission to Israel arrived in Jerusalem, just in time to celebrate Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day).

The mission was a huge success, featuring informative high-level speakers. At the opening dinner, we heard from former Minister of Public Security and Justice Amir Ohana, Jonathan Pollard with whom the ZOA was in constant contact when he was imprisoned, and Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Fleur Hassan-Nahoum.

We also shared an intense day in the Knesset, with briefings from several senior MKs who spoke to us about the underlying causes for the current political situation. We continued to visit fascinating places such as the Shimon Ha'Tzaddik neighborhood in Jerusalem, Hebron, Samaria, Gush Etzion, as



Dan Illouz raising a glass at the Tura Winery, with proprietor Vered Ben Sa'adon

well as the Negev desert and the border with Gaza. In all of our visits in Judea and Samaria, we heard from locals who shared their happiness about meeting with the ZOA, in contrast to other organizations that choose to boycott those areas. Mission participants also had the unique opportunity to take part in the flag march celebrating Jerusalem Day.

The Mission was a huge success. We are already getting ready to organize the next one.

## The Way Ahead

The outcome of the next election is unclear. Especially in times like these, the ZOA's clear and focused values-based approach is critical. Whoever is in charge, the ZOA will continue to fight for a safe and strong Israel and for the rights and interests of the Jewish people. 🇺🇸



# ZOA PEOPLE

## Profile: Paul Tartell, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Co-Vice Chair, ZOA National Board



**D**r. Paul Tartell is adamant about the Jewish people’s fundamental right to sovereignty over their ancestral homeland. He is also fervently committed to a safe and strong Israel. That’s why Dr. Tartell – co-Vice Chair of ZOA’s National Board of Directors – enthusiastically supports the ZOA. “The ZOA is the only American Jewish organization that has unabashedly and unapologetically remained faithful to its pro-Israel, pro-Judaism and pro-Zionist principles and mission,” he said.

Dr. Tartell has always had a strong and unwavering Jewish identity, influenced particularly by the experiences of his grandparents who fled eastern Europe after being tormented and subjected to beatings and pogroms at the turn of the last century. He grew up a second generation American in a tough neighborhood in Queens, New York. There were so few Jews there that at one point, he and his two sisters were the only Jewish students in their public elementary school.

From an early age, Dr. Tartell did his best to fit in, but without compromising his Jewish identity. Sometimes he endured antisemitic slurs such as “dirty Jew” and “you Jews killed Jesus,” as well as neighborhood shoving matches and fist fights. His family home was the only one in the neighborhood without Christmas lights, but their menorah was always lit on Chanukah, prominently displayed on their front window sill.

During his childhood, Dr. Tartell made

*As he grew up, he learned an important lesson that continues to inform his views and identity: “As a Jew, you’re always a stranger in a strange land — except in Israel.”*

many good Christian friends. Though his friends may not have completely understood his Jewish identity, Dr. Tartell nevertheless learned a great deal about Christianity and developed an appreciation for good interfaith relations.

As he grew up, he learned an important lesson that continues to inform his views and identity: “As a Jew, you’re always a stranger in a strange land — except in Israel,” Dr. Tartell said. He cautioned that “many Jews in the diaspora myopically disregard or forget Santayana’s famous admonition that ‘those who don’t remember the past are condemned to repeat it.’ They now consider America to be their promised land, just like German Jews felt about Germany before the 1930’s. But history has demonstrated that Jews are typically treated as unwanted guests who occasionally overstay their welcome in host countries. That’s why we need Israel. It’s our salvation and ensures that the Jewish people will never be at the mercy of an adversarial landlord.”

Not surprisingly, Dr. Tartell’s family “always took enormous pride in Israel, particularly after the Six Day War – a seminal and miraculous event,” he said. From then on, his Jewish identity, including his commitment to Israel, flourished.

Though more secular than observant, Judaism has nevertheless “always guided me and my values — especially regarding education,” Dr. Tartell noted. During his senior year at Manhattan’s prestigious Stuyvesant High School, Dr. Tartell was one of only ten students accepted into the inaugural class of the Scholars Program in Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, where he graduated from both its undergraduate and medical schools. He then trained in general

surgery at Einstein and Montefiore Hospital in New York, followed by his residency in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at UCLA. Dr. Tartell ultimately became a double board-certified surgeon in Otolaryngology –Head and Neck Surgery, and in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, as well as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Eager to return to the Northeast, Dr. Tartell accepted an academic faculty position as an attending surgeon at Tufts University School of Medicine and the New England Medical Center in Boston. There, in addition to running a busy tertiary surgical practice, he taught surgical residents, visiting doctors and medical students, and was chosen “Teacher of the Year.”

While in Boston, Dr. Tartell met his future wife. After fulfilling his academic obligations to Tufts, they moved to be close to their families in Southeast Florida, where he opened a private surgical practice and they started a family.

At that point, Dr. Tartell became more involved in organized Jewish life and Israel advocacy. He eventually served as both a vice president and director of his Miami synagogue, Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center, as well as on the board of its Hebrew day school, which his children attended. Dr. Tartell’s synagogue attracted many Israeli dignitaries who frequently visited. That is when he became increasingly involved in Zionist causes and efforts. In addition to taking his family on a b’nai mitzvah mission to Israel, Dr. Tartell visited Israel frequently for both business and pleasure. With every year, he became more involved in the Jewish organizational world.

To his dismay, “while America and its diasporic Jewish community was overwhelmingly unified in its bipartisan support for Israel during my formative years in the 20th cen-



ture, all that eventually changed with the new millennium,” he lamented. “Within the past few decades, for many reasons, Israel was no longer a bipartisan issue. It became polarized and contentious.” Dr. Tartell became increasingly “disillusioned with and alienated from” prominent Jewish and “pro-Israel” groups he had previously exuberantly supported. These groups “had lost their way,” he explained, “either failing at or seemingly abandoning their original missions.”

Like his two heroes, Ze’ev Jabotinsky and Menachem Begin, Dr. Tartell sees himself as “a fighter, not a passive Jew.” He expressed the hope that, “had I been in their shoes, I would’ve had their courage, fortitude, insight and wisdom to choose the same path that they chose.”

Dr. Tartell was horrified that then-Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama had, among other concerns, worshiped for years at the church led by Jeremiah Wright, a vociferous antisemite and Israel-basher who was also a friend of the notorious antisemite Louis Farrakhan. More troubling and intolerable to Dr. Tartell was witnessing Obama at AIPAC’s June 2008 convention. Obama was “treated like a rock star,” Dr. Tartell described, “with incessant and gratuitous applause and reflexive standing ovations, despite his apparent and soon to be obvious antipathy towards Israel.”

For Dr. Tartell, “this was an epiphany” that had an indelible impact on his views and the future direction of his advocacy efforts. He quit AIPAC, realizing that “its antiquated paradigm was obsolete and no longer effective as Israel was no longer a bipartisan issue. Formerly ‘friendly’ Democrat incumbents in Congress became increasingly adversarial to Israel as party loyalty prevailed while their

caucus dramatically moved to the left,” he said.

After leaving AIPAC, Dr. Tartell “felt like an orphan.” He knew of no organization that shared his strong commitment to the safety and security of Israel and the Jewish people. That is, until he met Sharona Whisler, the executive director of the ZOA’s Florida region.

Sharona told Dr. Tartell about the ZOA’s mission and activities. The more he learned, the more he came to realize that the organization was a good fit for him. He began reading ZOA literature and hosting ZOA events. “It just clicked — it was exactly what I was looking for, a perfect match. I had finally found a home at ZOA,” he said. To this day, Dr. Tartell encourages anyone who feels alienated from groups like the ADL and AIPAC to learn more about the ZOA and get involved in the organization.

After meeting with ZOA National President Morton Klein, Dr. Tartell became increasingly involved and, in 2019, was invited to join the ZOA National Board of Directors. In October 2021, he was elected co-Vice Chairman.

In May 2022, together with other members of the board, Dr. Tartell participated in the ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel. “It was one of the best trips I’ve ever taken. Every Jew and Zionist must eventually go on this mission,” he raved.

Dr. Tartell firmly believes that a safe and secure Israel is crucial for every Jew around the world. “The only reason we have whatever security we feel we may now have is because we have a lifeboat – Israel,” he said. “One day this enormous luxury liner – our comfortable lives in America – may become the Titanic. If that happens, then we’re going to need that lifeboat.”

*In Dr. Tartell's view, "all Jews should be devoting themselves to ensuring a safe and secure Israel. That's our homeland. That's our lifeboat. That's our last best hope on Earth." That's why Dr. Tartell is devoting himself to helping the ZOA carry out its mission.*

"Israel is the only place that will save you if you're in danger because you're a Jew," Dr. Tartell continued. "Jews who don't realize that now are only fooling themselves. A day may come when Jews are unwelcome, even here. They'll have no choice but to leave, like the Jews in Europe and throughout diasporic history. We don't need to repeat history's mistakes. We need a strong and safe Israel — not only for Jews who live there, but also for Jews who may never set foot there. With Israel, we all have an invaluable escape valve."

In Dr. Tartell's view, "all Jews should be devoting themselves to ensuring a safe and secure Israel. That's our homeland. That's our lifeboat. That's our last best hope on Earth."

That's why Dr. Tartell is devoting himself to helping the ZOA carry out its mission. "The ZOA is the fighting Jew, not the obsequious Jew," he said. "ZOA is not shackled by political correctness. We are unabashed, unapologetic, zealous advocates for Jewish and Zionist causes. We simply call it the way it is, with no sugar coating – even if it hurts. We're not wishy-washy. The world knows where we stand, that we are principled, unyielding and relentless. We don't back down and will never stop pointing out when the emperor is wearing no clothes. We are laser-focused and get stuff done."

The ZOA surely will continue to "get stuff done" with Dr. Paul Tartell's continued dedication and support. 🇺🇸



Dr. Tartell riding in a Yatar ATV during the ZOA's Leadership Mission to Israel



# ZOA CAMPUS



**Jonathan Ginsburg**  
Managing Director

**Z**OA Campus carried its momentum into 2022 as the leading Zionist advocacy organization on American college campuses. By continuing to represent the spirit of Zionism and Jewish pride, ZOA Campus successfully worked to educate and empower a new generation of college students. While much of the year was still shadowed by the pandemic, there were numerous highlights. Most importantly, as the spring semester progressed, we glimpsed a return to active campus life through impactful co-sponsored in-person events and programs.

The campus department added two outstanding new coordinators to its team: Lily Dillon, ZOA's Mid-Atlantic Campus Coordinator, and Dana Bar, ZOA's Southeast Campus Coordinator. Both Lily and Dana have made a tremendous impact. Lily, a native New Yorker, joined ZOA Campus in July 2021, having recently graduated from Barnard College where she double majored in Jewish Studies and Spanish, and completed her undergraduate thesis on the Ladino language. She also served as a campus leader in Israel advocacy at Students Supporting Israel (SSI) at Columbia University. Lily has done an incredible job in connecting a wider range of students to Israel through her work at the ZOA.

Dana joined ZOA Campus in November 2021 as its new Southeast Campus Coordi-

nator. Dana has brought a wealth of experience to her role, having previously served as a Jewish Agency Israel Fellow at Florida State University Hillel, where she led all Israel-related programs and Birthright Israel trips for students. Dana is a born and raised Jerusalemite whose passion for Zionism and her home country of Israel knows no bounds. Since stepping into her role as ZOA Southeast Campus Coordinator, Dana has increased the ZOA's presence in the region and inspired students to take even greater pride in Israel and Zionism.



Lily Dillon, Mid-Atlantic  
Campus Coordinator

Dana Bar, Southeast  
Campus Coordinator



A Yom HaAtzmaut celebration at Yeshiva University, co-sponsored by ZOA Campus

## ZOA Campus Fellowship

The ZOA Campus Fellowship is a highly selective paid fellowship that is open to college students across the country. It again served as our department's premier on-campus program, facilitating proud Zionist education and effective Israel advocacy across a multitude of institutions. ZOA Campus hosted an outstanding class of over 30 student fellows from American colleges and universities who each further engaged their campus communities via interactive pro-Israel events and initiatives. ZOA Fellows were represented on campuses such as the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, UC Berkeley, UCLA, Binghamton University, and many more.

As part of the fellowship curriculum, ZOA Fellows participated in a series of ZOA Campus-led webinars on important educational topics related to Israel's security. For example, webinars on effectively combatting BDS and refuting anti-Israel bias on social media and in the classroom were included. Many of these events also included expert guest speakers and focused on the key theme of "anti-Zionism as a form of antisemitism" and how the problem manifests on college campuses. ZOA Fellows also benefited from educational webinars about the Temple Mount, Shimon Ha'Tzaddik (referred to by some as Sheikh Jarrah), and overall Jewish rights in Jerusalem and Israel.

In addition, ZOA Campus hosted a special collaboration with leaders from the European Union of Jewish Students. This last webinar featured an interactive panel discussion on the challenges facing both student communities in Europe and America, as well as the ties that bind us all together. We are extremely proud of our class of ZOA Campus Fellows and of all the brave students who forcefully and effectively advocated for Israel and stood up against antisemitism.



## Events and Programs

### Tri-State

ZOA Campus in New York and the Tri-State Area facilitated strong on-campus programming throughout the academic year. ZOA Campus began the spring semester by hosting events at Brooklyn College and Union College with Belev Echad, a charity organization that aids wounded IDF veterans who have the opportunity to share their stories with students on campus.

Among the many highlights, ZOA Campus' Yom HaAtzmaut fair at Brooklyn College was attended by over four hundred students. ZOA Campus also co-sponsored powerful Yom HaZikaron commemorations and additional Yom HaAtzmaut programming at Binghamton University, NYU, Rutgers University, Yeshiva University, City College, Baruch College, and more. The students on campus were extremely grateful for the support and assistance from Campus Coordinator Lily Dillon and the entire ZOA Campus staff.

ZOA Campus also was proud to have partnered with the Israeli Consulate in New York and with Hillel for Consul General Asaf Zamir's special dinner event for New York area students. Consul General Zamir shared his experiences defending Israel and heard from students about the various issues they encounter as Zionists on campus.

### New England

In the New England region, many important events took place as well. ZOA Campus proudly co-sponsored an educational series titled "Israel Office Hours" at Northeastern University Hillel. This series consisted of multiple educational events for Hillel students that focused on a variety of topics. Students learned about Israeli geopolitics, domestic issues, and global antisemitism, while participating in productive discussions led by ZOA and Hillel staff.

ZOA Campus also partnered with Rimon, the international student-led organization, for collaborative programs geared towards increasing a better understanding of Zionism and Israel. To close out the academic year, ZOA Campus co-sponsored a series of festivities for Yom HaAtzmaut, including a major celebration of Israel at UMass Amherst that attracted over 240 attendees, in partnership with the Student Alliance for Israel (SAFI), the largest pro-Israel organization on campus.

*To close out the academic year, ZOA Campus co-sponsored a series of festivities for Yom HaAtzmaut, including a major celebration of Israel at UMass Amherst that attracted over 240 attendees.*



Students celebrating Yom HaAtzmaut at NYU



# TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

## Mid-Atlantic

ZOA Mid-Atlantic Campus Coordinator Lily Dillon worked with students and Hillel and Chabad on Campus chapters to bring knowledgeable speakers, educational initiatives, and celebrations of Israeli history and heritage to campuses across the region. The ZOA kicked off the semester at Duke University by hosting a special Shabbat event with wounded IDF veterans via partnership with Belev Echad. In honor of Yom HaShoah, the ZOA led a walk around Temple University's campus that amassed six million steps to honor the six million Jewish lives lost in the Holocaust. Additional programs took place on campuses such as the University of Maryland, where more than three hundred students turned out to celebrate Israel for Yom HaAtzmaut.

## West Coast

The West Coast region featured various events that left an important educational imprint. At UCLA, the campus department worked in tandem with our ZOA Campus Fellow to host a series of excellent programs. Among them was a special guest lecture by journalist Gil Hoffman of the *Jerusalem Post*. In one of the largest events of the spring semester, ZOA partnered with AEPi at UC Santa Barbara for a massive celebration of Israel for Yom HaAtzmaut. At UC Berkeley, crucial ZOA co-sponsored events were held to help educate and refute anti-Israel falsehoods. The ZOA Fellow at UC Berkeley helped coordinate a range of outstanding events in partnership with Tikvah, the main pro-Israel student group on campus.

In March 2022, ZOA Campus proudly hosted Olga Washington at UC Berkeley, who spoke on the heels of the libelous Amnesty International report which falsely accused Israel of "apartheid." As an African-American Zionist, Olga effectively dismantled the report's blatant lies and reaffirmed Israel's place as the only true democracy in the Middle East.

NEVER AGAIN.



*In honor of Yom HaShoah, the ZOA led a walk around Temple University's campus that amassed six million steps to honor the six million Jewish lives lost in the Holocaust.*







ZOA Southeast Campus Coordinator Dana Bar proudly represents the campus department at Florida Atlantic University's Yom HaAtzmaut festival



Students at Emory University during a ZOA co-sponsored Yom HaAtzmaut celebration

## Southeast

ZOA Southeast Campus Coordinator Dana Bar had the honor of tabling and representing ZOA Campus in-person at Yom HaAtzmaut festivals at Emory University, Georgia Tech, and Florida Atlantic University. ZOA Campus also proudly co-sponsored festivities to celebrate Zionism and commemorate Yom HaZikaron at other campuses, such as Colorado University, the University of Georgia, the University of Kentucky, and more.

ZOA Campus had the honor of participating in one of the biggest events in the region, hosted by Chabad at the University of South Florida. Helga Melmed, a 94-year-old Holocaust survivor, spoke to almost 800 students, sharing her personal survival story. This event inspired the hundreds of students in attendance and served as a motivating force to help combat antisemitism on campus and in society.

## Combating Campus Antisemitism

Students at Duke University, including this year's ZOA Campus Fellow, worked tirelessly against anti-Israel bias in Duke's student government. During the fall semester, the Duke Student Government vetoed the recognition of the university's SSI chapter in their first veto of any student group in five years, showing a clear antisemitic bias against the pro-Israel group. This spring, ZOA Campus worked closely with Duke students, including our ZOA Campus Fellow and SSI National, not only to reinstate the club, but also to pass the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism in the Duke Student Government.

ZOA Campus also successfully worked with our Fellows and students at Florida Atlantic University to adopt the IHRA definition during the spring semester. This was a salient achievement that helped strengthen the Jewish community at FAU. The adoption of the IHRA definition is an essential tool in fighting antisemitism in the 21st century

*After the City University of New York School of Law's faculty council voted in favor of a BDS resolution this spring, ZOA fought tirelessly in opposition and succeeded in preventing the administration from adopting the anti-Israel resolution.*

on college campuses and protecting Jewish students. ZOA Campus has led the push to educate student leaders about how anti-Zionism is a form of modern antisemitism.

After the City University of New York School of Law's faculty council voted in favor of a BDS resolution this spring, ZOA fought tirelessly in opposition and succeeded in preventing the administration from adopting the anti-Israel resolution.

### **Social Media**

ZOA Campus welcomed another important addition this year: Karen Amouyal, our new full-time Social Media and Digital Content Coordinator. Karen's commitment to implementing Zionist education via social media outreach has helped advance ZOA Campus tremendously in successfully engaging the Millennial and Generation Z demographic.

With consistency and fact-based advocacy as the guiding priorities, ZOA Campus's Instagram account has taken off and resulted in a significant increase in its following and engagement insights. Karen has led the effort to create content on a daily basis and share breaking news, updates, trends, and historical posts. Educational infographics on topics

such as the IHRA definition, BDS, the Temple Mount, and Iran have become among the most liked and engaging forms of content. Through the creation of concise and interesting social media content, ZOA Campus has been able to provide our audience with a crucial understanding of a variety of Israel-related topics.

As we move further into the 21st century, it is more important than ever that the ZOA's mission and message be amplified to a newer and younger demographic. ZOA Campus is excited about its future on social media and can't wait for further expansion on future platforms. 🇺🇸



Karen Amouyal



# DEVELOPMENT



**Michelle Klahr**  
Director, Development

As my first year as the ZOA's Director of Development comes to an end, I marvel that I am even more passionate and supportive of this venerated organization than ever before. As a child of Holocaust survivors, I have a unique perspective on the precariousness of Jewish survival and the existence of a Jewish state. I feel truly blessed to be involved with an organization that supports Israel and the Jewish people as unequivocally as the ZOA does. I know my parents are looking down at me and are so proud of my affiliation.

The ZOA's mission is in my heart and soul. This makes my role as a development professional quite seamless. The ZOA has been the most courageous, unapologetic advocate for a strong, independent, sovereign, and safe Jewish homeland in Israel, including Judea and Samaria, with an undivided Jerusalem as Israel's capital and with Israel's unfettered right to protect its citizens. The ZOA is at the forefront of this advocacy work while most other Jewish organizations remain silent. With your continued support, we promise to keep on fighting for the rights of Israel to exist and defend herself and for the rights of the Jewish people to live in peace in their religious and ancestral homeland.

Our fundraising efforts are focused on expanding our donor base, increasing total donations, and securing the younger generation to our cause. This past year has posed some challenges. With the continuation of

the coronavirus pandemic, our face-to-face meetings were extremely limited, as well as the number of times that we were able to meet in person as a group. Our annual Superstar Gala was again, by necessity, a virtual event in December 2021.

Despite that, our gala produced a record number of donations to the ZOA and 2021 was our best fundraising year on record. We are looking forward to a live gala in NYC on November 13, 2022, and to greeting everyone in person. Our Washington mission was postponed to next year and our Israel mission took place later than usual this year, but it was hugely successful. Another positive is that we were able to march together proudly in the Celebrate Israel Parade in New York City for the first time in three years.



ZOA staff and supporters at the Celebrate Israel Parade in NYC



## 2021 VIRTUAL SUPERSTAR GALA



CHAIR, WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

YAAKOV HAGOEL



PM NAFTALI BENNETT  
PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL  
MYRON ZIMMERMAN AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED STATESMANSHIP



SECY MIKE POMPEO  
FMR. SECRETARY OF STATE  
DR. MIRIAM & SHELDON G. ADELSON DEFENDER OF ISRAEL AWARD



DR. MIRIAM ADELSON  
GLOBAL PHILANTHROPIST  
PHYSICIAN, RENOWNED DRUG ADDICTION EXPERT  
FOUNDER, DR. MIRI & SHELDON G. ADELSON MEDICAL SCHOOL, ARIEL, ISRAEL  
FMR. LOUIS D. BRANDEIS HONOREE



ZIONIST ACTIVIST EXTRAORDINAIRE  
JUSTICE LOUIS D. BRANDEIS AWARD

RUBIN MARGULES



PHILANTHROPIST, THE HARVEY & GLORIA KAYLIE FOUNDATION  
MORTIMER ZUCKERMAN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING JEWISH PHILANTHROPY

GLORIA KAYLIE



ZOA NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT  
MAJOR HIGH-TECH BUSINESSMAN, ENTREPRENEUR

DR. BOB SHILLMAN



RESPECTED POLITICAL ANALYST  
EMCEE

LISA DAFTARI



DISTINGUISHED BUSINESSMAN & PHILANTHROPIST

HENRY SCHWARTZ



CHAIR, ZOA  
RENOWNED CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER

DAVID I. SCHOEN



ZOA NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
DR. ROBERT SHILLMAN LECTURE

MORTON A. KLEIN

We have worked diligently to revamp our direct mail program to communicate our message more effectively to our donor base. The results are promising, and we will continue to fine tune our messaging. The same holds true for our email and social media solicitations. We have recently resumed face to face meetings, parlor meetings and speeches in public forums, which will help us grow our donor base and meet our fundraising goals.

Our challenge this year is to engage the younger generation as Israel activists and supporters of ZOA. This is the key to the future. We encourage you to bring your children and grandchildren to our events so that they can learn more about the ZOA's work and become involved in our organization.

If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to join our Donor Society at a level you are comfortable with. We need you as ZOA brand ambassadors to spread our message to your friends and colleagues.

Please reach out to me at [mklahr@zoa.org](mailto:mklahr@zoa.org) to learn more about how you can support the ZOA's critical work. Thank you for being part of the ZOA family. I can't wait to see everyone in person this year. 🇺🇸



(L to R) Dan Illouz, ZOA Board Member Judy Rosen, Michelle Klahr, and Alan Jay



Founded 1897



# Zionist Organization of America Donor Societies

<b>GENERAL SUBSCRIPTION (Under \$1,000)</b>	<b>HERZL SOCIETY (\$1,000-\$2,499)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subscription to ZOA's news releases, op-eds, event invitations and important communications on timely issues</li><li>• ZOA Report available upon request</li><li>• Invitation to attend the annual ZOA Superstar Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Includes General Subscription benefits plus...</b></li><li>• Invitations to exclusive Herzl Society events (regionally and nationally)</li><li>• Privilege to invite two guests to Herzl Society events</li><li>• Invitations to select insider briefing calls</li><li>• Prominent ribbon indicating Herzl Society status at the annual ZOA Superstar Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission</li><li>• Herzl Society recognition in the ZOA Report</li></ul>
<b>MENACHEM BEGIN SOCIETY (\$2,500-\$4,999)</b>	<b>BRANDEIS SOCIETY (\$5,000-\$9,999)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Includes Herzl Society benefits plus...</b></li><li>• Invitation to at least one <u>additional</u> exclusive program</li><li>• Prominent ribbon indicating Menachem Begin Society status at the annual ZOA Superstar Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission</li><li>• Menachem Begin Society recognition in the ZOA Report</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Includes Menachem Begin Society benefits plus...</b></li><li>• Invitation to at least one <u>additional</u> exclusive program</li><li>• <u>Non-transferable</u> complimentary tickets to the annual ZOA Superstar Gala</li><li>• Admission to exclusive VIP Reception at the annual ZOA Superstar Gala</li><li>• Prominent ribbon indicating Brandeis Society status at the annual ZOA Superstar Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission</li><li>• Brandeis Society recognition in the ZOA Report</li></ul>
<b>JABOTINSKY SOCIETY (\$10,000-\$24,999)</b>	<b>NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SOCIETY (\$25,000+)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Includes Brandeis Society benefits plus...</b></li><li>• Personal phone call with ZOA National President Morton A. Klein</li><li>• Access to exclusive government / congressional events</li><li>• VIP reception with two guests at the annual ZOA Superstar Gala</li><li>• Prominent ribbon indicating Jabotinsky Society status at the annual ZOA Superstar Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission</li><li>• Jabotinsky Society recognition in the ZOA Report</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Includes Jabotinsky Society benefits plus...</b></li><li>• One complimentary table at the annual ZOA Superstar Gala</li><li>• Prominent ribbon indicating National Leadership Society status at the annual ZOA Superstar Gala and Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission</li><li>• National Leadership Society recognition in the ZOA Report</li></ul>

**Note: Membership in ZOA Donor Societies is based on annual giving and is subject to change.**

**Donate**

[www.zoa.org](http://www.zoa.org)

# OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT



**Alan D. Jay**

Director, Outreach & Engagement

*We connected by telephone and email, we provided extensive, top-quality virtual programming – most of which is available in our ZOA video library – and we dedicated significant resources to building a ZOA resources page on our website.*

I have always been a “glass half-full” kind of guy; tough times are an opportunity to make things better. These past two years have been difficult, but I have found personal and professional inspiration in the popular Israeli song, BaShana HaBa’ah, **בַּשָּׁנָה הַבְּאָה**. While every stanza has deep significance, the spirit of the song is captured in the refrain:

**עוֹד תִּרְאֶה, עוֹד תִּרְאֶה, כִּמָּה טוֹב יִהְיֶה בַּשָּׁנָה הַבְּאָה**  
‘You will yet see, you will yet see, how good it will be next year.’

BaShana HaBa’ah could be a Zionist anthem, the entire song forecasting a peaceful, serene existence in the Land of Israel. I find special meaning in the song now, as we continue to shake off the negative impact of the pandemic.

For way too long we have all been holed up, quarantined, masked, and isolated. The pandemic restricted our movement, our ability to interact socially, to meet in person. So it was for ZOA. We did connect by telephone and email, we provided extensive, top-quality virtual programming – most of which is available in our ZOA video library – and we dedicated significant resources to building a ZOA resources page on our website. You will read more about these below. The good news is that while we’ve been making lemons from lemonade, our patience and optimism have been rewarded; live, in-person programming and events at ZOA are back!

## **Seizing Opportunity**

Given the severe limitations on meeting in person, we at ZOA saw potential and we seized the opportunity. Not only did we offer scores of high-quality virtual programs (see below); we also made several positive improvements to our ZOA website. If you go to our website, [www.zoa.org](http://www.zoa.org), and click on our brand new ZOA Resources page ([zoa.org/resources](http://zoa.org/resources)), you will find fact sheets, maps, and many other documents and resources that are indispensable educational materials to add to your Israel and Jewish advocacy toolbelt. All the materials on our ZOA Resources page can be easily downloaded and printed. Share them with your friends and family, and with your community leaders. If we all continue to share the facts about Israel’s biblical, historical, and legal right to exist, and about the real and present danger of virulent Jew-hatred, eventually the world will be forced to take notice, and lies will be replaced with truth. Check back often at the ZOA Resources page as we continuously add new materials.



## Live Events are Back!

Hungry for the opportunity to demonstrate support for Israel and the Jewish people, in late February 2022, more than 350 ZOA supporters reveled at a star-studded gala, as our ZOA Florida region hosted the first major live ZOA event in recent years. Among the many special guests and honorees who rallied the crowd: ZOA National President Morton Klein, who delivered a passionate speech about Israel, Zionism and antisemitism; and former U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman who, among other stories of his amazing career, shared an insider's account of the evolution of the stunning Abraham Accords.

For the first time since early 2020, we ran a jam-packed, eight-day, one-of-a-kind ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel. I was blessed to staff this trip, an opportunity for which I will always be grateful to the ZOA. To be sure, this is no cookie-cutter, tourist trip to Israel. Rather, it is an inspiring, educational, life-changing, week-long journey into the

truth about the Jewish people's irrefutable, undeniable, G'd-given right to sovereignty over the entire land of Israel, including Judea and Samaria, the Jordan Valley, and all of Jerusalem. Everyone who reads this ZOA Report should recharge their Zionist batteries by joining the ZOA Mission to Israel. You can read more about the trip on page 12. I strongly suggest that you reserve your spot on next year's Mission as soon as registration opens; the trip is sure to be another sell-out!

ZOA Representative in Israel, Dan Illouz, visited the United States and did live speaking engagements in New York, Philadelphia, and Florida. As a former Jerusalem City councilman and the former Legislative Advisor to the Likud Party, Dan is eminently qualified to share unique insights into the Israeli government, the Knesset, the Israeli Supreme Court, Israeli news, and military strategies. All who joined us for one of Dan's live events came away enriched and better able to stand up for Israel forcefully and effectively.



Alan Jay speaking at the opening program of the ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel

*In every ZOA region across the country – New York, New Jersey, Florida, Pennsylvania and Michigan, and soon in Ohio and Illinois – we are planning live, ZOA community events and parlor meetings.*

In every ZOA region across the country – New York, New Jersey, Florida, Pennsylvania and Michigan, and soon in Ohio and Illinois – we are planning live, ZOA community events and parlor meetings. Check our ZOA national and regional calendars for an event near you and please bring a friend! Be a ZOA ambassador by sharing our News Release & Action Alert emails and encourage your friends and family to join us by forwarding our messages or by sending a link to our website, [www.zoa.org](http://www.zoa.org), where they can sign themselves up to receive our materials.

## ZOA Regional Directors



**Steve Feldman**

Greater Philadelphia



**Stuart Pavilack**

Pittsburgh



**Sharona Whisler**

Florida



**Kobi Erez**

Michigan

The most exciting news as we enter the post-pandemic era is the long-awaited return of our live, in-person ZOA Annual Superstar Gala, scheduled for Sunday, November 13, 2022! Every year this is the pinnacle of proud, public, pro-Jewish, authentic Zionist expression – the go-to, pro-Israel event of the year. I promise you guests, speakers, and honorees from the Who’s Who in the world of Israel and Jewish advocacy, in politics, diplomacy, and business. You will not want to miss this star-studded, extravaganza! (Gala information is on page 11.)

Coming back to our song,

בְּשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה כְּפוֹת יָדִים  
 מוֹל הָאוֹר הַנִּיגַר, הַלְבָן  
 אֲנִפָּה לְבָנָה תִּפְרוֹשׁ בְּאוֹר כְּנָפִים  
 וְהַשֶּׁמֶשׁ תִּזְרַח בְּתוֹכָן. נִפְרוֹשׁ

‘Next year we will spread out our hands  
 towards the radiant light.

A white heron like a light will spread her wings  
 and within them the sun will rise.

‘You will yet see, you will yet see, how good it will be next year.’

In the coming year, may opportunities continue to grow for our ZOA family to share, in-person, our love for and commitment to Zionism, Israel, and a continued strong U.S.-Israel bond. I am always available at [ajay@zoa.org](mailto:ajay@zoa.org) and you can always call me at 212-481-1500, x230. If I’m not in the office, your call will be forwarded to my mobile phone.

Wishing all continued good health. L’hitraot.



# GREATER PHILADELPHIA

## Anti-Israelism Promoted by the City of Philadelphia, Its Libraries and Schools

The City of Philadelphia, the hub of our chapter, is known as “The City of Brotherly Love,” which is its literal meaning in Greek. But when it comes to Israel, it is more like “The City of Brotherly Shove.” Greater Philadelphia ZOA published a 27-page report exposing how city officials, employees and agencies engage in activities and rhetoric that demonize Israel and Zionism; delegitimize Jewish heritage, history and rights; and potentially encourage more Jew-hatred and anti-Jewish attacks. In addition, a number of large anti-Israel demonstrations have taken place in Center City.

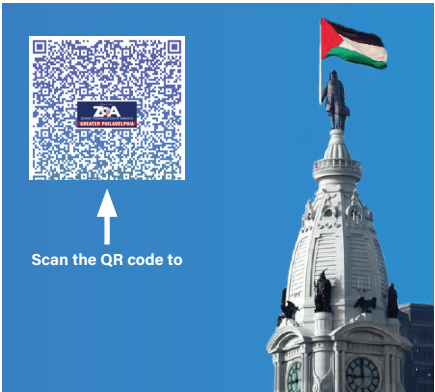
On November 29, 2021, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney issued a proclamation and led an official event across from City Hall in observance of the United Nations’ International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People – an observance created and held annually at the UN and elsewhere to undermine and undo Israel’s re-establishment. Kenny, members of the Philadelphia City Council, other city officials and elected representatives of the city in Harrisburg spoke at this event, held in a city plaza decorated with dozens of PLO flags. Many people were holding large PLO flags; others held signs featuring the PLO flag – and a fist.

Throughout the year, Philadelphia’s Free Library system continued and increased its efforts to indoctrinate some of the city’s youngest residents against Jews, Israel and Zionism via online events for children and

lists of recommended books. The Free Library system expanded its efforts by issuing lists of suggested books for teens and adults as well. On November 29, 2021, many branches of the Free Library also promoted what was described as Palestinian culture.

Philadelphia’s public schools continued promoting the Black Lives Matter (BLM) organization via a dedicated week during the school year and curriculum and materials used throughout the year. The BLM organization (as opposed to the cause) has notoriously attacked Israel and advocated for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. In some cases, resources from the Zinn Education Project have been used. Zinn – which promotes the false and baseless claim that Israel commits apartheid – provides training workshops for teachers, in addition to materials and curricula.

Special Report: Endangering Jewry  
— Philadelphia Leaders, Agencies  
Promote Pro-Palestinian Cause  
Despite Its Anti-Jewish Nature



Scan the QR code to

This report produced by the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Zionist Organization of America, March, 2022. ZOA is America's oldest educational and advocacy group promoting and defending the Jewish State of Israel and ensuring that Israel be strong, secure and vibrant. We also bolster the mutually beneficial United States-Israel relationship, and we expose and combat Jew hatred.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA is one of ZOA's chapters throughout the nation.  
To reach Greater Philadelphia ZOA, email [office@zoaphilly.org](mailto:office@zoaphilly.org).  
To reach National ZOA, email [info@zoa.org](mailto:info@zoa.org).

Cover of the special report on Philadelphia’s promotion of anti-Israelism

Meanwhile, city schoolteachers promoted anti-Israel events on their personal social media pages. One elementary school taught students that two of the 1960's most aggressive anti-Israel activists – Huey P. Newton of the Black Panthers and Marxism advocate Angela Davis — are role models. Newton and Davis were featured in a painted mural on a school wall. The libraries and the schools also have relationships with groups and individuals who spread false, anti-Israel propaganda on social media and elsewhere.

Our report detailed all of this and more. Plus, we suggested action items to push back against this wave of support for and promotion of propaganda on behalf of a movement bent on driving the Jewish people out of Israel. The report included an abundance of photos – mostly screen shots of the anti-Israel activities – to illustrate what we reported.

Significantly, we could find no evidence of any official pro-Israel events sponsored by the city, its libraries or its schools, or by any other department or agency during the year.

## Zoom, Zoom

In addition to disseminating our report to communal leaders and others, the ZOA featured our exposé on the city's anti-Jewish activities at one of our chapter-initiated webinars on the Zoom platform.

This was one of many webinars that our chapter produced over the past several months. The topics of our other webinars included “Jerusalem in Danger: Why a U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem for Palestinian-Arabs Matters to Jewry” and “Unmasked: The Antisemitic Motive Behind Most Political Criticism of Israel.”

Zoom became an important platform to inform, educate and interact with ZOA

members, supporters and activists during the pandemic. It remains a valuable way to reach people in our immediate area, in the outskirts of our region and throughout the nation.

## Spotlighting Some of Our Best

Greater Philadelphia ZOA presented our “Zionist in the Spotlight” Awards in conjunction with National ZOA's 2021 Virtual Superstar Gala and the ZOA's other chapters.

Our honorees were regional board chairman **Morton Gleit** and his wife, **Ruth**, who is one of our vice presidents; and regional board member **Dr. Ronald Werrin** and posthumously, his wife **Marguerite z”l**. The Gleits and Dr. Werrin were featured along with other honorees in a tribute video montage that was broadcast during the Gala.

The Virtual Gala was an important opportunity to showcase some of our leading members to a national audience. It was our honor to do so for the Gleits and the Werrins. Following the event, we presented them with awards as a token of our appreciation.



ZOA's Steve Feldman (L) with honoree Dr. Ronald Werrin





Dan Illouz speaking in the Greater Philadelphia region on April 4, 2022



Participants in the the ZOA Yom HaAtzmaut Leadership Mission to Israel

## Bringing Israel to Philadelphia . . .

In April we were thrilled to host two events featuring Dan Illouz, ZOA's representative in Israel, for a pair of briefings. It was wonderful to be able to offer our supporters and others in the community a first-hand report about what is happening "on the ground" in Israel from someone who is so plugged in. It was equally wonderful to have our first in-person events in two years as COVID restrictions eased.

Dan gave a talk in Cherry Hill, N.J., and gave a PowerPoint presentation in Bala Cynwyd. His remarks and slides educated audience members about information that the media typically fails to report, and gave the audience the facts, as opposed to anti-Israel bias and propaganda.

## . . . And Bringing Philadelphians to Israel

Six people from our area participated in National ZOA's Israel Leadership Mission. Our regional board chairman, Morton Gleit, and his wife, Ruth, led our local contingent. The ZOA Mission was a unique and remarkable opportunity for participants to meet with Knesset members, educators, communal leaders, activists and others. Participants were taken to places that they otherwise would not get to experience, and that other groups' Israel missions skip or refuse to visit.

There was a trip to the Gaza border to see its proximity to Jewish communities that Hamas and other Palestinian-Arab terrorists endanger. We met with leading hands-on, grassroots activists who are making a positive difference for Israelis and the Jewish people. We met a Jewish man who lives with his family in a house in Jerusalem's embattled Shimon Ha'Tzaddik neighborhood (erroneously called Sheikh Jarrah). We traveled through much of Judea and Samaria's "Area C" and experienced the majesty and history of the Cave of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs in Hebron, and new wineries and their recent vintage products.

All who participated in the Mission were inspired, invigorated and enlightened. It was also uplifting and affirming to hear the respect, love and appreciation for ZOA that was expressed by everyone with whom we met. Please consider participating in ZOA's 2023 Israel Mission.

## Primary Concern

Prior to the primary elections, Greater Philadelphia ZOA sought to inform voters throughout our region about Senate and House candidates' positions on Israel, the Middle East and related issues, to help educate those who care deeply about these issues. Often, candidates' views on these matters are not available on their websites, nor do such views tend to come up in debates or forums.

We devised a 10-item questionnaire which we then sent to 53 candidates in Pennsylvania running for office in the U.S. Senate, and candidates seeking to represent Pennsylvania or New Jersey in the U.S. House of Representatives in 28 primary elections. It was quite an undertaking, but an important one because in many House districts, the primary winner will almost certainly win the general election. Many of the candidates responded to our questionnaire.

We published all of the responses verbatim – and noted who among the candidates failed to respond – and sent the report to our email list and also posted a link to it on social media. We intend to create a similar questionnaire and report prior to the general election, and also to host a candidates' forum or two.

## Executive Actions

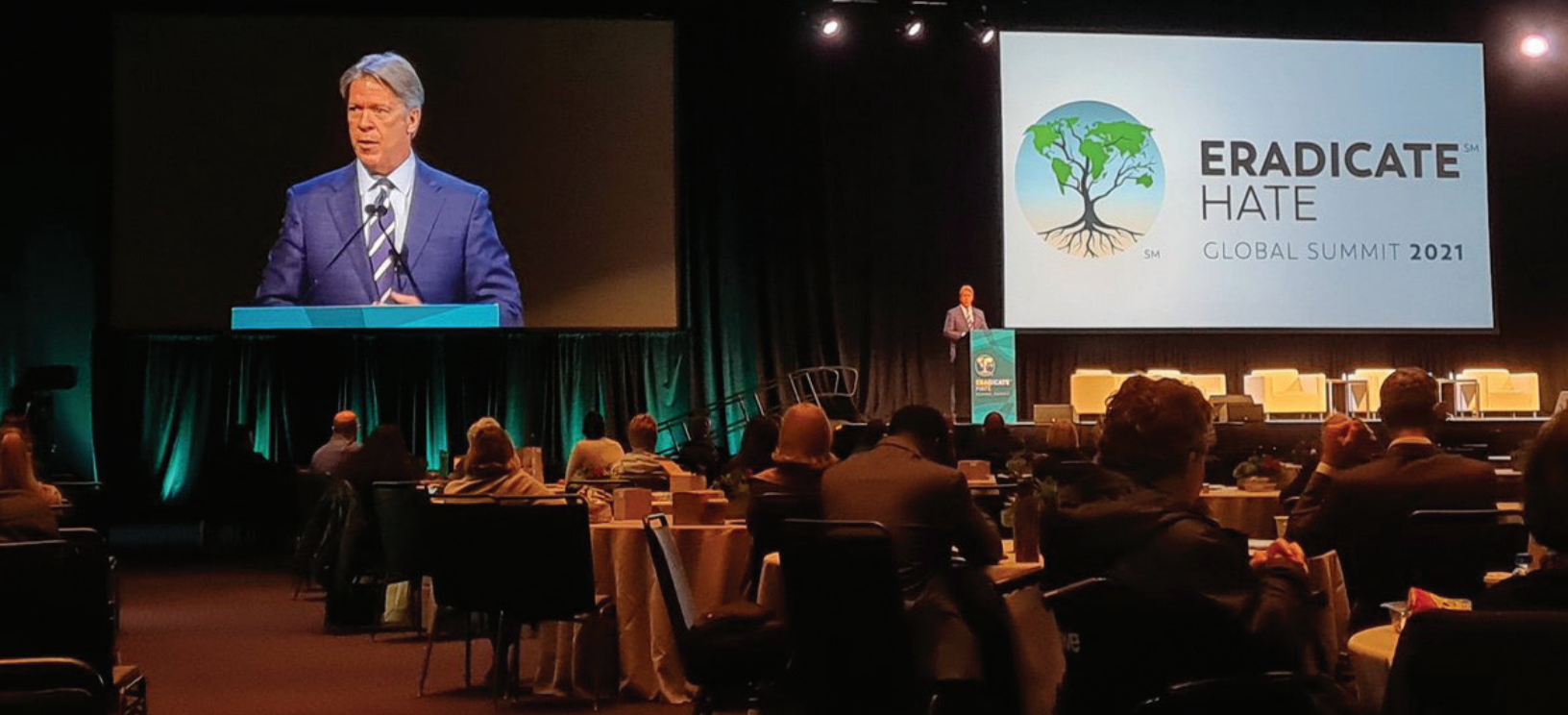
Executive Director Steve Feldman had articles published by the Jewish News Syndicate, the *Times of Israel* and American Thinker. He was a guest on several occasions on “The Dom Giordano Show,” the most popular talk-radio show in the Philadelphia market, airing weekdays from noon to 3 p.m. on 1210 WPHT.

In July 2022, Steve marked his 20th anniversary with the ZOA as executive director of the Greater Philadelphia region. He remains as enthusiastic, passionate and dedicated to ZOA, Zionism, Israel and the Jewish community as he was when he began.

*Happy Anniversary Steve!*

20  *Years*  
*at* ZOA





Major Elliott Garrett, CBS News' chief Washington correspondent, speaking at the Eradicate Hate Global Summit 2021 (source: [Twitter/@EradicateHate\\_](https://twitter.com/EradicateHate_))

## PITTSBURGH

### **Eradicate Hate Global Summit**

The first Eradicate Hate Global Summit was held in Pittsburgh at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on October 18-20, 2021. It was developed after the brutal murder of 11 people attending Shabbat services at the Tree of Life complex on October 27, 2018.

ZOA Pittsburgh Executive Director Stuart Pavilack, who attended the Summit's in-person sessions, said, "Prior to the Summit, I had no idea about the complexities of identifying people who might be prone to heinous acts of violence, about using computers to track those who might be prone to harming people, about identifying their funding, about complying with U.S. law in identifying potential threats and prosecuting those involved, and so much more."

The Summit's focus was built around four principles:

1. Sharing best practices in rule-of-law solutions;
2. Increasing visibility of this work so that a greater number of victims will be encouraged to seek help from the justice system;
3. Maintaining public vigilance against hate crimes by highlighting the diversity of its victims; and
4. Creating focused working groups that would meet between conferences to develop specific solutions.

Panel discussions, usually with four to eight participants, were held hourly. The purpose was to examine a topic, determine what was learned from past violence and hate, and figure out how it could be used to stop future acts of hate. More than one hundred participants took part in these panels, 500 people were in attendance, and 1,000 others were online. Each panel was supposed to focus on one idea or principle that came out of their discussions, continue to meet throughout the year, and return to the 2022 Summit to deliver their conclusions.

Keynote speakers included former U.S. President George W. Bush; Tom Ridge, the first U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security; Alice Wairimu Nderitu, the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide; Major Garrett, an American journalist who is chief Washington correspondent for CBS News; and Alejandro Mayorkus, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security.

Several presentations were made by victims, their attorneys, and law enforcement professionals, and some were heartbreaking. Michele Rosenthal spoke about the Tree of Life massacre where her brothers, Cecil and David Rosenthal, were murdered. Dawn and Richard Collins, an African American couple, spoke about their son, Lt. Richard Collins, III, who was visiting the University of Maryland campus and whose own college graduation was scheduled for the following day, when he was murdered by a white supremacist. Tanya Gersh, a Jewish woman from Whitefish, MT, spoke about being victimized by a white supremacist and the ongoing death threats she is enduring. Gary Locke, the first Asian Governor of the State of Washington, discussed the history of anti-Asian hate.

The Second Eradicate Hate Global Summit is scheduled for September 19-21, 2022, in Pittsburgh.

## ZOA Virtual Gala

ZOA Pittsburgh enthusiastically participated in the ZOA's second Virtual Superstar Gala. Ira M. Frank and Judy Kobell were ZOA Pittsburgh's "Zionists in the Spotlight" for 2021.

## Spotlight on Ira Frank

Ira Michael Frank is well known in the community for his dedication to all things Jewish. He takes an active role in the organizations he serves and generates enthusiasm that motivates others.

Ira's two areas of special interest, to which he has demonstrated his dedication time and again, are the State of Israel and the Jewish youth of Pittsburgh. His attraction to ZOA Pittsburgh began when he learned that the ZOA was taking Pittsburgh public high school students to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., and chaperones were needed. His involvement in that trip led Ira to serve on ZOA's board and then to serve three two-year terms as president of ZOA Pittsburgh. During his tenure, the chapter grew in membership and visibility.

*Ira Michael Frank is well known in the community for his dedication to all things Jewish. He takes an active role in the organizations he serves and generates enthusiasm that motivates others.*



ZOA Pittsburgh board member Julian Elbling presenting Ira Frank with the Zionists in the Spotlight Award



Ira is a lifetime member of Beth Shalom Congregation where he has been an active volunteer. He has served the congregation in many positions, including as president and Men's Club vice president.

Currently, Ira is president of Beth Hamedrash Hagodol-Beth Jacob Congregation. He is on the board of ZOA Pittsburgh, the Advisory Committee of Israel Bonds, and the Pittsburgh board of the Jewish National Fund.

Ira is a graduate of the University of Michigan with an economics and political science degree. He owns National Fabrics in downtown Pittsburgh.

### Spotlight on Judy Kobell

Judy Kobell has been an ardent Zionist and Jewish community volunteer for many years, beginning with her years in Hillel at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania where she met her husband, Gerry.

Judy was a Sisterhood president of Congregation Beth Shalom, and she later served the congregation as its president. She was a regional president of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism and a regional president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Judy also served on the national board of NA'AMAT USA and as president of its Pittsburgh chapter. In all these positions, Judy ensured that support of Israel always received prominence.

Judy and Gerry took part in a ZOA Purim Mission to Israel. Judy is currently on the board of ZOA Pittsburgh and was its recording secretary. She is proud of having visited Israel more than a dozen times, that two of her 15 grandchildren are Israeli, and that she supports Israel's economy and artisans through shopping!

Special thanks to Steve Feldman, Executive Director of the ZOA's Greater Philadelphia region, for designing these beautiful awards.

*Judy is proud of having visited Israel more than a dozen times, that two of her 15 grandchildren are Israeli, and that she supports Israel's economy and artisans through shopping!*



Stuart Pavilack,  
Executive Director  
of ZOA Pittsburgh,  
presenting Judy Kobell  
with the Zionist in the  
Spotlight Award



## Scholarship to Israel Program

ZOA Pittsburgh's Scholarship to Israel Program was created by the late Hy Kimmel, who was its executive director for 36 years and then went on to work for the ZOA's national office. Begun in 1962, it is ZOA Pittsburgh's oldest running program. The scholarships are made possible with funding from endowments established by Avraham and Patti Anouchi; Harold and Marla Scheinman; the late Thelma Esman; the late Bernard and Esther Klionsky; and the Novick family, in loving memory of the late Natalie and Ivan Novick, a former ZOA National President. The Israel Scholarship Program was established on the belief that a trip to Israel would leave an indelible mark on Jewish teenagers and complement what the students learned at home and in their synagogues. The ZOA is proud to help these young Zionists develop their love for and attachment to Israel.

Student applicants are evaluated based on their activities, both Jewish and secular, their volunteerism, and their essays entitled, "What the State of Israel and Zionism Mean to Me." The 2022 awardees are Avi Becker, Nathan Itskowitz, and Naomi Segel. These students traveled to Israel in the summer of 2022 on structured study programs, and each received a \$1,000 scholarship from the ZOA.

*The Israel Scholarship Program was established on the belief that a trip to Israel would leave an indelible mark on Jewish teenagers and complement what the students learned at home and in their synagogues.*



## Avi Becker

In his essay, Avi wrote, “The state of Israel to me is a place that transcends the colloquial meaning of home. It is not a house, it does not provide shelter from the weather, and I don’t eat under its roof. Rather, it provides a spiritual shelter, a place that I know will always be there for me in times of doubt.” Avi participated in a NCSY trip. He is the son of Devra and Lynton Becker.



## Nathan Itskowitz

Nathan is the son of Shelly and Robert Itskowitz. He too participated in an NCSY Israel trip. In his essay, Nathan wrote, “It was on a trip with my family following my Bar Mitzvah on October 27, 2018, after completing my Torah reading while under lockdown due to the active Tree of Life shooting, that I began to feel lucky to have my own country – Israel. It was there I felt safe and protected.”



## Naomi Segel

In her essay, Naomi wrote, “Israel will help me better realize my impact on the communities around me. Being able to immerse myself in the fundamental project of Israel, that was only a dream of my ancestors, will build my love and passion for the protection of this Jewish Community I surround myself with and identify as a member.” Naomi is the daughter of Sara and Ken Segel. She went to Israel with the Union for Reform Judaism.



*The ZOA  
is proud  
to help  
these young  
Zionists  
develop  
their love  
for and  
attachment  
to Israel.*

Gala honorees and attendees stand for the National Anthem and Hatikva



# FLORIDA

## ZOA Florida Honors Ambassador David Friedman, Mayor Gabriel Groisman, and Rabbi Yeshurun at Sold-Out Gala

ZOA Florida held its most successful Heroes for Israel gala to date, headlined by honorees David Friedman, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel; Bal Harbour Mayor Gabriel Groisman; and Rabbi Ariel Yeshurun. Executive Director of ZOA Florida Sharona Whisler and Gala Chair Paul Kruss emceed the event that was attended by local and Israeli elected officials.

The evening started with Hatikva and the Bal Harbour Honor Guard presenting the colors during the singing of the National Anthem. Gala Chairs Marian and Paul Kruss led the Prayer for the State of Israel. Israeli Deputy Consul General Mike Driquez presented the “Light Unto Nations Synagogue Award” to Rabbi Ariel Yeshurun on behalf of Skylake Synagogue, followed by a video presentation from Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

Laurie Moskowitz Hirsch from the Irving I. Moskowitz Foundation presented the “Zionist Hero Award” to Ambassador Friedman. In his acceptance speech, Ambassador Friedman reminisced about receiving a photo from his daughter draped in an Israeli flag at the entrance to the Birkenau concentration camp in Poland, while he was receiving an award at the 2017 ZOA National Gala. That was a pinnacle moment for him, he said, propelling his push for U.S. recognition of

Jerusalem as Israel’s eternal and undivided capital and the rightful relocation of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

We were honored to have Chris Ruddy, CEO of Newsmax Media, host our expert panel, “Groundbreaking Achievements and Challenges for Israel and the Jewish People,” featuring Ambassador Friedman, Mayor Gabriel Groisman, and ZOA National President Morton Klein.

Ambassador Friedman expressed that the Biden administration seems focused on undermining the many achievements of his tenure as ambassador to Israel. Mayor Groisman explained the importance of passing an anti-BDS ordinance and adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism in Bal Harbour, setting a critical precedent for other municipalities and local governments to follow.

Mort Klein ended the panel discussion with a fiery speech about Iran as one of







the greatest threats currently facing Israel, explaining that President Biden is planning to reimpose the dangerously flawed “Iran Deal,” which would allow Iran to develop nuclear weapons within two and one-half years. To prevent this threatening reality, Mort said that real sanctions and a true military threat to Iran are necessary, and that there must be united support for Israel to do whatever it must in order to prevent a nuclear Iran. Mort also addressed the dramatic increase in Israel-hatred and antisemitism, which is fueled by lies about Jerusalem’s holiness to Muslims and the lie of “occupation.” He rightly labeled Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas as a terrorist dictator and declared that creating a Palestinian Arab state would be a terrorist state. He appealed to rabbis, Jewish leaders and political leaders to speak out about these issues to their constituents.

Maor Elbaz-Starinsky, Consul General of Israel in Miami, presented the final award of

the evening, “The Pillar of the Community Award,” to Mayor Groisman. Emphasizing his dedication to his Jewish and Zionist principles, the Mayor expressed his appreciation for the ZOA, which he described as unafraid of “ruffling feathers” by speaking the truth.

ZOA National Vice Chair Dr. Paul Tartell introduced Mort Klein to deliver final remarks. Mort highlighted some of the ZOA’s major achievements, including preventing five major anti-Israel government appointments, getting Title VI of the Civil Rights Act reinterpreted to protect Jewish students from antisemitic harassment and discrimination, and filing and successfully resolving numerous complaints under Title VI. Mort talked about his recent meeting – accompanied by ZOA Board Chair David Schoen, Esq. and Dr. Tartell – with the Turkish Ambassador in Washington, D.C., at which they urged Turkey to stop harboring Hamas terrorists.



# ZOA FLORIDA HEROES FOR ISRAEL GALA

(Photo Credit: Joey G Photography)



Dep. Consul Gen. Mike Driquez (L) presents the Light Unto Nations Synagogue Award to Rabbi Ariel Yeshurun



Amb. David Friedman received the Zionist Hero Award, presented by Laurie Moskowitz Hirsch (L), with Sharona Whisler and Morton Klein



(L to R) ZOA Nat'l President Morton Klein, Mayor Gabe and Lisa Groisman, Tammy and Amb. David Friedman, FL Exec. Dir. Sharona Whisler



(L to R) Newsmax Media's Chris Ruddy with panelists Amb. Friedman, ZOA President Mort Klein, and Bal Harbour Mayor Gabe Groisman



(L to R) Gala Chairs Paul and Marian Kruss, Mayor Gabe Groisman, Jodi Tartell, and ZOA Co-Vice Chair Dr. Paul Tartell





Gala chairs, honorees, and presenters



Bal Harbour Mayor Gabe Groisman (second from right) with Pillar of the Community Award, presented by daughters Rachel and Yona and Consul Gen. Elbaz-Starinsky



(L to R) Mayor of Broward County Michael Udine, Stacey Udine, and Bal Harbour Mayor Gabe Groisman



Bal Harbour Vice-Mayor Seth Salver and Perla Salver



(L to R) Tammy and Amb. David Friedman, former U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, and ZOA Nat'l Board Member Jim Pollack



## Victory in Fight Against Antisemitism in Broward County Public Schools

After the Broward County School Board mishandled a divisive, antisemitic speech delivered at Western High School's graduation ceremony in June 2021, the ZOA played a critical role in bringing about positive policy changes by the Board. The ZOA sent a letter to the School Board and Superintendent – co-signed by 1,000 Broward County residents, parents and students – urging them to make needed policy changes. ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler also spoke at a school board meeting to emphasize the points made in the letter, especially the critical need to institute training about antisemitism for students, teachers, staff and administrators, using the IHRA working definition of antisemitism as a guide, and to establish effective vetting procedures for future speeches.

Almost a year later, the board unanimously voted for policy changes for all school-sponsored events and speeches. The new policy requires that events and speeches be historically accurate; free of hate speech; and non-discriminatory pursuant to the Florida Education Equity Act, which includes the IHRA definition. The updated policy also provides that employees and students participating in school board ceremonies and events must be advised of the policy and acknowledge receipt of the information in writing. Working with the ZOA and instrumental in effecting these changes were Broward County parents Stacey Petito Nowack and Carolyn McGinly Krohn, who personally presented our proposed changes to the school board.

## Meeting with the Consul General

ZOA National President Morton Klein and Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler met with new Israeli Consul General in Miami Maor Elbaz-Starinsky and Deputy Consul General Mike Driquez about current issues, and requested that the Consul General ask other Jewish organizations to oppose the Biden administration's effort to open a PA consulate in Jerusalem. We recommended that Israel make clear Jerusalem's minimal sacredness to Muslims, and the dangers of establishing a Palestinian Arab state. We suggested that the Consulate of Israel expose the truth that the PA is a terrorist dictatorship that promotes hatred and violence against Jews in their schools, media, and speeches.

We also discussed the ZOA's initiative to get universities to adopt the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.



Deputy Consul Gen. Mike Driquez, ZOA President Morton Klein, Consul Gen. Maor Elbaz-Starinsky and ZOA's Sharona Whisler





Sharona Whisler and Mort Klein at the Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust



Mort Klein speaking at the Boynton Beach event

## Surfside Adopts IHRA Definition, With Other Municipalities to Follow

ZOA Florida is proud to have worked with then-Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett and the Town of Surfside Commission on successfully adopting the IHRA working definition of antisemitism earlier this year. Surfside joined the State of Florida, and several other Florida cities, towns, and counties in this significant move.

Inspired by this success, the ZOA Florida Advisory Board launched an initiative to add to the growing list of Florida municipalities that are adopting the IHRA definition. As of this writing, we are working with Broward County, Hallandale Beach, and Orlando on this effort.

## Mort's Talks in Florida

Mort's lecture, "Jerusalem: Whose City Is It?," hosted by the Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust, drew over 300 people in Boynton Beach. Director of the Gross Family Center and ZOA Florida board member Lauren Gross gave Mort and the ZOA a glowing introduction, describing the ZOA as the most important Jewish and pro-Israel organization that exists today.

Mort delivered another passionate speech on "Why the Surge in Antisemitism and Israel Hatred" in Williams Island, Aventura. The event was made possible by ZOA National Board member Larry Magid, who sponsored the lecture with the Willie and Celia Trump Synagogue. Mort received a standing ovation.

National Vice Chair Dr. Paul Tartell and his wife Jodi hosted a private dinner at their home for dozens of guests. Mort spoke there about the history of the ZOA's work, policies, issues, challenges and successes.

When Mort was at the Chabad of Central Boca for Shabbat services, Rabbi Moishe Denburg recognized and welcomed him and asked if he would speak to the congregation about Israel and the U.S. administration. Mort agreed to the unexpected request and received a standing ovation. One congregant told Mort that while he has heard Mort give many speeches in Florida over the years, this was the best one yet.

## ZOA's Dan Illouz Discusses Threats to Jewish Sovereignty Over Jerusalem

ZOA's former representative in Israel, Dan Illouz, gave an excellent presentation at a parlor meeting hosted by Tziviah and Maish Staiman. Dan discussed the small moves that the Biden administration is making that threaten Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem. For example, despite announcing that the White House would stop pushing for a Palestinian Authority (PA) consulate, Secretary of State Antony Blinken continued to raise the issue. This has symbolic negative ramifications, Dan explained, and causes practical damage to the U.S.-Israel relationship.



## ZOA Florida Welcomes New Advisory Board Member

We look forward to working with our newest regional board member, Bryan Leib, who is the Executive Director of Iranian Americans for Liberty, a fantastic group that ZOA has collaborated with on several initiatives. Bryan is also a liaison to the Jewish community for Newsmax Broadcasting.

To learn more about ZOA Florida, contact Sharona Whisler at [florida@zoa.org](mailto:florida@zoa.org).

**Welcome Bryan!**



Dan Illouz speaking at the parlor meeting hosted by Tziviah and Maish Staiman



# MICHIGAN

## Strengthening the Relationship Between Israel and the American Community

On one of his recent visits to Israel, ZOA Michigan's Executive Director Kobi Erez spoke before approximately 100 Israeli Air Force soldiers at the IAF Command and Leadership School, as well as to a group of 50 IDF soldiers from the intelligence unit (at a second location). Kobi addressed the connection between American Jews and Israel, ZOA's pro-Israel advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, its Israel activism on college campuses and in the media, its fight against the BDS movement and anti-Israel organizations, and its educational efforts to create the next generation of Israel advocacy leaders. The soldiers were curious to learn about the antisemitism in American universities and were moved to hear about the willingness of American Jews to help Israel and their commitment to Zionism.

ZOA Michigan is proud to have recruited nine community Christian leaders to join the ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel. Sheldon Freilich, ZOA Michigan's president, explained why it is so important: "By attending the mission, these community leaders got a better understanding of Israel, knowledge of facts, and a positive image of the Jewish state, which will help to build broad-based support for Israel in the non-Jewish community." ZOA Michigan continues to work to strengthen the relationship between Israel and the American community.



Kobi Erez in Hebron during ZOA's Leadership Mission to Israel



Kobi Erez at the IAF Command and Leadership School after his address to Israeli soldiers



Kobi Erez (right) with MK Amichai Chikli in the Israeli Knesset during ZOA's Leadership Mission to Israel



ZOA's Kobi Erez (left photo), and ZOA Michigan president Sheldon Freilich (seated on left) on the ZOA Leadership Mission to Israel

## ZOA Michigan Helping Teens at Risk in Israel

There are thousands of “at risk” young people in Israel. They are enduring social and family issues, economic struggles, drug addiction, domestic violence, and other difficulties.

These issues are often ignored, and a significant number of Israeli adolescents eventually drop out of school, get into trouble with the law, or leave home at a young age. A high percentage of these youths are not accepted into the Israeli army due to their problematic behavior. They are therefore left without means for additional education or successful future employment.

ZOA Michigan recognizes the critical nature of this problem and how crucial it is to provide support to at-risk adolescents in need – particularly young Americans who have moved to Israel in recent years and need a

helping hand and guidance. Working together with an Israeli organization, our goals are to rehabilitate American-Israeli young adults, helping them to become fit for the army; and encourage teens to complete their high school studies and graduate. In addition, our goal is to instill a love for Zionism by teaching core Jewish values as well as Jewish thought and history.

After youths in need are connected with ZOA Michigan Director Kobi Erez or our partner organization in Israel, they are paired with professionals, including teachers, social workers and psychologists, for one-on-one counseling, group learning sessions and educational tours with a focus on Zionism. All participants are given proper attention according to their needs and background. ZOA Michigan will continue to invest in Jewish youth in America and in Israel as part of our mission.



## ZOA Michigan Supports Israeli Defense Groups in the Negev

According to Yoav Galant, former commander of the Southern Command in the IDF and a current Knesset member, thousands of Jewish citizens and businesses in the Negev have become victims of Arab protection rackets. Jewish business owners are being forced to pay Arab citizens in exchange for avoiding damage to their businesses and staff. After many businesses, such as restaurants, stores, farms and construction sites, refused to pay, they were burned down or damaged. Arab racketeering against Jews is so common that insurance companies refuse to cover any business that is under the threat of extortion, leading to business owners losing everything.

In addition, there have been numerous reports of sexual harassment of Jewish women by Arab men, to the point that many women fear walking on their own. In response, civilian volunteer-based organizations in the Negev have been established to increase security and help law enforcement on the ground.

ZOA Michigan is proud to support these efforts by sponsoring some of the logistics needs, such as communication equipment and training. We also continue to raise awareness in the U.S. about rising Arab violence against Jewish communities in Israel.

## Media Outreach

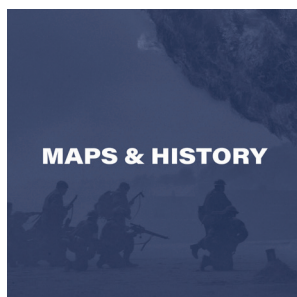
Our op-eds and videos on the Iran deal, the Israeli-Palestinian Arab conflict, antisemitism and BDS have been published in local and national media, including JNS, *Detroit Jewish News*, YouTube and *Times of Israel*, reaching thousands of people and educating them on current events. 🇺🇸



[zoa.org/resources](https://zoa.org/resources)



**Don't forget to check our Resources page for updated content!**



# ZOA WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROSITY OF ITS 2021 SUPPORTERS:\*

## National Leadership Society

### \$1,000,000 and Over

Anonymous

### \$500,000 - \$999,999

Anonymous (2)

### \$250,000 - \$499,999

The Marcus Foundation  
Jenny & Stanley Margulies

### \$100,000 - \$249,999

Anonymous	Henry M. & Pari Schwartz	Myron Zimmerman -	Estate of George Kagan
Gloria Kaylie	Dr. Bob Shillman	MZ Foundation	Estate of Robert Wolfe
Steven Sass			

### \$50,000 - \$99,999

Sandra Borns & Robert Borns z"l	Robert L. Meyer	Marc J. Rowan
Michael A. & Andrea E. Leven Family Foundation	Cherna Moskowitz - The Irving I. Moskowitz Foundation	Estate of David Freudmann Estate of Burton Spiller
Cecelia & Rubin Margules		

### \$25,000 - \$49,999

Helena & Dr. Stanley Benzel	Iris & Shalom Maidenbaum	Judith Taylor
The Roger & Susan Hertog Charitable Fund	Ali S. Meli	Irit & Jonathan Tratt
Edith & Herman Itzkowitz	Helene & Lewis Stahl	Yang Lan & Dr. Bruno Wu
	The Jodi & Paul Tartell Charitable Fund	

## Jabotinsky Society

### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous (2)	Gayle & Paul Gross	Steven Perles
Harvey Bell	Diane Glatt & David Holtz	Lisa & Dr. David Pulver
Miriam & Dr. Marvin Belsky	David Horvitz z"l	Rose Heart & Jeffrey Rosen
Bialkin Family Foundation	Lisa & Ronald Hyman	Dr. Judy & Stuart Rosen
Andrea & Bryan Bier	Sandra & Ira E. Kaplan	David Shabsels
Jill & Bart Blatstein	Caroline R. & Daniel J. Katz	William Siegel
Steven Carter	Amelia & Joshua Katzen	Sheryl Silver
Drs. Esther & Ben Chouake	Dr. Jeffrey Kraines	The Specter Family Foundation
Dr. Craig Deligdish	Bryna & Joshua Landes	Tziviah & Marshall Staiman
Vicki & Gary Erlbaum	Mark Lapidus	Barbara & Sheldon Stein
Susan & Ben Farahi	Diane & Andrew Lappin	Linda & Robert Stulberg
Regan & Philip M. Friedman	Eta & Mark Levenson	Ina Taffet
Dr. Lawrence Gelman	Edward Lewis	James S. Merryl Tisch - Tisch Family Foundation
Gail & Dr. Stephen Gerzof	Millie & Lawrence Magid	Maurice Y. Alpert
Dr. Albert Gold	Adam & Gila Milstein	Estate of Ann Zion
Goldie Anna Charitable Trust	Family Foundation	
Brian R. Grodman	Michael & Dr. Bonnie Orbach	



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## Brandeis Society

(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Alan Altman	Cari & Gary Gross	Judith & Stanley Rosenberg
Beverly Baker	Stephanie Phillips & Bradley Gross	Joan & Jack Rosenblum
Dr. Rosaline Barron	Elizabeth Grzebinski	Amarit & Seth Rosenblum
Margaret & Michael Beyer	Elaine & Robert Guzzardi	Helene & Robert Rothenberg
Barbara Bender	Renee & Allen Hamaoui	Milton I. & Shirley Sabin
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