



ZOA REPORT

FALL 2025



Honoring Israel's Greatest Friend in
the White House, President Donald
Trump, in 2022

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President's Message

Morton A. Klein
National President

ZOA Continues Legacy of Historic Activism

This is an era of rapid, historic events and miraculous Israeli victories. But it is also a time of dangerous, metastasizing antisemitism on college campuses, American streets, social media, at the United Nations and throughout the world. This environment means that ZOA is busier than ever.

During the 12-day Israel-Iran war in June 2025, and during America's June 22, 2025 Midnight Hammer Operation, Israel and the U.S. crippled the Iranian regime's nuclear program. Israel brilliantly laid the groundwork over the past year and a half, by decimating Hezbollah's leadership, much of Hamas, and the Iranian regime's air defenses. These were stunning achievements that make the whole world safer.

During these critical periods, ZOA did our part, with multiple appearances on TV and radio and numerous other media outlets; op-eds in *USA Today*



and other newspapers; press releases; quotes in numerous publications, both Jewish and secular; public lectures throughout the United States; numerous webinars; Israel trips for students and adults which included a private meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; ZOA's June 12 Capitol Hill advocacy mission, and ZOA's other educational efforts in Congress and elsewhere; and our legal actions against antisemitic universities and public school systems. We even had an important meeting at the Pentagon with top Trump officials.

During ZOA's mission to lobby

In this time of dangerous, metastasizing antisemitism, ZOA is busier than ever.

Congress, ZOA activists met with dozens of congressmembers to promote military action to protect America, Israel and the world from the Iranian Muslim monsters. ZOA activists also expressed our opposition to the creation of a Palestinian Arab state, warning that it would reward Arab terrorism, legitimize Hamas and pose an existential threat to Israel. In addition, ZOA activists addressed with lawmakers the frightening surge in antisemitism since October 7, 2023, and urged lawmakers to pass the Antisemitism Awareness Act and the Preventing Antisemitic Harassment on Campus Act to combat the problem. At ZOA's Capitol Hill luncheon, we hosted 25 members of Congress, including Senator Ted Cruz and Representative Byron Donalds.

ZOA is particularly proud that we led the charge urging the United States to employ its B-2 bombers and GBU-57 bunker-buster bombs to destroy the deeply buried Fordow nuclear

We explained that even if Israel didn't exist, America needed to take action against Iran's nuclear facilities to protect America and the world.

facility. In the days leading up to the U.S. military's June 22 strike on Fordow, ZOA publicly championed the position that now was the ideal time for the U.S. to destroy the Fordow facility – because Israel had wiped out Iran's air defenses; Iranian nuclear weapons capability was imminent; the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had passed a resolution declaring Iran to be in breach of its nuclear non-proliferation obligations; and Iran had defiantly responded by refusing to comply with its obligations and pledging to expand its nuclear program.

ZOA also vigorously publicly countered the isolationists who argued that a nuclear-armed or ballistic-missile-armed Iran has “nothing to do with the United States.” ZOA pointed out that the isolationists deliberately ignore that the Iranian regime is a U.S.-designated state sponsor of terror and mortal enemy of the United States.

ZOA reminded the public of Iran's and its proxies' long list of attacks on Americans ever since Iranian Islamists seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and held hostage 52 Americans in 1979. These attacks included deadly Iranian-sponsored bombing attacks on U.S. embassies and barracks in Beirut, embassies in Africa, the USS Cole, and Khobar Towers; IED, shooting and missile attacks on U.S. armed forces in Iraq; airplane hijackings; the kidnapping and murder of Americans in Lebanon; Iran's partnership with Al Qaeda, and its key role in planning and training the terrorists who perpetrated 9-11; Iran's involvement in Hamas' murder of 43 Americans on October 7 and the kidnapping of a dozen American hostages; and the Iranian regime's “hit list” of dozens of American officials, former officials and other Americans (including me).

We explained that even if Israel didn't exist, America

needed to take action against Iran's nuclear facilities to protect America and the world.

We also vigorously defended Israel's and America's actions against the leftists and Islamists who falsely accused Israel and America of committing “war crimes” for simply acting to prevent the genocidal regimes encircling Israel from carrying out another Holocaust.

Immediately following the Fordow attack, ZOA was the first Jewish organization to publicly thank President Trump and the U.S. military for keeping the President's promise to “Make America Safe Again” – job #1 of every U.S. president.

ZOA also continues to oppose and warn of the dangers of creating a Palestinian Arab state in the Jewish heartlands of Judea-Samaria and/or in Gaza. We reminded the public that the Knesset had overwhelmingly voted to oppose a Palestinian Arab state; that the Israeli public



(Courtesy of Newsmax)

opposes such a state; that such a state would bring more October 7ths; and that the Palestinian Authority continues to pay terrorists financial rewards to murder Jews. Yet the ZOA remains the only significant Jewish organization to publicly oppose a Palestinian Arab state, while groups such as the American Jewish Committee, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, the Reform Jewish movement and even AIPAC on its website support a “two-state solution.” This is despite Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Gideon Sa’ar’s plea to Jewish leaders to publicly oppose a Palestinian Arab state.

After the Iranian-Israeli ceasefire, a press report appeared suggesting an agreement on general principles, to negotiate based on a future Palestinian Arab state. ZOA immediately opposed such a “principle,” and the press widely quoted ZOA’s reaction:

After so many Israelis suffered on October 7th, and so many fought, died and suffered in the recent and ongoing wars to dramatically set back Iran’s nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities and its terror proxies’ encirclement of the Jewish homeland, the last thing Israel needs is a Palestinian terror state in the Jewish heartland.

ZOA has also been warning of the growing danger of Egypt’s



Harmeet Dhillon, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights (Courtesy of Facebook)

huge military build-up on Israel’s border, in violation of the Israel-Egypt peace agreement.

Battling Antisemitism in Schools and on Campus

ZOA has continued to be at the forefront in battling the alarming, unprecedented wave of antisemitic incidents on college campuses and at the K-12 level since October 7th. In addition to ZOA’s legal challenges aimed at specific universities and school systems that have failed to protect Jewish students from harassment, intimidation and physical violence, ZOA has been meeting with congressional and other government offi-

cials, and publicly supporting the Trump administration’s steps to combat antisemitism – including funding cuts to universities that fail to protect Jewish students, and deporting violent pro-Hamas foreign student agitators. In op-eds in national media, television appearances and other platforms, ZOA has been pointing out that prior administrations failed to take these needed actions, and that the Trump administration is simply forcing universities and pro-Hamas assailants and instigators to face the consequences of their actions.

We even had an important private meeting at the U.S. Department of Justice with Harmeet Dhillon, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, to discuss how ZOA can help in promptly and effectively battling antisemitism. Remember: it was ZOA alone that lobbied for six years to successfully reinterpret Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to finally cover and include Jews. The ADL and the American Jewish Committee initially condemned our efforts, attacking us as gunslingers from the east and for purportedly threatening freedom of speech.

ZOA’s extraordinary efforts laid the groundwork for all the Title VI lawsuits against universities and school districts that you read about today.

I and all of us at ZOA continue to believe this: We are more determined than ever to continue fighting for the security of Israel, Jewish students, and the Jewish people.

Unfortunately, other mainstream Jewish organizations have been undermining the Trump administration's much-needed efforts to combat campus antisemitism – by issuing dreadful public statements placing the “rights” of pro-Hamas foreigners who attack, harass and intimidate Jewish students above Jewish students' rights to a safe, harassment-free environment. ZOA has condemned those dreadful public statements and continues to work to ensure that campus antisemitism is fought with every tool at the government's and our disposal.

World Zionist Congress Election

My thanks again to everyone who voted for the ZOA Coalition in the recent (once-in-five-years) World Zionist Congress election. Despite tremendous odds and issues with the election, we finished in the top third of the slates. We are also extremely proud of our coalition of 35 like-minded organizations, with whom we look forward to working on numerous projects in the coming years.

We Remain More Determined Than Ever

Many readers of this message know that in the fall of 2024, two FBI agents appeared at my home to warn me that I was on an Iranian regime hit list. After the FBI's visit, I wrote:

My wife and I were surely temporarily shaken, nevertheless I wear Iran's threats and actions against ZOA and me as a badge of honor. I have spent the last 31 years of my life working to defend the State of Israel and my fellow Jews against all our enemies. That they are targeting me means the work I and ZOA did, and are doing now, is a significant threat to them. I am more determined than ever to continue fighting for Israel's, the Jewish people's and Jewish students' security.

I and all of us at ZOA continue to believe this: We are more determined than ever to continue fighting for the security of Israel, Jewish students, and the Jewish people.

Thank you for supporting our efforts.



Morton A. Klein
ZOA National President 🇺🇸



National Executive Director's Message

Alan D. Jay

National Executive Director

Israel at War

The war waged by radical Islam to destroy the one and only Jewish state of Israel rages on multiple fronts. At the time of this writing, there are still 50 hostages held by Hamas and tortured for more than 640 days. Some are still alive, others deceased, murdered. Our collective hearts will ache until all are returned and reunited with their families. On the domestic front, we are constantly reminded – by incessant chants of “From the river to the sea,” images of Jewish students being denied entry to parts of their colleges campuses and the burgeoning harassment of Jewish K-12 students – that Jew-hatred right here on U.S. soil is gaining momentum. But there have been glimmers of hope in the form of military, legal and other successes that there may be a light at the end of the proverbial dark tunnel.

The stunning Israeli Operation Grim Beeper in September 2024, an operation years in development, neutralized in an



instant thousands of evil Hezbollah operatives, without putting a single Israeli soldier in the line of fire. As stunning as Grim Beeper was, Operation Rising Lion in mid-June 2025 was even more decisive proof of Israel's superior ability to defend herself. Through strategic deployment of air assets, aided by longtime embedded agents, the malign and murderous radical Islamic regime in Iran has been largely dismantled by the Israeli

Jew-hatred right here on U.S. soil is gaining momentum. But there have been glimmers of hope in the form of military, legal and other successes.

Air Force. Much of Iran's arsenal and air defense systems were destroyed, and several top-level Iranian regime leaders, as well as many lead scientists responsible for Iran's advancing military nuclear capability, were eliminated.

This still left Iran with fast-approaching nuclear capability deeply buried beneath the earth. To our great and welcome surprise, employing assets that Israel does not possess, the United States launched its own miraculously elegant and successful Operation Midnight Hammer. All reliable reports suggest that it set back the Iranian nuclear program by years.

Effectively Addressing Antisemitism in Schools and on Campus

With the continuous rise of antisemitism, finding a silver lining on the domestic front is a bit more of a challenge. But there have been hopeful signs. Honorable and courageous members of Congress, some in consultation with the ZOA Government Relations Department and the ZOA Center for Law and Justice, conducted investigations and hearings to expose and address campus antisemitism. Among the positive results, several colleges and universities have adopted the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, and several high-profile university presidents either resigned or were terminated because of their failure to protect Jewish students.



In late June 2025, ZOA National President Morton Klein; Director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, Susan Tuchman; Director and Deputy Director of ZOA Government Relations, Dan Pollak and Adam Turner; and Greater Philadelphia ZOA Executive Director Steve Feldman met in Washington, D.C. with Harmeet Dhillon, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice, and her staff, to discuss effectively addressing antisemitism on campus and in K-12 schools. Doors were opened.

Advocating for Israel and the Jewish People

In the midst of many serious challenges, ZOA presses on, day by day, defending Israel and the Jewish people. Here is a brief synopsis of how we educate, advocate, and fight to bring the truth about Israel and the Middle East to the media, the public, the future leaders of Zionist advocacy and the leaders of our great country.

You will read in detail about how our Washington, D.C.-based Government Relations Department, under Dan Pollak's direction, has promoted several congressional bills, acts, and resolutions geared to squashing antisemitism, reinforcing the United States-Israel relationship, and fortifying Israel's safety and security. You will also read about our extremely successful ZOA

Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission in Washington, D.C., which took place in June 2025.

The ZOA Center for Law and Justice, under the direction of Susan Tuchman, Esq., continues to advocate for the safety of Jewish students on college campuses and in the K-12 schools. In addition, in support of our fight against antisemitism and anti-Israelism, and our commitment to securing justice for American victims of Arab terrorism, ZOA filed several federal court amicus briefs, including one with the U.S. Supreme Court. Susan provides details in this Report.

Educating and Empowering College Students to Advocate for Israel

A true gem of ZOA is our comprehensive ZOA Campus department. Under Jonathan Ginsburg's direction, ZOA Campus continues to be one of the premier Zionist student organizations in America. With approximately 40 paid ZOA Campus Fellows, ZOA uniquely educates and empowers the next generation of Zionist advocates. Through our generous grant system, ZOA Campus hosted, sponsored or co-sponsored more than 250 pro-Israel, pro-Jewish events and programs. And once again,

ZOA Campus took 25 exemplary college Zionists to Israel to enhance their knowledge and support of the Jewish state. I believe ZOA Campus is still the only national Zionist group bringing our advocates-in-training to visit all of Israel, including many sites across the green line. Working hand in hand with our Center for Law and Justice, ZOA Campus provides both support and strategic advice on how to respond effectively to antisemitic initiatives, harassment and discrimination on campus. You will enjoy reading Jonathan's account of ZOA Campus' activities this year.

Celebrating Zionist Heroes at ZOA's Annual NYC Gala

In mid-November 2024, ZOA hosted our 2025 Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner. Held at the historic Cipriani 42nd Street, and once again emceed by TV and radio personality Rita Cosby, who is a great friend of ZOA, our guests enjoyed a meaningful evening during which we honored and heard from some of the most deserving Zionist honorees and supporters.

Gilad Erdan, Global President of Magen David Adom and former Israel Ambassador to the United Nations, received the Dr. Miriam & Sheldon G. Adelson Defender of Israel Award.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, received the Steven Sass Award for Outstanding Diplomacy.

Distinguished philanthropist and real estate pioneer, Gary L. Schottenstein, received the prestigious Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award. Gary is a powerful, fearless Zionist cut in the mold of ZOA who gives to Israel and the Jewish community in so many ways, among them by actively serving on the ZOA National Board of Directors.

Brigadier General (Res.) Amir Avivi, founder and Chairman of Israel's Defense & Security Forum, and longtime friend of ZOA, delivered the first ever Dr. Irving I. Kessler Memorial Lecture.

Shabbos Kestenbaum received the Myron Zimmerman Outstanding College Activism Award. A graduate of Queens College and Harvard University, Shabbos appropriately gained widespread

fame and adoration when he made the courageous decision to sue Harvard for failing to protect him and other Jewish students from antisemitic harassment and intimidation.

ZOA's Inaugural Columbus, Ohio Luncheon

In September 2024, ZOA ran its first ever extremely successful ZOA Columbus, Ohio Luncheon. Hosted by ZOA National Board member Gary Schottenstein and family, the event was held at Congregation Beth Jacob. Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, Rabbi Avi Goldstein, and ZOA National President Morton Klein addressed the crowd. ZOA Columbus community leader and managing coordinator, Larry Levine, emceed the event.

You will read in this ZOA Report about regional ZOA galas held across the country. I know you will be impressed by the caliber of honorees and speakers that proudly align with ZOA.

At our annual Brandeis Award Dinner, we honored and heard from some of the most deserving Zionist honorees and supporters.

ZOA Activists March for Israel

New and familiar faces once again joined ZOA as we enthusiastically marched together with a large contingent of Zionists at the Israel Day on Fifth Parade on May 18, 2025, in New York City. Loudly and proudly, we declared our support for Israel, demanded the release of the Hamas-held hostages, and strode in defiance of the scourge that is metastasizing antisemitism.



I encourage you to join us for our informative Zoom With ZOA webinars and ZOA Book Club meetings and to visit our ZOA YouTube channel where you will find a trove of recordings of our past educational webinars. Please call or email me if you have suggestions for future ZOA webinars.

Please read on to learn more about ZOA and feel free to call or email me with any thoughts, questions, or comments about our work.

L'hitraot,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan D. Jay'.

Alan D. Jay
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ajay@zoa.org 

ZIONIST
ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICA



Join Us
ZOA ANNUAL SUPERSTAR
GALA

SUNDAY EVENING

NOV. 9
2025

ZIEGFELD BALLROOM
NYC

RSVP: ZOA.ORG/GALA
OR SCAN QR CODE



HONORING

LEO TERRELL
ROBERT KASOWITZ DEFENDER
OF JEWISH CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD

YECHIEL LEITER
DR. MIRIAM & SHELDON G. ADELSON
DEFENDER OF ISRAEL AWARD

DANNY DANON
STEVEN SASS OUTSTANDING
DIPLOMAT AWARD

IRIT & JONATHAN TRATT
JUSTICE LOUIS D. BRANDEIS AWARD



ZOA's Annual Superstar Gala

The ZOA Gala Uplifts Spirits and Supports Israel, Jewish Students and the Fight Against Antisemitism

ZOA's annual Superstar Gala is one of the outstanding events of the season in the Jewish and pro-Israel world. On November 17, 2024, the ZOA Gala took place at Cipriani 42nd Street in Manhattan. An overflowing crowd of almost 700 people, including college students, were inspired by the words of Jewish luminaries while enjoying delicious food and music from Yeshiva University's Y-Studs A Cappella group and a klezmer group.

The ZOA Gala's theme was "Fight for Israel Now." Speakers emphasized the importance of Jews standing strong and taking universities and the media to task for their hostility to Israel; defunding the United Nations; preventing the creation of a Palestinian Arab state, which would be a terrorist state; and standing united behind Israel's efforts to destroy Hamas and Hezbollah so that Israel can bring the hostages home and Israelis can live in safety and security.

The evening's inspirational speakers included ZOA's honorees – former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations and president of Magen David Adom, Gilad Erdan; philanthropist Gary Schottenstein; former U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman; recent Harvard graduate and student activist Shabbos Kestenbaum; and Brig. General (Res.) Amir Avivi – as well as ZOA National Presi-

dent Morton Klein; Emcee Rita Cosby; and presenters including Harvard Law professor emeritus Alan Dershowitz; Newsmax founder and CEO, Chris Ruddy; ZOA Chairman Rubin Margules; ZOA National Vice President and noted philanthropist, Myron Zimmerman; philanthropist Steven Sass; ZOA Vice Chairman Michael Orbach; journalist and pro-Israel activist, Irit Tratt; World Zionist Organization President Yaakov Hagoel (by video); Israeli Consul General in New York, Ofir Akunis (also by video); and ZOA Campus Managing Director Jonathan Ginsburg and five ZOA Campus professionals.

ZOA National President Morton Klein told the Jewish Press: "The ZOA Gala is like a three-day pro-Israel conference crammed into one celebratory, lively, information-packed evening, that educates attendees and sends vital policy messages to the powers-that-be. Every year, people

say that it was the best gala ever. Even more people told me this year that this was our best gala ever.”

Newsmax CEO Chris Ruddy introduced the first speaker and the recipient of the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award, the great philanthropist and real estate giant Gary Schottenstein. Mr. Ruddy described Mr. Schottenstein as passionate about his Judaism, his family, his country America, love of G-d, and Israel. He added that Israel “is our true sister democracy, and we must do everything within our power to support her.” In his speech, Mr. Schottenstein said, “The Zionist Organization of America, founded in 1897, has closely partnered together ‘Zionist,’ which is synonymous with Israel, and ‘America.’” Consistent with ZOA’s mission to support and foster the eternal bond between Israel and the United States, Mr. Schottenstein added, “I believe that America and Judaism are so aligned and have been so perfect for each other that they were a match made in heaven.”

ZOA National Board Chairman Rubin Margules warmly welcomed the recipient of the

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Defender of Israel Award, Ambassador Gilad Erdan. Ambassador Erdan thanked Morton Klein and ZOA, stating, “Mort, your unwavering commitment to Israel and Zionism is truly remarkable. Under your leadership, the ZOA has become a beacon of truth and a staunch defender of Israel. You are not only a trusted ally and friend, but also an inspiration above all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Addressing the crowd, Ambassador Erdan explained: “In this dark year, an unexpected ray of light emerged. A generation of lions emerged, defending our homeland with unbreakable resolve. . . . Their courage has made one thing clear: Our enemies can never defeat us on the conventional battlefield.” He noted that after October 7, in addition to rockets, the enemies’ “secret weapon” is “the United Nations, the house of lies.” The Ambassador continued: “Since October 7, we have witnessed a new low, even for the UN. Over 400 days have passed with our hostages in captivity. Yet the Security Council hasn’t even held one single meet-

“The ZOA Gala is like a three-day pro-Israel conference crammed into one celebratory, lively, information-packed evening.”

MORTON A. KLEIN

ing to advance their release. Not a single UN body has even condemned Hamas.” When Ambassador Erdan called for defunding the United Nations, the crowd cheered.

After a warm introduction by ZOA Vice Chairman Michael Orbach, Brigadier General (Res.) Amir Avivi noted that after October 7, everyone in Israel understands that the Oslo Accords, which brought Palestinian Arab terrorists into Israel, and Israel’s disengagement from Gaza, were terrible mistakes. “But thirty years ago,” General Avivi continued, “there was only one organization here in the west, standing strong and saying this [Oslo] is wrong; standing against the other organizations who were saying that Oslo is the right path; and this organization standing strong is the ZOA, and I thank you, Morton Klein, for this leadership. Because it’s not easy to stand against the stream and say the truth.”



Newsmax founder & CEO Chris Ruddy introducing Gary Schottenstein, recipient of the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award

Shabbos Kestenbaum, a recent Harvard graduate, received the Myron Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Student Activism. Introduced by ZOA Campus Managing Director Jonathan Ginsburg and five ZOA Campus professionals, Mr. Kestenbaum delivered a stirring speech about standing up proudly to antisemitism on campus and wherever this bigotry exists. He also praised Morton Klein and ZOA for standing alone in amplifying students' voices.



Shabbos Kestenbaum, recipient of the Myron Zimmerman Outstanding College Activism Award

Professor Alan Dershowitz introduced former U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, recipient of the Steven Sass Award for Outstanding Diplomacy, and praised his contributions as ambassador, including promoting U.S. recognition of the Golan Heights as sovereign Israeli land. Ambassador Friedman delivered a brilliant speech, describing the importance of

the survival of the one Jewish state; condemning Hamas' use of all the aid money it received, to build its terror infrastructure; and explaining that a Palestinian Arab state would be a disaster and should never be created. After October 7, Ambassador Friedman declared, "We have clarity today like never before. We know who our friends are. We know who our enemies are. We know what works and doesn't work. . . . If there's one thing that's more clear than anything else, abundantly clear, perhaps nothing is more clear: There can never, ever, ever be a Palestinian state. Period." Ambassador Friedman also thanked Morton Klein and ZOA for their unwavering support for and education about Israel.



Amb. David Friedman, recipient of the Steven Sass Award for Outstanding Diplomacy

Journalist and Jewish activist Irit Tratt introduced "the incomparable Mort Klein," ZOA's National President, whom she described as a "fierce, coura-

"If there's one thing that's more clear than anything else, abundantly clear, perhaps nothing is more clear: There can never, ever, ever be a Palestinian state. Period."

AMB. DAVID FRIEDMAN

geous warrior for Israel and the Jewish people." Mr. Klein gave a passionate and informative speech about the Jewish people's longstanding right to the Land of Israel and the existential dangers of a Palestinian Arab state. He described how ZOA fights the information wars and the Jew-bashing across America, through the work of ZOA's Department of Research and Special Projects; its Government Relations Department, which educates lawmakers; the ZOA Center for Law and Justice, which uses the law to protect Jewish students from harassment and discrimination; ZOA Campus, which educates students about Israel and about how to respond effectively to anti-Israel lies; and ZOA's educational activities, including letters and news articles, television and



ZOA National President Morton A. Klein

Mr. Klein ended his passionate speech with inspiring reminders that the Jewish people are an eternal people and will prevail.

radio appearances, and lectures across the country.

Mr. Klein noted that the ZOA singlehandedly fought a successful six-year battle to reinterpret Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect Jewish students. ZOA's groundbreaking work laid the foundation for all the Title VI lawsuits today.

Mr. Klein also described ZOA's other successful battles – to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, to pass the Taylor Force Act, and to stop five different anti-Israel nominees from being confirmed. Mr. Klein declared that ZOA would continue to educate Congress and the public about the disastrous consequences of creating a Palestinian Arab state.

Mr. Klein added that it is comforting and inspiring to remember that the United States has had a love affair with the idea of establishing a Jewish state since America's earliest days. President Abraham Lincoln called reestablishing the Jewish state a noble dream. President John

Adams stated that he wished for the Jews to reestablish in Judea an independent nation. President Adams called Judea by its true name – not the “West Bank.”

Teddy Roosevelt supported a Jewish state around Jerusalem. He understood Jerusalem's holiness to the Jewish people. Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams fought for the great seal of the United States to feature Moses splitting the Red Sea. And in 1948, Clark Clifford quoted from Deuteronomy when urging President Harry Truman to recognize the reconstituted state of Israel.

Mr. Klein described Donald Trump as “the greatest friend we Jews have ever had in the White House.” He listed some of President Trump's achievements, including moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem; recognizing the Golan Heights as sovereign Israeli land; cancelling the horrific Iran deal; and imposing powerful sanctions on Iran that bankrupted the regime and reduced its reserves to \$4 billion.

President Trump also signed the Taylor Force Act into law, ending aid to the Palestinian Authority; and ended aid to UNRWA, which teaches Arabs to hate and commit violence against Jews. Donald Trump also publicly proclaimed that the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria are legal under international law and he established the famous Abraham Accords. And since his reelection, President Trump nominated the most pro-Israel cabinet in history since Israel was reestablished.

Mr. Klein ended his passionate speech with inspiring reminders that the Jewish people are an eternal people and will prevail.

Thanks go to Alan Jay, Nancy Hollander, Jackie Shafer, Enid Roman, Akiba Covitz, Anna Avivi, and other ZOA staff for all their hard work in making this Gala yet another extraordinary evening. 🇺🇸

Gala Pictorial



Amb. Gilad Erdan, recipient of the Dr. Miriam & Sheldon G. Adelson Defender of Israel Award



Irit Tratt and Morton Klein



Amb. Gilad Erdan, ZOA National Board Chair Rubin Margules, Morton Klein, and Emcee Rita Cosby



Hal Dorman and ZOA National Board member Josh Landes



ZOA National Board member Myron Zimmerman and Amb. Gilad Erdan



Brigadier General (Res) Amir Avivi



ZOA National Board Vice Chair Michael Orbach, Brig. Gen. Amir Avivi, Morton Klein, and Rita Cosby



Brig. Gen. Amir Avivi and Michael Orbach



Michael Orbach introducing Brig. Gen. Avivi



Brig. Gen. Amir Avivi



Shabbos Kestenbaum with ZOA Campus staff, Rita Cosby, Morton Klein, and Myron Zimmerman



Myron Zimmerman, Morton Klein, and Elliot Fine



Marc Provisor and ZOA National Board member Dr. Arthur Kook



Shabbos Kestenbaum, Nicolle Hoisman, and Aron Orbach



Emcee Rita Cosby



ZOA National Board member Melanie Shreiber and Gerald Shreiber



Student table generously sponsored by Jack Abel



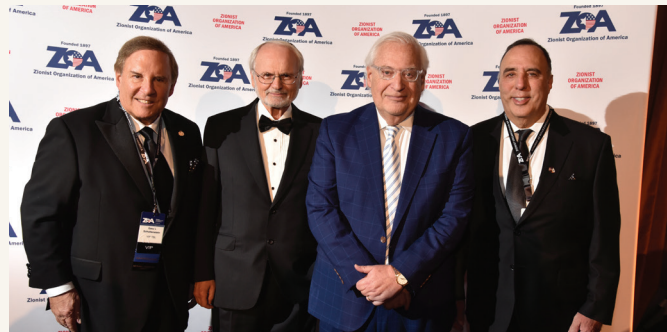
Jonathan Ginsburg, Managing Director of ZOA Campus, presenting award to Shabbos Kestenbaum



Lily Rogath and Jean Otrakji



Gary Schottenstein, recipient of ZOA's Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award



Gary Schottenstein, Morton Klein, Amb. David Friedman, and Larry Levine



ZOA National Board member Susan Good and Morton Klein



Professor Alan Dershowitz



Rabbi David Katz, Amb. David Friedman, Rabbi Elie Weinstock, and Dr. Joseph Frager



ZOA National Board member Sheryl Silver, Rita Cosby, and Tomaczek Bednarek



Naama & Rabbi Elie Weinstock



Dr. Joseph Frager and Michael Orbach



Student table generously sponsored by Randy & Gail Blaustein in memory of their beloved daughter, Brooke Blaustein



Y-Studs performing national anthems & Acheinu



Steven Sass, Rita Cosby, Amb. David Friedman, Professor Alan Dershowitz, and Morton Klein



Chris Ruddy, Gary Schottenstein, Morton Klein, and Rita Cosby



Ofir Akunis, Consul General of Israel in New York



Amb. David Friedman and Morton Klein



Gary Schottenstein (second from right) and family with Morton Klein



ZOA Dir. of Research & Special Projects Liz Berney Esq. and her Klezmer band



Gary Schottenstein, Morton Klein, Amb. David Friedman, and Larry Levine

Center for Law and Justice

Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.

Director, Center for Law & Justice

ZOA Settles Antisemitism Lawsuit Against Cherry Hill Public Schools

After months of litigation in federal district court, the ZOA settled its lawsuit against Cherry Hill Public Schools in New Jersey. The suit – brought in partnership with Jeffrey Schreiber, Esq. and Stephen Meister, Esq. of the law firm of Meister Seelig & Fein PLLC – was filed on behalf of a Jewish high school student (L.B.) and his parents after L.B., a proud Jew and vocal Israel supporter, was repeatedly threatened and almost physically assaulted by other students. The complaint alleged that school and district officials not only failed to protect L.B. but also retaliated against him and harshly and undeservedly punished him in violation of their own rules and policies, while ignoring and downplaying the conduct of his antisemitic attackers.

Pursuant to the terms of the



settlement, the school district is required to (1) expunge from the records all information and evidence related to the disciplinary action taken against L.B.; (2) continue to provide antisemitism education as part of its mandatory Holocaust instruction; (3) commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 24, 2025, and commemorate it annually thereafter; and (4) during the week of April 21, 2025, maintain in the district's libraries a table of books commemorating Jewish history and survival through the centuries. In addition, the district must issue a detailed statement and also post it on its

website, which provides data about the “skyrocketing” rise in antisemitic incidents in New Jersey and makes it clear that the school district will “not tolerate antisemitism in any form.” The statement promises that all perpetrators of antisemitism, both staff and students, will be held accountable. And the statement emphasizes that understanding how antisemitism can manifest “is critical for effectively addressing” the problem. The statement includes a working definition of antisemitism that is virtually identical to the widely accepted International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition, including the examples related to Israel.

ZOA's suit alleged that a Jewish student was repeatedly threatened and almost physically assaulted by other students, and that school officials failed to protect him.



U.S. Supreme Court (courtesy of Pixabay)

ZOA Files Amicus Briefs to Fight Antisemitism and Anti-Israelism and to Support American Victims of Arab Terrorism

In August 2024, ZOA filed an amicus brief in support of professors at the City University of New York (CUNY) who asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review a decision issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (*Goldstein v. Professional Staff Congress/CUNY*). These professors had resigned from their union, the Professional Staff Congress (PSC), based on its anti-Israel and antisemitic views and positions. But the Second Circuit had decided that

under New York law, the professors were required to accept PSC's exclusive representation. In a petition for certiorari filed with the Supreme Court, the professors argued that this mandate violated their First Amendment right to free speech.

The ZOA's amicus brief urged the Court to consider that campus antisemitism has been a serious and long-existing problem for Jewish faculty, staff and students at CUNY and other schools; that the antisemitic hostility surged after the Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel on October 7, 2023; and that some unions – including PSC – have fueled antisemitism. ZOA contended that this context was crucial for the Court to consider in deciding whether the CUNY professors should be required to bear even more, by being forced to accept that a union, whose antisemitic and anti-Israel views and positions are painful and abhorrent to them, must speak for them.

Of the 7,000 to 8,000 cert petitions filed each term, the

Supreme Court agrees to hear only approximately 80 of them. Unfortunately, on January 13, 2025, the Court declined to hear this one.

In February 2025, the ZOA joined in an amicus brief filed with the Supreme Court in support of American victims of Arab terrorism (*Fuld v. Palestine Liberation Organization and United States v. Palestine Liberation Organization*). In 2015, a jury awarded American terror victims millions of dollars in damages against the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority (PA). But the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit threw out the jury verdict, accepting the PLO and PA's argument that a 2019 law – the Promoting Security and Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act (PSJVTA), which confers federal court jurisdiction over the PLO and PA in international terrorism cases brought by American terror victims – was unconstitutional.

Showing the critical importance of the PSJVTA, the amicus brief describes the PLO and PA's long history of not only planning and committing terrorist attacks against civilians – including Americans – but also encouraging participation in the attacks by compensating and rewarding the terrorists. Often referred to as “Pay for Slay,” this official government program of the PLO and PA pays terrorists and their families through stipends and long-term benefits. The more deadly the terrorist attack and the longer the terrorist's prison sentence, the greater the financial reward. Because of Pay for Slay, many Americans were maimed and killed at the hands of these terrorists; the brief movingly identifies some of the victims.

Attorneys Mark I. Pinkert, Jason Torchinsky, Erielle Davidson, and Jared S. Bauman of the law firm of Holtzman Vogel Baran Torchinsky & Josefiak PLLC spearheaded the preparation of the amicus brief. They filed it on behalf of ZOA and 16 other Jewish, pro-Israel, and civil rights organizations.

In a unanimous decision on June 20, 2025, the Supreme Court upheld the PSJVTA, and ruled that it does not violate the due process rights of the PA or PLO. The decision means that lawsuits by American victims of terrorist attacks in Israel can move forward in U.S. courts and that victims can seek at least some measure of the justice they deserve.



Ari Fuld, z"l (Facebook)

A unanimous Supreme Court ruled in favor of American victims of terrorism.

In May 2025, ZOA joined in an amicus brief filed with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, in support of Isaac Levi Pilant's application for a discovery order. Pilant, who lives in a community in Judea and Samaria where he heads security, is seeking an order authorizing him to obtain discovery (i.e., documents and deposition testimony) from a New York-based organization called Democracy for the Arab World Now, Inc. (DAWN), so that he can use the discovery in a legal proceeding in Israel against an Israeli organization called Yesh Din.

In August 2024, Yesh Din posted claims against Pilant on social media, accusing him of violence toward Palestinian Arabs and their property. On the same day, the Biden administration announced that Pilant was being sanctioned under an executive order that authorizes

sanctions against people who undermine peace in the “West Bank.” Pilant was placed on the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) List and his bank accounts and credit cards were frozen. After President Trump was elected, he issued a new executive order terminating that prior executive order, and Pilant was removed from the SDN List.

Pilant is planning to file suit against Yesh Din in Israel for allegedly defaming him and providing false information about him to third parties, including to DAWN. Pilant claims that DAWN spread Yesh Din's false information to others, including to U.S. government agencies, which may have led to the sanctions against him. Information obtained in discovery from DAWN would be useful in his legal action against Yesh Din.

DAWN objected to Pilant's discovery application, and the ACLU and other groups filed an amicus brief supporting DAWN. ZOA's amicus brief, spearheaded by the law firm of Holtzman Vogel Baran Torchinsky & Josefiak PLLC, was also submitted on behalf of Victoria Coates and Robert Greenway, former national security officials who are now at The Heritage Foundation, and on behalf of Stand-WithUs Saidoff Legal. The brief establishes that DAWN – an advocacy, lawfare and lobbying group that supports Islamist movements and whose leadership expresses antisemitic views – is not immunized from discovery.

The matter is pending.

Education and Advocacy in the Community

Arranged by Allison Zur, ZOA's Florida regional director, Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, spoke at several Florida venues in January 2025, about the ZOA's long history of fighting antisemitism on campus and now in the K-12 schools. Jack and Hedy Abel graciously hosted Susan and Allison at a parlor meeting at their lovely home in Naples. Sandi and Mike Rosenfelt hosted ZOA National President Morton Klein and Susan at an afternoon parlor meeting at their beautiful home in Boca Raton. Marlene Sandler and Pam Weinroth hosted Susan at an evening program in a spectacular space at Alina Residences in Boca Raton, where Mort welcomed the crowd and introduced Susan.

On June 23, 2025, Susan spoke at the American Jewish Press Association's annual conference, which took place this year in Pittsburgh. Stuart Pavilack, ZOA's regional director in Pittsburgh, also attended.



Susan Tuchman at the American Jewish Press Association's conference in Pittsburgh

In conversation with Carin Smilk, managing editor of the U.S. bureau of the Jewish News Syndicate (JNS), Susan described ZOA's leadership role in using Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jewish students from antisemitic harassment and discrimination, ZOA's landmark Title VI cases, and ongoing challenges in securing the prompt and meaningful legal relief that Jewish students need and deserve. 🇺🇸



Pam Weinroth, Morton Klein, Marlene Sandler, Susan Tuchman and Robert Weinroth at Alina Residences in Boca Raton



Susan Tuchman at Boca Raton parlor meeting hosted by Sandi and Mike Rosenfelt

Government Relations



Dan Pollak

Director, Government Relations



Adam Tuner

Deputy Director, Government Relations

The Government Relations team in Washington, D.C. consists of Adam Turner and Dan Pollak. We are registered lobbyists, meaning we try to influence legislation in Congress. Many non-Jews think that we are lobbyists for the government of Israel, which is not the case. ZOA lobbyists answer to the President of the ZOA, and through him, the ZOA's national board decides which issues we advocate for. Naturally our board and President advocate for pro-Israel positions and against antisemitism.



ZOA is Not Afraid to be a Lone Voice in the American Jewish Community

ZOA is the only major American Jewish organization to explicitly oppose the creation of a Palestinian Arab state. This fact sometimes comes as a surprise to people who do not closely watch the other major American Jewish organizations, but it is an unfortunate fact.

The Israeli government opposes the creation of such a state. Last year, the Israeli Knesset overwhelmingly voted (68 to 9) to oppose the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state. The only votes against this were from Arab Knesset members. In the U.S., major Jewish organizations are likely to be silent on this issue or continue to promote the creation of a Palestinian Arab state as a preferred outcome, despite its unpopularity in Israel and its nearly nonexistent chances of being implemented.

Public opinion polls of both Arabs and Jews in the region consistently show that large majorities oppose this outcome, but American politicians and especially the U.S. media continue to put it forward as the only “fair” solution to the Arab war on Israel. There may be no good explanation for the bias in the American mainstream media,

but as government relations professionals, it is our job to understand why members of Congress would take such an irrational position on a major foreign policy issue.

The short answer is that politicians hate to admit that they do not have a solution to a major policy problem. ZOA supporters know that the ultimate answer is Arab acceptance of the permanence of Israel in the region, but this will take at least a generation to accomplish, particularly as many Arab governments continue to teach hate to their children from birth. Politicians dislike complicated answers and solutions that will take many years to be effective. The supposed “two-state solution” (the very title of which is offensive: Israel already exists as a state, and this proposal is not a solution to anything) enables the average member of Congress to appear balanced in their approach to both sides. The lawmaker also avoids being seen as an extremist. The fact that the “solution” will never come to pass is a bonus; no one will ever see that they were wrong all along.

ZOA has certain non-negotiable red lines. One of the most important of them is we will not support legislation, however it is worded, that would result in recognition of a new Arab state in the region that would be an existential danger to the very existence of Israel and to American national security.

ZOA will not support legislation that would result in recognition of a new Arab state that would be an existential danger to Israel and to American national security.

A Case Study in Lonely Advocacy for Israel

There is an existing procedure to revoke the non-profit status of any tax-exempt organization which does not comply with IRS rules, but it is unwieldy and bureaucratic, with no guarantee that the process will yield a timely result. Following the atrocities of October 7th, lawmakers were outraged to learn that an employee of a U.S. non-profit was the actual captor of three Israeli hostages being held in Gaza who were rescued by the IDF in June 2024. It turned out that their captor was a terrorist named Abdallah Aljamal, who was being paid by the “Palestine Chronicle,” which is run by the “People Media Project,” a U.S.-based nonprofit. It is an outra-

geous fact that the People Media Project's non-profit status has to this day not been revoked.

ZOA sought to solve this inaction as part of the so-called "Big Beautiful Bill" which passed the House and Senate in July 2025. Despite our efforts, described below, ZOA did not succeed yet at passing our provision, but we are still trying.

Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY) authored a bill to revoke the tax-exempt status of any non-profit organization which the Secretary of the Treasury determines is a "terrorist supporting organization." Incredibly, 55 Jewish organizations led by the Reform Action Center, but including many mainstream organizations, such as the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), Hadassah, the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative rabbis), and HIAS, opposed the legislation. The expected left-wing organizations, including J Street, the Reconstructionist movement, National Council of Jewish Women and the Reform movement, also opposed the legislation.



Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY) at the ZOA Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission



ZOA's Dan Pollak

Incredibly, the "Jewish" objection to this bill is that a mechanism already exists for a bureaucratic process to revoke the tax-exempt status of any organization. But the real objection they enunciated was that the bill would give President Trump the power to decide to revoke an organization's tax-exempt status without outside oversight. These Jewish groups were seemingly not bothered that the process is so slow that the People Media Project's tax-exempt status still has not been revoked more than a year after its overt support for Hamas has been proved beyond any doubt.

The fact is many Jewish organizations are prioritizing their dislike of President Trump over what is best for the American Jewish community.

If passed, this law might have been used to revoke the tax-exempt status of many of the Muslim groups that are supporting lawlessness on American college campuses. In many cases, the money for these protests constitutes material support for terror-



ZOA's Adam Turner

ist organizations.

Establishment Jewish groups, though, view the admirable activities of the Trump administration as an illegitimate war on higher education. The JCPA, led by CEO Amy Spitalnick, who is a former leader of J Street, wrote a letter to the Department of Homeland Security complaining that "considering aliens' antisemitic activity on social media" when deciding to grant visas to the United States is objectionable. Spitalnick said that "this new policy raises significant questions. . . . [M]any in the Jewish community have already expressed deep concerns about how . . . antisemitism [is] being used as the pretext to . . . undermine rights such as due process . . . which ultimately threatens the safety of Jews."

The legislation passed the House but has not yet been taken up by the Senate. For a bill to be signed into law by the President, it must first pass both houses of Congress with a majority. The rules of the Senate, though, are more restrictive, and allow the



Participants at ZOA's Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission

Many Jewish organizations are prioritizing their dislike of President Trump over what is best for the American Jewish community.

business of the Senate to be arbitrarily slowed down to the point where any legislation can be scuttled if 60 Senators do not vote to move it forward. Once a year, the rules of the Senate allow for what is called a reconciliation process that is not subject to the 60-vote threshold to limit debate.

This year, they called the resulting bill the “Big Beautiful Bill,” and ZOA and a number of pro-Israel members of Congress thought this bill would be a great opportunity to pass the terrorist non-profit revocation in the Senate with only 50 votes, instead of the 60 normally required.

Again, the same Jewish organizations sent another letter with over 50 signatures to Congress to demonstrate that Jewish people were not united on the subject. Unfortunately, neither the Senate nor the House included the provision in the bill which passed the House and Senate.

ZOA is still pushing for Senate passage of the original bill, and it

may yet pass. Many major Jewish organizations did not lift a finger to help end the non-profit status of organizations supporting terrorism. Although this should not be a partisan issue, nearly all Republicans support the bill and only a few Democrats are on record supporting it. We are proud of our advocacy in this case. The larger Jewish community should be ashamed of their partisan opposition to what is clearly in the best interests of the American Jewish community.

Other Government Relations Activities

Those who attended our successful June 12th Advocacy Mission to Washington, D.C. got an excellent taste of the Government Relations Department's work. Our luncheon featured 22 members of the Senate and House from both parties, and

every attendee had the opportunity to meet with their own Representative or Senator's staff. Unfortunately, a small number of House members refused to make a staff person available for a meeting, which is a sign of how far partisanship has progressed for individual House members. Feedback from the event indicates that participants had a very positive experience.

In addition to the headline-grabbing activities, the Government Relations team is serving on the National Task Force to Combat Antisemitism, and is participating in Project Esther, which is working to neutralize Hamas supporters in our country. We interface with other Jewish organizations in Washington, D.C., attend briefings related to Middle East foreign policy at think tanks, and sometimes participate in media events. We regularly brief the ZOA board and regional directors on issues related to our advocacy. 🇺🇸

D.C. Mission Pictorial



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) (left) with ZOA National Board Chair Rubin Margules



Rep. Tim Burchett (R-TN), Rep. Randy Fine (R-FL), and Morton Klein



Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)



Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D-FL) with Morton Klein



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)



Jackie Shafer, ZOA's Communications Manager



Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX)



Rep. Tim Sheehy (R-MN) and ZOA's Dan Pollak



Morton Klein with Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL)



Rep. Randy Fine (R-FL) with ZOA's Susan Tuchman



Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-MI)



Morton Klein



Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI)



Steve Feldman, Executive Director of Greater Philadelphia ZOA (on left) with other ZOA activists



ZOA Campus

Jonathan Ginsburg

Managing Director,
ZOA Campus

New England



Or Taylor

Associate Director,
ZOA Campus

West Coast Region



Ariana Hoblin

Campus Coordinator

Southeast Region



Wyatt Cirbo

Campus Coordinator

Midwest Region



ZOA Campus proudly continues its activism as the leading Zionist organization on American college campuses. The post-October 7th environment has created a new reality in which ZOA's message and impact have been more important than ever.

ZOA Campus initiatives focus on sharing the truth about Israel's just and defensive actions against Hamas terrorists and the Iranian-led terror network throughout the Middle East. ZOA was proud to host IDF soldiers on campus who shared their brave experiences fighting Hamas and Hezbollah and defending the Jewish people. In addition to focusing on Israel's geostrategic challenges in the region, the campus department hosted and co-sponsored events that educated students about Israel and built Jewish identity, such as film screenings, holiday celebrations, and student-led educational tablings.

ZOA Campus Fellowship

The 2024-2025 ZOA Campus Fellowship brought together a dedicated cohort of Zionist student leaders from colleges and universities across the United States. Our class of over 40 ZOA Campus Fellows – at schools such as UC Berkeley, Princeton University, UCLA, Tulane University, Boston University, Cornell University and Duke University – engaged their student communities through programs and events co-sponsored by ZOA.

Working with pro-Israel student groups and campus partners to host engaging and fact-based programs that countered anti-Israel falsehoods and the propagation of anti-Israel hate, ZOA Campus Fellows remained unbowed in their dedication to defending Jewish sovereignty and freedom and standing up for their own rights and community. Their resilience in confronting antisemitism and aggression from hate groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) inspired their peers and strengthened the wider Jewish and pro-Israel

campus community.

In addition, our Fellows hosted vibrant cultural events that celebrated Jewish unity, strength, and pride. ZOA Campus Fellows also worked to combat antisemitism through educational resources relating to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, and through community mobilization and grassroots outreach that exposed the hateful, antisemitic agenda of the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement.

The 2024-2025 ZOA Campus Fellowship brought together a dedicated cohort of Zionist student leaders from colleges and universities across the United States.

Regional Highlights

Northeast

Under Managing Director Jonathan Ginsburg's leadership, ZOA Campus built new relationships and co-sponsored a variety of impactful and educational programs in the region. At Boston University (BU), ZOA Campus co-sponsored educational film screenings, lectures, and celebrations of Israeli culture. Our ZOA Campus Fellow at BU worked in partnership with BU Students for Israel (BUSI) and BU Hillel, to mobilize the Jewish and pro-Israel communities on campus against a BDS proposal demanding that the university sever ties with Israeli companies. In February 2025, BU's Board of Trustees rejected the proposal. Closing out the calendar year, ZOA co-sponsored a Yom Ha'atzmaut BBQ event in partnership with IAC Mishelanu at BU Hillel.



ZOA Campus Fellow at Northeastern University tabling with ZOA materials during Israel Week

At Salem State University, ZOA co-sponsored a powerful event featuring Shabbos Kestenbaum, a graduate of Harvard Divinity School who sued Harvard for failing to protect Jewish and Israeli students from campus antisemitism and who received the Myron Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Student Activism at ZOA's annual gala in 2024. The event focused on exposing campus antisemitism and

empowering the Jewish community to take action. ZOA Campus also co-sponsored various high impact events at Northeastern University, including an Israeli shuk in partnership with Northeastern Hillel as part of its Israel Week programs.

The Tri-State and Upstate New York areas also served as hubs of robust pro-Israel campus activity. Students proudly hosted various well-attended pro-Is-

rael events, including ZOA's co-sponsorship of NYU's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration in Washington Square Park in collaboration with Students Supporting Israel (SSI) and Realize Israel; and impactful programs at Pace University, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, the City College of New York, Rutgers University, Binghamton University, and Cornell University.

West Coast

Under the guidance and leadership of Or Taylor, ZOA Campus Associate Director and West Coast Campus Coordinator, ZOA Fellows at UC Davis, UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, and California Polytechnic State University hosted dynamic programs and effectively countered anti-Zionist efforts, including anti-Israel encampments and BDS campaigns. Most notably at UCSB, in partnership with ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, our ZOA Fel-

low played a key role in successfully halting a BDS resolution.

Across the region, ZOA Campus helped organize powerful programming in response to the October 7th massacre, including one-year memorials and impactful testimonies from Israeli soldiers and survivors. Other highlights included a Krav Maga self-defense workshop, renowned pro-Israel British barrister Natasha Hausdorff's legal seminar at Pepperdine University, appearances by Ethio-

pian-Israeli pro-Israel activist Ashager Araro, and seminars from renowned Middle East scholar Dr. Mordechai Kedar.

Or Taylor led intensive, strategy-focused advocacy training events across the West Coast, giving students the tools to dismantle anti-Israel propaganda and proudly represent the truth about Zionism and the Jewish state. This included an "Arguments in Action" workshop with UCSD Hillel, Tritons for Israel, and CAMERA.



ZOA Campus Fellow tabling at UCLA



Israel Week at California Polytechnic State University

Southeast

ZOA Campus Southeast Coordinator Ariana Hoblin actively engaged students and campus allies across multiple states. From Florida to Texas to Virginia, ZOA Campus organized key events that brought Israel education and Jewish pride to hundreds of students. The Southeast region remained unique, experiencing minimal anti-Israel incidents this year – a reflection of the strong relationships ZOA has built with students, administrators, and community partners, particularly in Florida. In Tallahassee, ZOA Campus participated in the second annual Israel Day at the Florida

State Capitol, standing alongside elected officials and student advocates in celebration of the U.S.–Israel relationship.

ZOA Campus also hosted successful World Zionist Congress (WZC) voting events, including a program featuring Yaakov Hagoel, Chairman of the World Zionist Organization, at the University of Miami, in partnership with SSI. Students were energized at ZOA's "We Will Dance Again" evening at the University of Central Florida, along with programs at the University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University, University of Texas-Austin, and other schools.



"We Will Dance Again" event at University of Central Florida

Midwest

Under the guidance of ZOA Midwest Campus Coordinator Wyatt Cirbo, the campus department cultivated a strong network of student and professional activists across the region. In January 2025, when two IDF soldiers spoke at Ohio State University (OSU) as part of a ZOA co-sponsored event at OSU Chabad, the antisemitic SJP responded by organizing large anti-Israel protests. Actor and pro-Israel activist Michael Rapaport saw media coverage of the protests and expressed interest in speaking to the students on campus. In response, ZOA Campus staff reached out to Mr. Rapaport and coordinated one of our biggest events of the year. In collaboration with OSU Chabad, ZOA

organized a premier event that included a dinner with Mr. Rapaport, followed by a lecture and Q&A session at OSU Chabad that drew over 200 Jewish students.

At Ohio University, ZOA proudly co-sponsored a separate

event titled "Courage and Sacrifice" with OU Chabad, where two IDF soldiers visited campus and shared their harrowing and heroic experiences fighting Hamas terrorists in Gaza. At St. Louis University, our ZOA Cam-



ZOA's Wyatt Cirbo (left) and our ZOA Campus Fellow at Ohio State University with Michael Rapaport (center)



Michael Rapaport speaking to students at Ohio State University

pus Fellow organized vigils for the hostages in Gaza and testified before the Missouri Senate in support of legislation combating antisemitism in Missouri schools. At the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign,

ZOA supported several initiatives, including WZC “Get Out the Vote” programs, anti-BDS tabling events, and a shuk event celebrating Israeli culture. Additional standout events in the Midwest included Yom Ha’atzmaut

festivities at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, both in partnership with Hillel, and an educational Israeli wine tasting event at Miami University of Ohio with MU Chabad.

Winter 2024-2025 Student Leadership Mission to Israel

ZOA Campus, in partnership with SSI, hosted a successful Winter 2024-2025 ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel, bringing together student leaders from across the country. This Mission was more meaningful and important than ever, due to the war and the aftermath of October 7th, as well as the difficult campus climate that many Jewish and pro-Israel students are facing.

Our 25 student participants came from schools such as UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA, Florida State University, Binghamton University, George Washington University, American University, and Rutgers University. The challenges created by the ongoing war did not diminish their passion for Israel.

Over the course of our seven-day mission, students traveled throughout Israel, including to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Judea and Samaria, and many

strategic border regions. They heard from expert speakers such as security officials, journalists, policy experts, and more.

These students – already courageous and driven to fight anti-Israelism and antisemitism – gained even more knowledge from their first-hand experiences in Israel, readying them to more effectively defend Israel and the civil rights of Jewish students on their respective campuses.

ZOA Campus Summer Internship

In the summer of 2025, ZOA Campus hosted its annual summer student internship program, a hybrid on-site and remote internship based out of ZOA’s national headquarters in New York City. Our summer interns worked closely with campus department staff to develop new resources and educational materials for use on campus. They also worked on enhancing their own Israel advocacy and communication skills. Our student interns attend Elon University, Texas A&M, and the University of Delaware.

ZOA Campus hosted a successful Student Leadership Mission to Israel, bringing together student leaders from across the country. 🇺🇸



Around the Country

ZOA in New York City Israel Day Parade



ZOA Launches New Young Professionals Initiative in NYC

ZOA National hosted an inspirational event to kick off its new Young Professionals program, led by Jackie Shafer, ZOA Communications Manager. The event was entitled, “Songs of the Diaspora: Ladino Night,” featuring a Ladino-language musical performance by singer/guitarist Abram Kaplan, followed by an uplifting discussion about how we as a community can pave a new direction for American Jewish culture.

Guests were welcomed with a wine and cheese reception at the ZOA's elegant national headquarters in New York City. Then the program began with a brief introduction to the history of Ladino music, and an explanation of the meaning behind each song that Abram Kaplan performed. He began his set with *Mi Shebeirach* and concluded with *Acheinu*, a Jewish prayer calling for the release of captives.

As the event concluded, participants enjoyed dessert and mingled before leaving the ZOA office. The lobby was full of young Zionists expressing excitement over the content of this program and the desire to be part of ZOA's newest cultural initiative. We look forward to hosting future “Songs of the Diaspora” events, as well as other exciting programs that are in the works. To learn more, please contact Jackie Shafer at jshafer@zoa.org.



ZOA Florida

A Year of Impact

This past year has been one of powerful advocacy, community engagement, and unwavering commitment to defending the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Here are just a few highlights from ZOA Florida's impactful programming:

August 2024

We hosted a Krav Maga self-defense event in partnership with Boca Raton Synagogue. This initiative, spurred by the rise in antisemitic attacks, provided participants with vital tools to feel empowered and protected.

Also in August, Dan Pollak, ZOA's Director of Government Relations, toured Florida, speaking in Maitland, Orlando, Fleming Island, and Jacksonville. Dan energized ZOA and Israel supporters with critical policy updates and insights.

To close out the month, we hosted a ZOA Young Adult event featuring Jewish comedian Chani Lisbon, blending comedy with community building.

September 2024

Ariana Hoblin, our passionate ZOA Southeast Campus Coordinator, addressed a group in Sarasota about the escalating campus war against Israel and Jews—and how ZOA is actively protecting students on the front lines.



Allison Zur

ZOA Florida Executive Director

December 2024

ZOA was honored to host the first group tour at the Nova Music Festival Exhibition in Miami. We heard firsthand from a survivor of the brutal October 7th attack, a powerful and emotional reminder of why we must steadfastly support Israel and ensure the Israeli people's safety and security.



ZOA's Ariana Hoblin

January 2025

ZOA National President Morton Klein was the keynote speaker at two major events hosted by the Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust, drawing over 1,000 attendees. Morton Klein and Susan Tuchman, Director of our Center for Law and Justice, also spoke at Alina Residences in Boca and later in Naples, educating audiences about ZOA's critical legal work defending the civil rights of Jewish students.

We continued engaging young professionals with a dynamic ZOA Young Adult event featuring Adela Cojab, a graduate of New York University who filed a complaint against the university for failing to effectively address antisemitism on campus. Adela inspired the next generation to speak up for Israel with confidence and pride.

Morton Klein was the keynote speaker at two major events hosted by the Gross Family Center, drawing over 1,000 attendees.

March 2025

In Fort Lauderdale, we welcomed Avi Abelow, host of the podcast *The Pulse of Israel*, who shared insights into Israel's security and sovereignty in Gaza. Later that month, Akiba Covitz, ZOA Strategist, presented in Parkland and Naples on U.S.-Israel relations and ZOA's expanding campus efforts.



Rabbi Mendy Gutnik, ZOA's Akiba Covitz, Ceci Azus-Serphos, and ZOA's Allison Zur in Parkland, FL

April 2025

ZOA Florida hosted a unique Israeli wine tasting led by Adam Scott Bellos, founder of the Israel Innovation Fund. Guests explored the connection between Israeli culture, language, and self-empowerment.



Josh Hammer (second from left) with Allison Zur, ZOA National Board Member Sheryl Silver, and Morton Klein

May 2025

We welcomed Josh Hammer, Senior Editor-at-Large at Newsweek, for an engaging discussion about his new book – *Israel and Civilization, The Fate of the Jewish Nation and the Destiny of the West* – and Israel's critical role in defending Western civilization.



Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL) (center) with Allison Zur and the ZOA Florida delegation at ZOA's Advocacy Mission in Washington, D.C.

June 2025

ZOA Florida proudly joined ZOA's annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission in Washington, D.C., where our delegation met with over 20 lawmakers to discuss antisemitism, the Iranian threat, and the dangers posed by a Palestinian Arab terror state.



Record-Breaking Turnout at ZOA's Annual Florida Superstar Gala

On March 30, 2025, ZOA Florida proudly hosted its annual Florida Superstar Gala in West Palm Beach, welcoming a record-breaking crowd of approximately 430 passionate ZOA and Israel supporters. The evening was a powerful tribute to unwavering dedication to Israel, the Jewish people, and the fight against antisemitism.

This year's esteemed honorees included:

Danny Danon, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, who received ZOA's Bernie Marcus/Michael Leven Award for Outstanding Pro-Israel Diplomacy, and was introduced by distinguished business executive and Zionist Mike Leven.

U.S. Representative Byron Donalds (R-FL), who received ZOA's Robert Kasowitz Outstanding Patriot and Pro-Israel Congressman Award – named for the late father of lawyer extraordinaire Marc Kasowitz – and was introduced by committed philanthropist and Israel supporter Barbara Feingold.

Lauren Gross, Director of the Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust, and member of the ZOA Florida Advisory Board, who received ZOA's Zionist Hero Award, and was introduced by David Milstein, senior advisor to U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee.

Alan Dershowitz, renowned attorney, political commentator, and Harvard Law School professor emeritus, received the Louis D. Brandeis Defender of Israel Award, and was introduced by author and TV/radio talk show host Mark Levin.

Rabbi Moshe Scheiner, founding rabbi of Palm Beach Synagogue, who received the ZOA Pillar of the Community Award, and was introduced by distinguished philanthropist and real estate pioneer Gary Schottenstein.

The evening was emceed by Siggy Flicker, JEXIT spokesperson and staunch Zionist, whose energy and passion set the tone for an inspiring night.

A particularly moving moment came from student speaker Mia Blachman, who shared her deeply personal experience with antisemitism at Emerson College – and how ZOA was the only organization to stand by her side.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our 2025 Gala Co-Chairs Bob and Elaine Guzzardi and Howard and Kathy Rensin, whose dedication helped make this event such a tremendous success.



Mia Blachman



Siggy Flicker



Amb. Danny Danon, Michael Leven, Morton Klein, and Allison Zur



Allison Zur, Mark Levin, Alan Dershowitz, and Morton Klein



Ezra Hans, Rep. Byron Donalds, and Morton Klein



Lauren Gross



David Milstein, Lauren Gross, Allison Zur, and Morton Klein



Lewis Stahl and Morton Klein



Dr. Craig Deligdish, Rep. Byron Donalds, and Morton Klein



Barbara Feingold, Rep. Byron Donalds, Marc Kasowitz, Esq., Morton Klein, and Allison Zur



Professor Alan Dershowitz



Robert Meyer



Adam Margules and ZOA National Board Chair Rubin Margules



Alan Dershowitz, Morton Klein, Amb. Danny Danon, Keith Wasserstrom, and Julius Jackson



Marlene Sandler, Rita Klein, and Terri Schottenstein



Amb. Danny Danon



ZOA's Allison Zur and Alan Jay



Mark Levin and Siggy Flicker



Gary Schottenstein, Rabbi Moshe Scheiner, Morton Klein, and Allison Zur



Barbara & Ronald Zukin



David Milstein, Helene & Lewis Stahl, Morton Klein, and Mark Levin



Erika Donalds, Rep. Byron Donalds, and Barbara Feingold

Thanks also to:

ZOA Florida's Advisory Board Members:

Aliette Abo
Marc Abo
Richard Cravatts
Dr. Craig Deligdish
Lauren Gross
Bob Guzzardi
Allen Hamaoui

Bernard Hasten
Sergio Heumann
Steven Kruh
Marian Kruss
Paul Kruss
Eytan Laor
Dr. Dan Layish

Michael Marcus
Howard Rensin
Kathy Rensin
Brent Rubin
Isabelle Sherman
Sheryl Silver
Helene Stahl

Lewis Stahl
Shelly Tuchman
Yitz Tuchman
Keith Wasserstrom
Madelyn Zelman
Danny Zelman

ZOA Florida's Young Adult Steering Committee Members (21-45 years old):

Ziv Baron
Harry Cohen
Tyler Fokshner
Matt Franzblau
Melissa Kelman
Justin Lakritz
Ryan Lundy

Sabrina Muldoon
Abigail Pleeter
Jenna Rodier
Amit Sapir
Tara Stiel
Jordan Weiden

Interested in getting involved and making an impact? Please reach out to Allison Zur: azur@zoa.org

ZOA Michigan

Exposing Antisemitism at the University of Michigan

ZOA Michigan submitted a report to the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce ahead of the Committee's May 2, 2025, hearing titled "Beyond the Ivy League: Stopping the Spread of Antisemitism on American Campuses."

The report exposes a disturbing pattern of antisemitic incidents at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) from 2021 through April 2025, and details ZOA Michigan's advocacy for Jewish students.



Kobi Erez

ZOA Michigan Executive Director

Key Incidents

2021–2022

- Swastikas and antisemitic graffiti defaced student dormitories and bathrooms.
- Jewish students wearing Stars of David or Hebrew jewelry were targeted with verbal abuse.

2023

- Protesters disrupted a campus event with Vice President Kamala Harris, chanting "Long live the intifada."
- Swastikas and antisemitic slurs were spray-painted on fraternity houses with large Jewish memberships.
- After the October 7 Hamas attacks, anti-Israel demonstrations escalated.
- Jewish students were harassed at rallies with chants of "Nazi liberation."
- Antisemitic flyers appeared in dorms.
- Jewish events were disrupted; students wearing Stars of David were followed.
- Pro-Hamas encampments appeared on campus.
- Posters glorifying Hamas were displayed.

2024

- Flyers equating the Star of David with a swastika were found outside the Hillel building.
- Protesters disrupted graduation ceremonies with chants of "You are funding genocide."
- University Regent Jordan Acker's home was defaced with antisemitic graffiti.
- A Jewish student was physically assaulted near campus after he was asked if he was Jewish.
- Protestors disrupted a lecture at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, chanting "Zionism is a crime."
- A diversity, equity and inclusion administrator stated that Jews "control the university" and denied Jewish ties to Israel.

ZOA's Advocacy

ZOA Michigan – with critical support from the ZOA Center for Law and Justice – has led the charge in exposing these incidents and pressing for institutional change.

Our actions included:

- Submitting multiple letters to the University (in Dec. 2023, Mar. 2024, Aug. 2024, and Sept. 2024), demanding accountability.
- Documenting threats, harassment, and the intimidation of Jewish students.
- Calling for the University to investigate and revoke the recognition of two anti-Israel student groups, Students Allied for Freedom and Equality (SAFE) and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), given their glorification of the October 7 terror attacks and their support for Hamas.
- Amplifying the concerns of hundreds of Jewish parents alarmed about their children's safety.
- Working with the University's Raoul Wallenberg Institute to promote stronger campus protections and advocating for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, a critical tool in identifying and combating modern antisemitism.

Through all these actions, ZOA Michigan is

ensuring that the University administration effectively addresses antisemitism and protects the rights of Jewish students.

Broader Context and Community Response

The University of Michigan has seen a sharp statewide rise in religious hate crimes, climbing from 52 in 2021–2022, to 71 in 2023 (U.S. DOJ Hate Crime Statistics).

In response, Jewish students at the University of Michigan created “Shmira” (Hebrew for “guardian”), a volunteer safety patrol that began escorting fellow Jewish students due to growing fears of harassment and violence.

Why This Matters

The ZOA report to Congress did not just raise awareness. It also sparked action. Media outlets took notice, the U.S. Department of Education issued formal warnings to the University, SAFE was suspended, and Jewish students finally felt seen and supported.

The ZOA's report to Congress did not just raise awareness. It also sparked action.

ZOA Michigan Welcomes Widows of Fallen IDF Soldiers to Michigan

In a powerful show of solidarity with Israel and its bereaved families, ZOA Michigan and Bais Chabad Torah Center of West Bloomfield partnered to bring 12 widows of fallen IDF soldiers to Michigan for a deeply moving and impactful visit. This meaningful initiative came in response to the devastating toll of the October 7 massacre

and Israel's ongoing war. The program provided these courageous women with a chance to rest, recharge, and connect with one another in a warm and supportive environment. At the same time, the program inspired the Michigan Jewish community and deepened their connection to Israel's heroes and their families.

By sharing their stories, these women offered powerful reminders of the strength, sacrifice, and resilience of the Israeli people.

“The resilience and courage of these widows reflect the very essence of the Jewish story, rising from tragedy to triumph.”

**ZOA MICHIGAN DIRECTOR
KOBI EREZ**

Stories of Courage

One of the most moving moments of the visit was a special evening held at the J-Detroit Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield, titled “Stories of Courage.” The event drew a large crowd and featured firsthand testimony from the visiting widows, giving the Michigan community an opportunity to hear their personal stories of tragedy, hope, and faith.

Speaking at the event, ZOA Michigan Executive Director Kobi Erez shared:

The resilience and courage of these widows reflect the very essence of the Jewish story, rising from tragedy to triumph. From slavery in Egypt, we became a nation.

After 2,000 years of exile, we never lost our faith or our dream of returning to the Land of Israel. From the ashes of the Holocaust, we built a thriving Jewish state. And from the horrors of October 7, we will once again rise—with strength, purpose, and unwavering commitment to the good in this world.

That’s why you are here tonight. Not just to be informed – but to be inspired. Because we are all part of something much greater than ourselves. We are continuing the mission of our ancestors. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters in Israel and across the world.



Hodaya Avraham and her children

Each widow carried a unique and painful story. Some lost their husbands in combat. Others, like Irit Ben Arye, lost loved ones to the invisible wounds of trauma. Irit’s husband, Haim – an IDF bus driver – took his own life just weeks after evacuating survivors from Kibbutz Be’eri.

“There was a silence on the bus full of children that he could never un-hear,” Irit Ben Arye said. “We want to share his story to honor how much joy and love he brought into the world.”

A Week of Renewal and Connection

The itinerary included horseback riding, boating, sightseeing, shopping, and a special tribute event with the West Bloomfield Police Department, honoring fallen heroes in both Israel and the United States.

While their children were cared for back in Israel, the women found space to grieve and heal, surrounded by the warmth, hospitality, and love of the Michigan Jewish community.

Through this partnership, ZOA Michigan and Bais Chabad not only supported grieving Israeli families but also brought their stories of courage to life for hundreds of local community members, strengthening bonds, building empathy, and reinforcing our shared commitment to Israel.

Community Briefings on Israel's War and Strategic Future

In recent months, ZOA Michigan hosted a series of powerful community briefings in West Bloomfield, each drawing over 200 engaged attendees. These events brought together leading voices in Israeli defense, policy, and advocacy, uniting the community around truth, strategy, and unwavering support for Israel during this time of crisis.

Strategic Analysis with Brigadier General (Res.) Amir Avivi

Brigadier General (Res.) Amir Avivi – former Commander of the IDF Gaza Division and Director of the IDF Chief of Staff's Office – delivered an expert anal-

ysis of Israel's expanding multi-front war. Drawing on decades of high-level military service and national security leadership, General Avivi offered an insider's perspective on the threats facing Israel – from Gaza and Lebanon to Iran and beyond – and outlined a bold, uncompromising vision for securing Israel's future.

Vision for Victory with ZOA's Kobi Erez

At a standing-room-only event at Bais Chabad of West Bloomfield, ZOA Michigan Executive Director Kobi Erez delivered a powerful presentation on the long-term consequences of the “land for peace” strategy and the 2005 Gaza disengagement, linking those decisions directly to the horrors of October 7th.

Erez warned that the same failed logic is now being promoted regarding Judea and Samaria. He laid out a clear path

forward: first, restore deterrence, by ensuring that terrorism leads to the loss of land—not rewards; and second, strengthen security, by establishing a permanent IDF presence and rebuilding Jewish communities in Gaza, following the proven model of Judea and Samaria.

Understanding the Arab World with Dr. Mordechai Kedar

Dr. Mordechai Kedar, senior researcher at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and retired lecturer in Arabic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, is one of Israel's foremost experts on the Arab world. In his enlightening and hard-hitting talk, Dr. Kedar analyzed shifting dynamics across the Middle East and offered a candid and eye-opening assessment of the challenges and opportunities facing Israel today.



ZOA's Kobi Erez; Brigadier General (Res.) Amir Avivi; and Sheldon L. Freilich, ZOA Michigan president



Kobi Erez speaking at Bais Chabad of West Bloomfield

Greater Philadelphia ZOA

Tackling Jew-Hatred As Only ZOA Can, in Philadelphia and Beyond

The Greater Philadelphia region has been an epicenter of anti-Jewish activity, from anti-Jewish indoctrination and bias in city and suburban school districts, libraries and other government agencies; to weekly (and more often) public anti-Jewish demonstrations in the streets; to a constant stream of anti-Jewish activity on social media emanating from our area; and even threats of violence against Zionists from local anti-Jewish activists. An anti-Jewish demonstration in January 2025 at Philadelphia City Hall even featured a banner celebrating the Palestinian Arab slaughter, raping and kidnapping of Israelis on October 7, 2023.

As we have been doing for decades, Greater Philadelphia ZOA has been proactive in seeking to expose, mitigate and defeat this anti-Jewish activity. Though we are smaller than the establishment groups, we make up for it with our tenacity and experience. And while newer small ad-hoc groups pop up to respond to new anti-Jewish activity, some



Steve Feldman

Greater Philadelphia ZOA Executive Director

As we have been doing for decades, Greater Philadelphia ZOA has been proactive in seeking to expose, mitigate and defeat anti-Jewish activity.

of them reach out to us for our wisdom and strategic thinking. We welcome all individual activists and organizations to join us in our educational and advocacy endeavors. We have seen far too vividly that miseducation, propaganda and incitement are deadly and endanger Zionists from all walks of life.

Some of our activities to expose and fight Jew-hatred, and to go on the offensive in educating and safeguarding the community, are detailed below.

Our First-Ever State Lobbying Mission

In May, Greater Philadelphia ZOA sponsored a groundbreaking Harrisburg Lobbying Mission. Local officials have been unwilling to address and freeze anti-Jewish activity in education. At our lobbying mission, we urged state lawmakers to intervene since they have oversight and appropriate funding for schools.

More than two dozen Pennsylvanians – including individuals from our region, Pittsburgh, York and Harrisburg – convened at the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg, where we met with nine lawmakers (and/or staff) including chairs and minority chairs of key committees and other influential legislators. We apprised them of dangerous anti-fact and anti-Jewish activity in Pennsylvania's K-12 schools, colleges and universities. We presented the lawmakers with kits featuring 16 full-color prints from social media depicting examples of anti-Jewish/anti-fact activities in schools. The kits also showed how educators are spreading and intensifying anti-Jewish and anti-fact indoctrination and incitement.

We appealed to the lawmakers to hold committee hearings to investigate these activities, and to consider legislation that



ZOA activists at the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg

would address and remedy what is occurring in schools. The lawmakers and staff were visibly shocked and appalled by what we shared with them. While the incitement and indoctrination at colleges and universities have gotten much attention, this conduct directed to younger Pennsylvanians was entirely new to lawmakers.

We delivered Greater Philadelphia ZOA's information packets to an additional dozen state lawmakers, and we sent emails to our extensive list of supporters, encouraging them to contact their respective state senators and house members about these matters.

We will continue to follow up with state lawmakers to draw their attention to the anti-fact and anti-Jewish activities which endanger Jews and others and



ZOA's Steve Feldman (right) with ZOA activists at the State Capitol

which threaten the cohesiveness of American society. We hope our Harrisburg Lobbying Mission will be an annual event.

Urging the Governor to Combat Jew-Hatred

In April 2025, Greater Philadelphia ZOA partnered with ZOA's Pittsburgh chapter and ZOA National President Morton Klein in sending a letter to Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, challenging his decision to award a \$5 million grant to a virulently anti-Jewish Islamic center in Philadelphia. The ZOA's letter called on the Governor to rescind the grant, stating:

Leaders of the Al-Aqsa Islamic Society in Philadelphia have literally erased Israel from the map; they promote lies about Jews so as to incite Jew-hatred; they promote events and speakers that are viciously anti-Jewish; they perpetuate the false narrative that the Palestinian-Ar-

abs of the Gaza Strip are the victims of Israeli aggression when in fact it was the Gazans who perpetrated the massive slaughters, rapes and savagery against Israelis on Oct, 7, 2023 and who still hold captive dozens including an American citizen as well as the remains of dozens more Israelis.

This mosque has additionally promoted the lies that the Jewish People committed ethnic cleansing of "Palestinian"-Arabs, occupy "Arab" lands, destroyed hundreds of Arab communities, carried out genocide and commit "apartheid." The only reason for spreading such outrageous and demonstrably false claims is to incite Jew-hatred, and the reasons to incite Jew-hatred are to instigate violence against Jews and Jewish institutions and also to motivate political activity against those who support Jewish self-determination and the well-being of Jews.

Five million dollars is a huge sum of money. It will enable such a mosque and its school to foment even more Jew-hatred throughout their community as well as throughout our region, and to indoctrinate even more young Muslims against Jews and Israel.

... If there is a mechanism for you to rescind this grant – all of it – we call on you to do so. A grant of this magnitude – even were it somehow used for good – frees up other funds for the mosque and school to foment more Jew-hatred and anti-Jewish incitement at a time when American Jews and Jewish institutions are experiencing the worst Jew-hatred in generations.

Governor Shapiro did not respond.

City of Anti-Jewish Hatred, Not Brotherly Love

In January 2025, Greater Philadelphia ZOA wrote to Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker, requesting that she condemn a virulently anti-Jewish demonstration that took place in and around City Hall. During the demonstration, a banner proclaiming “Long Live October 7th” was displayed right outside Mayor Parker’s window. Demonstrators wore pro-Hamas garb and held Palestine Liberation Organization flags.

We called on the Mayor to work with us on addressing the anti-Jewish wave that has swept over Philadelphia.

We also called on Mayor Parker to work with us on addressing the anti-Jewish wave that has swept over Philadelphia, including in city departments and agencies that the Mayor oversees. The ZOA’s letter stated:

As mayor, you are the leader of the city of Philadelphia. Philadelphia cannot be the City of Brotherly Love when some Philadelphians support deliberate, pre-meditated murder, rape and hostage-taking of fellow Americans and of Jews.

Mayor Parker did not respond.

Safety First

To promote community safety and security, Greater Philadelphia ZOA has offered additional self-defense and first aid classes in the region. Taught by a certified instructor, the classes familiarize participants with situational awareness, techniques to secure their families and homes, and various kinds of firearms, and they provide “Stop the Bleed” first aid training. If you are interested in taking the course or hosting one, please call us at (610) 660-9466.

Out & About

Greater Philadelphia ZOA’s audiovisual presentation, “The Many Sources of Jew-Hatred and What You Can Do About Them,” was recently presented at Chabad of Camden and Burlington Counties in Cherry Hill. We are grateful to Rabbi Mangel for hosting us. The presentation explores the many and diverse populations that target and try to harm the Jewish community, and it provides advocacy strategies and tactics to effectively respond to these problems.

Executive Director Steve Feldman was a guest lecturer for a continuing education class at the University of Delaware’s Wilmington campus.

In early 2025, we again dispatched our “Information Ambulance” to “rescue” the truth and help combat local anti-Jewish activity. The LED panel truck is both a pro-active and defensive educational and messaging tool.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA has been a frequent guest on “The Dom Giordano Show,” heard weekdays from noon to 3 p.m. on 1210 AM WPHT.



ZOA’s “Information Ambulance”

Remembering Board Member Judith Krupnick

Greater Philadelphia ZOA mourns the passing of our long-time board member and 2024 Pillar of the Community Award recipient, Judith Krupnick. We are grateful that we were able to celebrate Judith and give her the recognition she so richly deserved. Judith was a generous supporter of our chapter and an irreplaceable benefactor throughout the Jewish community, particularly in South Jersey. May her memory be for a blessing. And may her loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Yerushalayim.

More Appreciation

Our 2025 Night of Appreciation is scheduled for September 17, 2025, when we will be bringing the local pro-Israel community together for an evening to celebrate patriotism and Zionism and the mutually beneficial

Over a dozen activists from the region participated in ZOA's annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission.



Steve Feldman, Rabbi Mendy Mangel, Rich Zeola, and Judith Krupnick holding her Pillar of the Community Award

relationship between the U.S. and Israel. We will be honoring communal leaders Steve and Elaine Crane, who will receive our Pillars of the Community Award; Pennsylvania State Treasurer Stacy Garrity, who will receive our Defender of Israel Award; and the Heritage Foundation's Dr. Victoria Coates, who will receive our Ben Hecht Award for Outstanding Journalism. We will also celebrate the United States Constitution on the anniversary of its ratification.

Up on the Hill

More than a dozen activists from Greater Philadelphia went to Washington, D.C. in June 2025 to participate in National ZOA's annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission. We met with federal lawmakers' staff to thank lawmakers for co-sponsoring bills and resolutions that are vitally important to America and Israel, and to encourage lawmakers to co-sponsor additional legislative items that help promote the safety and security of Israel and the Jewish people.



Greater Philadelphia ZOA's delegation at the Advocacy Mission in Washington, D.C.

ZOA Pittsburgh



Stuart Pavilack

ZOA Pittsburgh Executive Director

ZOA Pittsburgh's Scholarship to Israel Program

Established in 1962, with endowments from Pittsburgh families, ZOA Pittsburgh offered three \$1,000 scholarships to Jewish high school juniors and seniors living in the community who will be attending structured summer study trips to Israel. The scholarships are awarded

based on students' records of volunteerism and their essays on "What Israel and Zionism mean to me." A committee ranks each application, and the three highest scoring students are awarded scholarships.

These are the ZOA Pittsburgh scholarship recipients for 2025:

Rachel Eisenberg

Rachel Eisenberg will be attending the NCSY camp named Israel ID. In her essay, Rachel wrote, "The feel of a building full of Jewish youth is electric. Their backgrounds can be different, but the single commonality is their Judaism. So much more so a country full of Jewish youth, amplifies this feeling. Israel is the Jewish homeland; our backstory, our family, our history, and our current existence connect us to the land of Israel."



Caleb Knoll

Caleb Knoll will be attending Mach Hach BaAretz, Bnei Aki-va's summer tour of Israel for teens. In his essay, Caleb wrote, "This past year and a half has exposed just how deep antisemitism and anti-Zionism run . . . I want to connect with the land, my people, and my history. I want to strengthen my bond so that when it's my turn to stand up for Israel, I'll be ready — not just with knowledge, but with firsthand experience."



Eliora Marcus

Eliora Marcus will also be attending the NCSY-Israel ID camp. Eliora wrote in her essay, "I have never really travelled around the country and experienced firsthand the beauty and geography of the land . . . [After this trip] I will not only know about the history and geography but will be familiar with those places too. I will finally be home, experiencing everything I have been dreaming about."



ZOA Pittsburgh is proud to offer these scholarships generously endowed by Avraham and Patti Anouchi, z”l; Harold and Marla Scheinman; the late Thelma Esman; the late Bernard and Esther Klionsky; and the Novick family, in loving memory of the late Ivan and Natalie Novick. Ivan was a past national president of ZOA.

ZOA Pittsburgh at the First Harrisburg Lobbying Mission

ZOA Pittsburgh proudly supported Greater Philadelphia ZOA’s first mission to the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg. The mission addressed the huge problem of antisemitism in the Philadelphia public schools, which is an increasing concern in Pittsburgh, too. ZOA Pittsburgh Executive Director Stuart Pavilack and member Harold Lessure participated in the meetings.

ZOA Pittsburgh’s Kandy Ehrenwerth Memorial Lecture

On July 28, 2025, ZOA Pittsburgh sponsored its biennial Kandy Ehrenwerth Memorial Lecture at the JCC Levinson Hall, featuring Mitchell Bard, Ph.D., a foreign policy analyst and the executive director of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise. Dr. Bard’s topic was “American Colleges and Universities are Selling Out to Middle East Oil Money.” Almost 100 people attended the lecture.

According to Dr. Bard’s presentation, American colleges and universities have received almost 62 billion dollars in foreign funding. Fifteen billion of that amount has been spent in the U.S., with the remainder going toward building campuses in the Middle East.

ZOA Pittsburgh’s lecture series is named for Charlene “Kandy” Ehrenwerth who died tragically in a car accident in 1992. Kandy was an ardent Zionist and a long-time and active ZOA member. She was also a prominent trial attorney in Pittsburgh who championed human and civil rights protections.



ZOA's Stuart Pavilack (second from left) and Steve Feldman (second from right) with ZOA activists at the Pennsylvania State Capitol



Mitchell Bard, Ph.D.



Attendees at the Kandy Ehrenwerth Memorial Lecture



ZOA People

Robert Guzzardi, Esq.

ZOA National Board Member & Treasurer

ZOA National Board member and treasurer Robert Guzzardi is a passionate Jew and Zionist. His commitment to the ZOA is steadfast. But his path to Judaism, Zionism and the ZOA was not conventional.

Born in 1944 in Washington, D.C., Bob and his two brothers were raised Catholic. Bob's father was an engineer for the U.S. Navy. His mother was a secretary for the managing editor of Business Week magazine. After World War II ended, the family moved to Springfield, Pennsylvania, a Philadelphia suburb, where Bob's parents eventually built a real estate company together.

Growing up, Bob attended Catholic schools, graduating in 1963 from Saint Joseph's Preparatory School, which was rooted in Jesuit teachings. In 1966, he graduated with a philosophy degree from Georgetown University, the oldest Catholic and Jesuit university in the United States. Then Bob earned his law degree at Temple University. He joined a law firm and did mostly negligence work and some criminal defense work. Eventually,

he went out on his own and built a law practice in Center City, focusing on landlord tenant law and real estate transactions. After the death of his parents, Bob and his brothers became partners in Chancellor Properties LLC, which their parents founded.

In 1983, Bob married Elaine whom he describes as his "queen" and "helpmate." Two years later, their daughter Rachel was born. In 1988, they welcomed Samuel David to the family.

For several years, starting in the mid-2000s, Bob was involved in Pennsylvania state politics. In 2014, he considered running for Pennsylvania governor.

Zionism and Israel were not subjects that came up in Bob's family during his childhood. But his father had many Jewish friends who came from Brooklyn, New York, and those relationships had a significant impact on Bob. "My father's connection with his Jewish friends had something to do with my journey" to becoming a Zionist and a Jew, Bob said.

The first time that Israel

entered Bob's consciousness in a meaningful way was during the Six-Day War in 1967. Bob remembers meeting a friend from the YMHA who told him about the existential crisis that Israel was facing. "This friend was a post-World War II Jewish man, a tough guy who didn't get scared," Bob recalled. "But he was scared then. That was the first time I wrote a check – for \$100.00 – for Israel. Israel's victory in the war was miraculous."

Israel did not come up when Bob was in law school. "It wasn't an issue. Israel was a state," Bob said, "and no one was questioning that it was a good thing for the Jewish people." Again, personal relationships helped nurture Bob's interest in Judaism and the Jewish people's connection to Israel. Many of his law school friends were Jewish. They were "two-days-a-year Jews," Bob noted, attending synagogue only on the High Holidays, "but they knew they were Jewish, and they knew about antisemitism." Bob was struck by "the kind of community feeling" he experienced when he was with them. He liked them and they liked him.

“What I do for ZOA is what I really love. This is what I was made for. After wandering, I found my promised land.”

Bob’s wife Elaine is Jewish by birth. Bob had no emotional or religious attachment to Catholicism or Christianity. After their daughter Rachel was born, they agreed to join a synagogue. “Elaine said that children need religious training,” Bob explained. They joined Society Hill Synagogue, an unaffiliated synagogue, led by a Reconstructionist rabbi, that welcomed interfaith families.

Bob threw himself into learning about Judaism. He studied and took classes with the synagogue’s leader, Rabbi Ivan Caine, and had frequent conversations with Rabbi Caine. “Judaism appealed to me,” Bob said. “At some point after getting to know me, Rabbi Caine talked to me about how he saw me. ‘You believe in an interventionist God who cares what we do,’ Rabbi Caine told me. I thought that accurately described me then and I think it’s accurate now. Later, Rabbi Caine asked if I wanted to convert to Judaism, and told me about an Orthodox synagogue in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.”

In 1989, after he and Elaine

returned from their first mission to Israel, Bob completed his Orthodox conversion to Judaism. His interest in Judaism continued to flourish.

After relocating to Florida, Bob and Elaine joined an Orthodox synagogue in Florida. While he does not describe himself as observant, Bob is in shul every Saturday. “I get there at 9 a.m., go to class, attend the service, listen to the sermon and to the reciting of Kaddish. All of it became very meaningful to me. As time goes on, I become more observant.”

Bob explains that he became a Zionist first, which helped inspire his interest in and appreciation for Judaism. Now Bob’s commitment to Judaism is the reason for his Zionism. He identifies strongly with Jewish prayer calling for the return to Zion, the return of the Jewish people to their ancestral homeland in the Land of Israel.

It was around the time of the Oslo Accords, in the early 1990s, that Bob first became acquainted with the ZOA, specifically its Greater Philadelphia chapter. “The Oslo Accords worried me,” Bob explained. “They didn’t make sense.” He recalls reading an article about Israel written by ZOA National President Morton Klein whom he had not yet met. Mort’s words resonated with him.

When Bob was invited to attend a ZOA meeting in Philadelphia, he found his people. Steve Feldman, Executive Director of



Bob Guzzardi wrapping tefillin at Auschwitz with Rabbi Leibel Shmotkin

Greater Philadelphia ZOA, is “a terrific guy,” Bob said. “Everyone I met at ZOA were good people and I liked being around them. I felt a personal bond. Also, everyone there was aligned” when it came to Israel and the prospect of peace with the Arabs, “and felt the way I did.” Bob describes the “two-state solution” as “a delusion,” and – like him – “Mort Klein and ZOA saw through the delusion.”

Mort understood “how poisonous the delusions were” – not just the “two-state solution” but also that “settlements are the problem” and the obstacle to peace, Bob continued. The first time he heard Mort Klein speak, Mort’s words struck a chord: “I found Mort’s vision very clear and irrefutable. When Mort speaks about Israel, he makes perfect sense to me. His Zionism and his connection to the Jewish people are unwavering.

“It’s not a football rah-rah kind of Zionism for Mort and ZOA,” Bob explained. “There’s a religious imperative in Mort that I haven’t found elsewhere.



Elaine & Bob Guzzardi at the 2024 ZOA Gala in NYC



ZOA's Adam Turner and Bob Guzzardi at ZOA's 2025 D.C. Advocacy Mission



Bob Guzzardi and ZOA's Allison Zur

No one makes the argument for Zionism the way Mort does. He makes sense in a logical, factual, almost scientific way.”

When Bob and Elaine lived in Philadelphia, their home was not far from Mort and Rita Klein’s home, and Bob got to know them personally. That also helped build Bob’s admiration and affection for both Mort and Rita, as well as his connection to the ZOA. “Mort’s got a great sense of humor and is very down-to-earth and unpretentious,” Bob said. “So is Rita.” It also fueled Bob’s respect for Mort’s leadership: “What Mort has done is amazing. He’s been a strong and consistent leader for the past 30 years. Mort is the most important Zionist in America – and it’s unfortunate that others don’t appreciate this.”

Bob was equally effusive about the ZOA. “There is no organization like ZOA,” he said.

“Everything that ZOA says and stands for makes perfect sense to me.” Bob is an active member of the organization, serving on the ZOA’s National Board of Directors for over 10 years. In October 2024, the Board elected him as treasurer, a position he still holds today.

Bob is a regular at ZOA events and programs. He attended this year’s Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission in Washington, D.C. and was a consistent presence at the mission in previous years when he lived in Philadelphia. He also frequently attended National ZOA’s annual gala in Manhattan and the annual gala hosted by Greater Philadelphia when he was a Philadelphia resident. Now that Bob and Elaine live in Florida, they regularly attend the ZOA Florida Gala and other events. At this year’s gala in March 2025, Bob and Elaine were the gala co-chairs together

with Kathy and Howard Rensin.

Bob has made several visits to Israel. He and Elaine were there most recently in May 2025, when they participated in the March of the Living with their synagogue, Palm Beach Synagogue. They went to Poland where they visited the death camps, and to Israel where they met with former innocent hostages taken by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and with individuals who have lost family members in the Gaza war.

Chuckling, Bob said, “I closed my law practice in 1999, and I’m not sure what I’ve done since. I never really had affection for the law.” He found his calling at his synagogue and at ZOA: “I’m happy to be part of the organization. What I do for ZOA is what I really love. This is what I was made for. After wandering, I found my promised land.” 🇺🇸

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What They're Saying About the ZOA



Mort, I want to publicly acknowledge that you and ZOA have been right about everything and my views are now closer to yours than they've ever been.

Amb. Michael Oren at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents in Israel, February 2025



You're one of the most effective and important voices that we have on [Israel]. That's why I love the ZOA, I love what you do, I love your effectiveness, and I want to say to our audience, the ZOA is the most effective, as well as the oldest pro-Zionist organization in the world.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, November 2023



Mort Klein shows what real leadership is. There are a very select, few Jewish nonprofits that amplify the voices of Jewish students. In that, ZOA stands alone.

Shabbos Kestenbaum, renowned student activist who sued Harvard University for failing to protect its Jewish students from campus antisemitism, December 2024



Mort is fearless. He goes after anybody who goes after the Jewish people and the state of Israel. . . . You [Mort] are the only stand-up guy I know who's not afraid of slings and arrows that people throw at you.

Bernie Marcus, z"l, co-founder of Home Depot, December 2022

Shana Tova

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

