



ZOA REPORT

FALL 2026























A PUBLICATION OF THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

FOUNDED 1897

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Published by the
Zionist Organization of America

Managing Editor
Ilana Lax

Editor
Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.

Editorial Associate
Jackie Shafer

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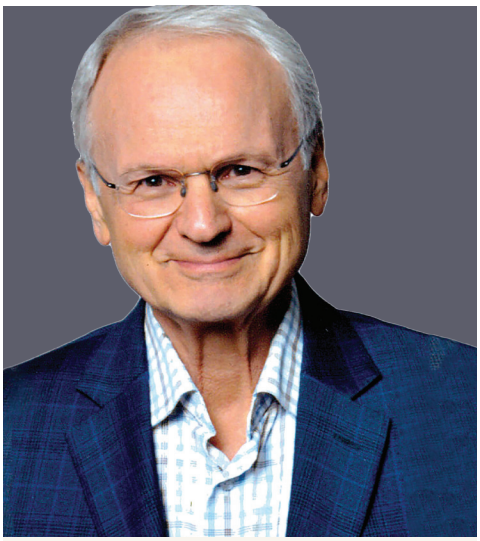
Telephone: (212) 481-1500 | Email: info@zoa.org | Websites: www.zoa.org • www.campus.zoa.org

President's Message



Morton A. Klein
ZOA National President

I used to wonder how any decent person could believe the medieval blood libels that accused Jews of murdering Christian children so that they could use their blood to make matzah, and that accused Jews of intentionally poisoning water wells to spread the bubonic plague. These shameful accusations led to the massacre of Jews and frighteningly, the same phenomenon is happening again today.

Outrageous blood libels are being spread, including that Israel is committing genocide, that "settler violence" is a pervasive problem, that Israel is destroying the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding, that Israel is at fault for the defensive wars it is fighting, and that Israel has forced the U.S. into a war with Iran that is against U.S. interests. The Qataris, Iran and its proxies are spending huge sums on anti-Israel propaganda and lobbying – aided by the left-wing media, Islamists, the United Nations, terrorist-allied NGOs, radical socialists, isolationists such as Tucker Carlson, Candace Owens, U.S. Reps. Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, and neo-Nazis.

We're seeing the results of this.

103 Democrats Voted to Endanger the Jewish State and Its Jewish Population

Shockingly, in July 2026, 103 Democratic congressmembers voted for the Jew-hating, heartless amendment proposed by lame duck isolationist U.S. Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY). The amendment called for the elimination of all $3.3 billion in U.S. military assistance to the tiny Jewish state of Israel for fiscal year (FY) 2027. This amendment endangered Jewish lives at a time when Israel is threatened on multiple fronts.

Notably, at the same time, these haters of the Jewish state overwhelmingly voted against cutting billions of dollars of U.S. aid to the Islamic countries of Egypt and Jordan, even though these undemocratic countries vote against U.S. interests at the United Nations and have terrible human rights records. Egypt does not permit Gazan Arabs to cross Gaza's border into Egypt, and it has been violating its peace agreement with Israel by massively building up Egypt's armed forces in the Sinai. Jordan harbors, celebrates and refuses to extradite terrorist masterminds and murderers of American Jews and other Jewish civilians.

Thankfully, Massie's amendment was defeated (314 to 104) because all other Republican members and 98 Democratic members of Congress voted against the amendment. But much of the Democratic leadership, including Minority Whip Katherine Clark (D-MA) and former Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), joined the enemies of Israel in opposing the aid to Israel.

Democrats – including some who voted against eliminating the aid to Israel for FY 2027 – said they wanted to send a message to Israel that Prime Minister Netanyahu should not be allowed to continue to engage in war. This is outrageous. The Iranian regime and its proxies – including Hezbollah, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad – started and continue to pursue war against the

Jewish state and America. If there were not tens of thousands of Arab/Muslim rockets fired at Israel, no Arab terrorist massacres and kidnappings of innocent Jews, and no continuing threat to Israel's existence, there would be no war.

Too many Congressmembers also forgot that $2.5 billion of the aid that Israel receives from the U.S. is due to the 1978 Sinai Accords between Israel, Egypt and the U.S. The U.S. induced Israel to give up all of Sinai, the Alma oil fields and four Sinai oil wells that Israel had developed at enormous cost, by the U.S. agreeing to pay Israel $2.5 billion per year for Israel's lost oil revenue. Incidentally, according to AI calculations, the oil reserves that the U.S. induced Israel to give up in the Alma oil fields would be worth a staggering $433.8 billion today.

Further, the $3.3 billion in aid for FY 2027 was included in the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding, which covers 10 years – FY 2018 through FY 2027. All of that aid must be spent in the U.S., directly strengthening American defense supply chains while employing tens of thousands of Americans. The benefits to the U.S. from its alliance with Israel are worth much more than the expenditure planned for FY 2027.

Israel provides crucial intelligence that enhances U.S. fighting abilities and has improved U.S. weaponry and aircraft that have protected American lives for decades. General George Keegan Jr., former head of U.S. Air Force Intelligence, stated that American military defense capability "owes more to Israeli intelligence input than to any other source of intelligence," and that it's worth more than "five CIAs." Former CIA Director John Brennan stated that Israel provided intelligence that led to the elimination of Osama bin Laden. Former CIA chief Mike Pompeo said, "The relationship between the U.S. and Israel is incredibly valuable. As CIA Director, I saw firsthand how many American lives were saved thanks to Israeli intelligence."

If the U.S. suddenly withholds agreed-upon assistance and weaponry to Israel, how can any country in the world rely on the U.S. to live up to the agreements the U.S. signs with them?

ZOA has always preferred that Israel become less dependent on the U.S. over time, but it is impossible to change the terms of defense cooperation in the middle of a major existential conflict started and pursued by the enemies of the U.S. and Israel. Israel and the U.S. are working out a future mechanism for defense cooperation starting in FY 2028. It is envisioned that joint projects will be funded by each country, and that there will be a gradual tapering off of the current military assistance model in the future. U.S. assistance to other countries, such as Canada and the United Kingdom, uses a mechanism that is different from aid to Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon. U.S. aid to such other countries is embedded in defense spending bills, including the monies that are spent for the defense of South Korea and NATO, so no equivalent vote is ever held on those funds.

It is particularly disturbing that a few Jewish Democrats voted for the dangerous, evil amendment that Rep. Massie proposed, endangering Jewish lives. Those Jewish Democrats' frightening, pathetic fear and appeasement of the enemies of the Jewish state will never be forgotten.

We must remember that Israel's war occurred not only because 1,200 Jews were brutally murdered in cold blood; 250 Jews and others were taken hostage; Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah launched over 40,000 rockets at Israeli civilians over the last 20 years; and Iran launched over 500 ballistic missiles at Israeli civilians. The war also occurred because the 6,000 Hamas and Palestinian Arab terrorists and accompanying Gazan "civilians" who invaded Israel on October 7, 2023, murdered 48 U.S. citizens and took as hostages 12 U.S. citizens.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In recognition of your steadfast leadership as National President of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), and your lifelong, principled defense of Israel and the Jewish people.
Through decades of advocacy, public discourse, and engagement with national leaders, you have strengthened the U.S.-Israel alliance, confronted antisemitism, and inspired countless Americans to stand with Zion.
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THE JEWISH PEOPLE CHALLENGES
מושב הועד הפועל הציוני הכ"ספ
התנועה הציונית - היום שאחרי
תפוצות. עלייה. ישראל
ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION
וזאת לתעודה כי
מורטון קליין
נבחר כ "עמית כבוד של התנועה הציונית"
בזכות פעילותו המבורכת לאורך שנים רבות
במוסדות התנועה הציונית
ועל תרומתו הרבה להפצת רעיונותיה
באנו על החתום,
יצחק דנן חליבניה סוסנה
יו"ר הוועדה לבחירת עמיתי כבוד
יעקב חגואל
ר"ב ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
הלנה גלוד
יו"ר הועד הפועל הציוני
מוחה דרופמן
שגיאת ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית


IN HONOR OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 224 BROTHER
MORTON KLEIN
WITH EVERLASTING THANKS AND APPRECIATION FROM FRIENDS & ADMIRERS
FOR HIS INDEFATIGABLE WORK AS:
EDUCATOR, ORATOR, PHILOSOPHER, SCIENTIST, POLITICIAN
HISTORIAN, HUSBAND, FATHER AND UNWAVERING FRIEND
AND SUPPORTER OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

The "Settler Violence" Blood Libel that is Used to Demonize Israel and Obscure the Real Problem of Palestinian Arab Terrorism Against Jews

The Palestinian Authority (PA) and a well-funded industry of anti-Israel NGOs initiated the "settler violence" blood libel to smear Jews and Israel; demonize Jewish self-defense; attempt to wrest control of Judea and Samaria from Israel; attempt to end arms shipments to Israel; impose sanctions against innocent Jews; divert attention from the Hamas-led atrocities in southern Israel on October 7, 2023; and incite more anti-Jewish violence while drawing attention away from the daily, murderous Palestinian Arab terrorism against Jews.

In fact, almost every claim of "settler violence" is false.

The group Regavim issued a detailed 125-page report in April 2025, titled "False Flags and Real Agendas: 'Settler Violence': A Modern Blood Libel." The report analyzed the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) website, which collects (supposed) reports of "settler violence" fed to OCHA by anti-Israel NGOs and foreign governments, the PA and other anti-Israel sources.

The report's careful analysis found that OCHA, the PA and anti-Israel NGOs counted the following incidents as "settler violence":

- Violent Arab attacks on Israelis (misclassified as Israeli attacks on Arabs)
- Arabs injured or killed while perpetrating terror attacks against Israelis
- Clearly non-violent incidents, including Jews visiting or praying at the Jewish people's holiest site, the Temple Mount; tourists visiting archaeological sites; alleged "trespassing" by Israeli tourists or hikers, with no damage to any property or person; and infrastructure work carried out legally by the State of Israel
- Clashes with security forces (not with "violent settlers"), often while security forces are seeking to arrest terrorists/gunmen (Over 98% of Arab injuries or deaths do not involve "settlers.")
- Traffic accidents
- Incidents outside of Judea and Samaria (20% of alleged "incidents")
- "Involvement in clashes," with no indication as to who initiated or was responsible for the alleged clash
- Jews recovering farm animals that Arabs had stolen

The Regavim report also confirms earlier investigations. Journalist Caroline Glick summarized the findings of investigative reporter Kalman Liebskind and others that "in the vast majority of cases, the 'settler violence' was simply Israeli civilians trying to defend themselves against Palestinian terrorists and lynch mobs."

For example, OCHA misclassified as "Jewish nationalist violence" an incident in which a lynch mob of a dozen Palestinian Arabs assaulted, beat with rocks and sticks, and wounded two Jewish motorists and four teenage passengers, who were finally rescued by Israeli security forces. Glick and Liebskind noted that such misclassification was routine.

Actual "settler violence" is extremely rare. And Israeli authorities deal with it harshly. Jews are three times more likely than Arabs to be indicted for the same offenses – despite the fact that senior police officials repeatedly stated that the overwhelming majority of complaints received by police against Jews turn out to be false and were submitted by left-wing movements to demonize Jews.

Yet based on false anti-Israel NGO claims, foreign governments improperly sanctioned Jews for alleged "settler violence," including Jews who were defending Israelis in Gaza at the time that they were falsely alleged to have committed "settler violence." And those same false claims are being used to demonize Israel in the U.S. and throughout the world.

The Genocide Blood Libel

The genocide blood libel is also used to obscure the genocidal massacres and atrocities carried out by Iran and its proxies. It relies on undependable, inflated figures from the so-called Gaza Ministry of Health, which is controlled by Hamas. These figures also fail to distinguish between civilians and Hamas soldiers/combatants, or between military objectives and civilian objects.

The world saw how Hamas inflates figures and falsely blames Israel when Hamas knowingly, falsely accused Israel of causing 500 Palestinian deaths by bombing al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza. In fact, a misfired Palestinian Islamic Jihad missile struck the hospital parking lot, causing few casualties.

Then-National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby correctly stated that Hamas' claims about an Israeli hospital strike were false and explained, "We all know that the Gazan Ministry of Health is just a front for Hamas. It's . . . run by Hamas, a terrorist organization. . . . We can't take anything coming out of Hamas, including the so-called Ministry of Health, at face value."

Recently, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. stated, "If Israel wanted to commit genocide against the Palestinians, they could do it in a minute. But it's doing the opposite. The Palestinian population is growing enormously around Israel. In 1948 there were 150,000 Palestinian Arabs in the Israel area; today there are two million. There were one million Jews in the Arab Mideast countries in 1948. Today there are only 15,000. Christians were 20 percent of the Arab Mideast population in 1947. Today it has fallen to five percent. The real genocide in the Mideast is against Jews and Christians."

Israel in fact takes extraordinary precautions to avoid civilian casualties, including providing maps of safe versus conflict zones (which enable Hamas to target the IDF while the IDF is attempting to protect Gazan civilians), cell phone calls, texts, roof-knocking and more. Throughout the conflict and in the midst of war, Israel continued to supply its own water to Gaza by two pipelines, increased access to medical supplies, facilitated the establishment of field hospitals, distributed fuel and winter equipment, facilitated millions of tons of humanitarian supplies, and vaccinated hundreds of thousands of Gazan children for polio and other diseases. No country takes these extraordinary steps if it is trying to commit genocide. John Spencer (a retired U.S. Army major, a recognized expert on urban warfare and chair of Urban War Studies at the Modern War Institute at West Point) and Colonel Richard Kemp (a retired British army officer who commanded British forces in Afghanistan) have said that the IDF is the most moral military in the world.

Moreover, despite the difficulties that Hamas creates by embedding itself among the Gazan population (which is a war crime), Israel carefully analyzes every proposed operation beforehand, to avoid excessive civilian harm, and often calls off operations if civilian harm would be disproportionate to the military advantage.

Yet the genocide lie persists to demonize Israel, and politicians are being pressured to repeat this blood libel. A New England lawmaker recently told the Jerusalem News Syndicate that the lawmaker needs to accuse Israel of genocide due to political pressure, even though the lawmaker does not believe this charge to be true.

ZOA continues to combat these and other blood libels. ZOA's work combating lies against the Jewish state – in the press, in the media, on campus and in Congress – is more vital than ever. I hope that you will continue to join me in this critical effort.



Morton A. Klein
ZOA National President

National Executive Director's Message



Alan D. Jay
ZOA National Executive Director

ZOA National President Morton Klein tasked senior staff and the ZOA marketing department with creating a new "This is the ZOA" brochure. The project seemed simple enough: start with our current ZOA trifold promotional pamphlet, add a bit more detail and voila! We would have a new, comprehensive brochure that would encapsulate ZOA in an informative and user-friendly format. Under the leadership of our new and talented Director of Marketing and Communications, Ilana Lax, we set to task, anticipating a relatively quick turnaround. But as we dug into the project, we realized that this seemingly simple undertaking afforded us a timely and unexpected golden opportunity to refresh the brand and presentation of this magnificent, elegant, and historic organization.

The history of ZOA is well-documented and well-known. Though the organization was founded under a different name in 1897, it has been in continuous operation as the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) since the very first Zionist Congress, organized in Basel, Switzerland by the great Zionist, Theodor Herzl, in response to the burgeoning antisemitism that was reawakened by the infamous Dreyfus affair. The mission of the conference as adopted by the nascent ZOA, was to establish a Jewish homeland, preferably in Eretz Yisrael. ZOA's mission later morphed and expanded to meet the needs of the times, including fighting for the rights of self-determination, self-defense and sovereignty of the newly reestablished Jewish state and, over time, fighting for the rights of the Jewish people here in the United States and abroad.

As is natural, over the course of these past nearly 130 years, the ZOA brand and mission have evolved, changes that are documented and thankfully preserved. Under the leadership of ZOA lead strategist, Akiba Covitz, we have begun to curate our extensive cache of archival materials, a veritable treasure trove of ZOA history, through which we hope to document the evolution of mission statements, principled positions, logos, and slogans, as well as much of our grand history. Not only has this exercise proven to be educational, but also much of the history we are rediscovering is informing our new brochure project. Early-stage planning is underway to make available, both digitally and in a physical display, some of the most meaningful and inspiring discoveries in our archive library, so be on the lookout!

The process of addressing our brand refresh involved review and assessment of our organizational composition. ZOA's critical work stands on four structural pillars about which you will read in more detail throughout this report: ZOA Campus, the ZOA Center for Law and Justice, ZOA Government Relations, and the leadership of ZOA National President Morton A. Klein. In these unprecedented, critically challenging times, characterized by bold and noxious new expressions of age-old antisemitic tropes, these four pillars of ZOA have been deft in dynamically adapting to every need that our commitment to true Zionism and the rights of the Jewish people demand: reacting to hateful actors on the woke left and the woke right; protecting the civil rights of Jews on campus, in K-12 schools, in unions, and in the workplace; educating members of

Congress; and challenging those politicians who vote in opposition to Israel's best interests, and therefore in opposition to the best interests of the United States, to name a few. To our great disappointment and consternation, the very phenomenon that makes our work so crucial is that more often than not, ZOA takes and advocates for these rational centrist positions very much alone. ZOA National President Morton Klein often says, "I wish there were ten ZOA's but there aren't. It's only us." And there's still a lot of work to do.

Let me share some of the work we've done since we published the 2025 ZOA Report:

ZOA's annual Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner was held in November 2025 at the historic Ziegfeld Ballroom, with "The Zionist Organization of America" proudly emblazoned on the ballroom's Times Square marquee for the world to see. Among others, ZOA honored Rabbi Dr. Yechiel Leiter, Israeli Ambassador to the United States; Danny Danon, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations; and Leo Terrell, Esq., Chair of the U.S. Department of Justice Task Force to Combat Antisemitism.

The ZOA Florida Superstar Gala took place in March 2026 at the elegant Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida. Among others, ZOA honored Pastor John Hagee, founder and chair of Christians United for Israel; U.S. Rep. Randy Fine; and Leo Terrell, Esq. Presenters included U.S. Rep. Brian Mast and Sandra Hagee Parker.

In April 2026 at our NYC headquarters, ZOA hosted the prestigious Washington, D.C.-based National War College. One class at the college was tasked with developing a framework and preparing a report regarding U.S. relationships and strategy in the Middle East. To better understand the facts and truth about the region, instructors, officers and students from the college asked to meet with senior ZOA staff. ZOA National President Morton Klein presided over the meeting and the National War College cohort left very well educated and extremely thankful to ZOA!

In May 2026, ZOA once again hosted a large contingent of proud and fearless Zionists at the Israel Day on Fifth Parade. All participants received a ZOA t-shirt sporting a bold new pro-Israel design. Be among the first to see next year's t-shirt design by marching with ZOA - I am personally inviting everyone reading this ZOA Report to join ZOA at the 2027 parade.

In June 2026, we hosted our annual two-day ZOA Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission in Washington, D.C. Those who opted to join us the evening before the day of lobbying were treated to an intimate meet-and-greet with Leo Terrell, Chair of the U.S. Department of Justice Task Force to Combat Antisemitism, and with ZOA National President Morton Klein. The next day, over a bountiful Kosher lunch, nearly 200 lobbyists from across the country, including students and senior citizens, heard dozens of Senators and Representatives express their support for Israel and their commitment to fight antisemitism before going off in smaller groups to lobby their own lawmakers. You will read more about the advocacy mission and about one teenager's personal experience later in this report. Join us next year and experience the great sense of



Orit Spitz, Spokesperson for Mateh HaTzafon; ZOA National Board member Dr. Arthur Kook; ZOA National Executive Director Alan Jay; and Gila Slonim, Director of Public Relations for the Nachala Movement, at a ZOA Donor Societies event in NYC

accomplishment that comes from meeting with lawmakers and/or their staffers to advocate for legislation critical to Israel and the Jewish community. You can make a difference!

ZOA has always supported Israeli sovereignty over all of Israel, including Judea and Samaria, the Jordan Valley and all of Jerusalem. In June 2026, at our NYC headquarters, ZOA hosted representatives of the Nachala Movement whose presentation to our ZOA Donor Society guests cautioned about illegal Arab community building, not only in Judea and Samaria, but also in the Galilee. We have also done in-person and online programming with other partner organizations like the Israel Defense and Security Forum, Regavim and the Yesha Council.

Liz Berney, ZOA's Director of Research and Special Projects, continues to host authors of some of the best books that speak to and inform ZOA's Zionist agenda. We also continue to host other informative Zoom-with-ZOA webinars to help keep our supporters properly informed. Over the years ZOA has cultivated an impressive library of recorded content which can be found on our ZOA YouTube channel. If you missed a program or would simply like to rewatch a program, navigate to our website and click on the YouTube icon. One of my favorite recent programs featured Oren Seliger, Director of Strategy and Development for the Yesha Council, who spoke about the past, present and future plans for Judea and Samaria. You'll surely want to watch it.

Upcoming Program Note: Nothing recharges our Zionist spirit like a ZOA gala. Plans are well underway for the ZOA's Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner and Superstar Gala scheduled for Sunday, November 15, 2026, in midtown Manhattan. Honorees will include Mike Huckabee, U.S. Ambassador to Israel; Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun, U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism; and Josh Katzen, co-founder and publisher of Jerusalem News Syndicate.

Which brings me back to our brochure in development. ZOA has a long and storied history. Over the course of the past 129 years, members and leaders of ZOA have had significant impact, not only on the U.S.-Israel relationship and Israel advocacy, but also on domestic affairs and world events. We will soon be printing the new brochure for distribution at meetings and other ZOA events, and we'll also make it available for viewing and downloading on our website. Help us inspire a new cohort of ZOA Zionist supporters. Spread the word about the critical work we do by forwarding our shiny new brochure to all of your friends: Send a link to the online brochure in an email, post a link via social media, or call the ZOA office and we'll mail printed copies to your home or office.

American Jews need Israel to thrive. Israel needs the support of American Jews to survive. You can help ZOA spread this critical message by sharing our newly minted "This is the ZOA" brochure.



Alan D. Jay
National Executive Director
AJAY@zoa.org

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MORTON A. KLEIN
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ZOA's Annual Superstar Gala

ZOA's 2025 Superstar Gala Is a Resounding Success

On November 9, 2025, the ZOA hosted its annual Superstar Gala at the elegant Ziegfeld Ballroom in Manhattan. The sold-out event was filled with memorable speeches, good food and hundreds of ZOA's enthusiastic friends and supporters.

Once again emceed by the multi-talented Rita Cosby, the Gala showcased ZOA's honorees: U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik; Leo Terrell, Esq., Chair of the U.S. Department of Justice Task Force to Combat Antisemitism; Rabbi Dr. Yechiel Leiter, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.; Danny Danon, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations; and Irit and Jonathan Tratt, philanthropists and Zionist activists.

The esteemed presenters of ZOA's awards included Dr. Miriam Adelson; Dr. Ben Chouake; Sid Rosenberg; Mark Kasowitz, Esq.; Steven Sass; Henry Schwartz; Ali Meli; Susan Good and Rhonda Small; and ZOA National President Morton Klein.

Gala attendees paused for a tribute to Charlie Kirk, a friend to Israel and the Jewish people. Kirk planned to speak at the ZOA Gala, prior to his tragic murder in September 2025.

Dr. Miriam Adelson (on video), together with Dr. Ben Chouake, NORPAC president and ZOA National Board member, and Morton Klein, presented Rep. Elise Stefanik with the ZOA Mortimer B. Zuckerman Maccabee Warrior Award. Dr. Adelson effusively praised Rep. Stefanik, stating, "When I heard you talking to the heads of the universities, I said to myself, 'She has the guts to say the truth.' You had the courage to do it, and you stood up for what you believe in, and it was fantastic. You are a great leader. You had the courage to stand up for the Jewish people, Israel and the free world."

To cheers from the crowd, Rep. Stefanik accepted the award and said, "When I look out across this room, I see an entire gathering of modern-day Maccabees. After all, the ZOA, at its heart, is an organization of Maccabees, of proud unapologetic defenders of the Jewish people and the Jewish state. That example is exemplified by Mort and by board members like Dr. Ben and of course Dr. Adelson. And it is exemplified by tonight's other honorees. . . . Every single one of these leaders has stood on the front lines, whether in public service, in education, in philanthropy, or in activism, standing up for the truth, the Jewish people, and for the values that bind our two nations together."

> *"The ZOA, at its heart, is an organization of Maccabees, of proud unapologetic defenders of the Jewish people and the Jewish state."*
> *— U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik*

Sid Rosenberg, the charismatic host of the "Sid and Friends in the Morning" radio show, introduced Consul General Ofir Akunis, Consul General of Israel in New York. Ambassador Akunis profusely praised ZOA "for your resilience and determination, to always defend the Jewish nation and the State of Israel. You are doing it, no matter where, no matter what. You continue to share truth in a time when lies are taking over our society."

Marc Kasowitz, Esq. and Morton Klein presented the Robert B. Kasowitz Defender of Jewish Civil Rights Award to Leo Terrell. The award was named for Marc Kasowitz's father Bob who fought against the Nazis in World War II and who – like Mr. Terrell – stood up for Jews and Israel.

As he accepted ZOA's award, Mr. Terrell wore a cap bearing Hadar Goldin's name. Hadar was an Israeli soldier who was murdered by Hamas in 2014, and whose body was held captive by Hamas ever since. Mr. Terrell movingly removed the cap and told the crowd, "I'm taking the hat off tonight because Hadar is home. He is home."

ZOA National President Morton Klein presented the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award to Irit and Jonathan Tratt for their lifelong dedication to Israel and the Jewish people. Expressing her thanks on behalf of herself and her husband, Irit Tratt said, "The ZOA has courageously defended Israel, while fighting against the disgusting lies being leveled against the Jewish state and the Jewish people. As we gather tonight, we hope you will consider continuing and growing your support for this wonderful organization."

ZOA National Board Member Susan Good (by video) and Rhonda Small introduced the crowd to ZOA's exciting new initiative which they are co-chairing: ZOA Women. Ms. Good proudly explained: "Our women's division mission is clear – to uphold Israel's sovereignty, to strengthen Jewish philanthropy, to advance education and social good, and to stand united and fearless in the fight against antisemitism."

In presenting the Steven Sass Award for Outstanding Diplomacy to Ambassador Danny Danon, Mr. Sass immediately rallied the crowd's attention, warning them to "wake up! "You, your friends, your neighbors, you've got to recognize the real threat against all Jews, and in fact against all rational people. Antisemitism and anti-civility are everywhere."

Ambassador Danon graciously accepted the award and commended Morton Klein and the ZOA: "For more than a century, you have been the guardians of proud Zionism in the United States. You defend Israel when it is fashionable and when it is not. When it is easy and when it is costly. When others are quiet, you stay loud, you stay clear."

While acknowledging the heavy cost that the October 7 massacre has wrought, Ambassador Danon also emphasized the strength and determination of Israel and the Jewish people: "The history books will remember October 7th as a day of tragedy. But it will also remember what the Jewish people did in the hours, months, and years that followed. Our nation stood united, resilient, and strong. Together, we will win. Together, we will prevail. Am Yisrael Chai."

Henry Schwartz, a cherished ZOA supporter and former member of its National Board of Directors, presented the Dr. Miriam & Sheldon G. Adelson Defender of Israel Award to Ambassador Yechiel Leiter, and said: "His words flow effortlessly, infused with Torah wisdom and Zionist conviction, echoing a life that intertwines personal sacrifice with national purpose. His beloved son, Moshe, gave the ultimate sacrifice, falling in defense of our people in the earliest days of this war. That heroism, no doubt, was learned from his parents. It's part of Yechiel's very being. It's the flame that fuels his historic mission today. As Israel's ambassador to the United States, he is performing his role with courage, brilliance and unwavering devotion during one of the most critical periods in our nation's history."

"ZOA and Morton Klein defend Israel when it is fashionable and when it is not. When it is easy and when it is costly. When others are quiet, you stay loud, you stay clear."
— Amb. Danny Danon

Infusing his acceptance of ZOA's award with eloquence and humility, Ambassador Leiter told the crowd, "The only way I could receive such a distinguished honor would be if I do so on behalf of the real defenders of Israel – the soldiers of Israel. . . . They left their families. They left their jobs. And fought like lions, in Gaza, Lebanon, over the skies of Tehran, over the skies of Yemen, and in places that we still can't talk about. They're the defenders, so on their behalf, I receive this award."

Ambassador Leiter recounted that in his letter to present his credentials to President Donald Trump, he opened with this: "I represent a people indigenous to the State of Israel." To a cheering crowd, the Ambassador emphasized, "What we

have to say, loud and clear, is that we are not conquerors, conquistadors, aliens, colonialists, or occupiers. The land of Israel and the people of Israel were born together."

"What we have to say, loud and clear, is that we are not conquerors, conquistadors, aliens, colonialists, or occupiers. The land of Israel and the people of Israel were born together."
— Amb. Yechiel Leiter

After a warm introduction by ZOA National President Morton Klein, Ali Meli, an Iranian American geopolitical analyst and 2022 ZOA honoree, spoke, noting that "[u]nder Mort's guidance, ZOA has been on the right side of history on every issue, in every instance, from voting against the disastrous Oslo Accords, opposing the Gaza withdrawal that empowered Hamas, advocating to defund UNRWA over antisemitic teachings, and rejecting the catastrophic JCPOA Iran nuclear deal. . . . As antisemites seek to make a home on both the left and the right, from victories in New York mayoral elections calling to globalize the intifada, to media personalities and pundits pretending to be conservative, while espousing antisemitism, even certain prominent organizations on the right are at risk of succumbing to this poison. Our battle endures. We need Mort's voice, more than ever."

In a rousing speech, ZOA National President Morton Klein told the crowd, "There's been a moralization and legitimization and mainstreaming of bigotry against Jews. Bigotry is disguised as principle. Hatred is baptized as virtue. Hostility to Israel now indicates decency and high morals. We at the ZOA will fight these dangerous and monstrous lies with all of our hearts and souls. No appeasement. No conciliation. Only a war against this racist hatred of the Jewish people."

Mort continued: "As the prophet Ezekiel said, 'If the watchman sees the sword advancing against the Jews and doesn't blow his horn, so that the Jewish people are not warned and the sword comes and destroys even one Jew, I, said God, will demand a reckoning if you don't protect your people.' Let me assure you: Together with Israel, with the Israel Defense Forces, ZOA will blow and blow and blow its horn for the Jewish people and for Israel. We'll blow the horn relentlessly, continuously, tirelessly, courageously, and the Jewish people will prevail."

"Together with Israel, with the Israel Defense Forces, ZOA will blow and blow and blow its horn for the Jewish people and for Israel. We'll blow the horn relentlessly, continuously, tirelessly, courageously, and the Jewish people will prevail."
— ZOA National President Morton Klein



Amb. Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun, Alan Dershowitz, Esq., and Leo Terrell, Esq.



Tribute to Charlie Kirk



Emcee Rita Cosby



Rep. Elise Stefanik, recipient of ZOA's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Maccabee Warrior Award



Dr. Ben Choake, Morton Klein, Rep. Elise Stefanik, and Rita Cosby



Sid Rosenberg



Jonathan and Irit Tratt, recipients of ZOA's Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award



Irit Tratt and Rep. Elise Stefanik



Rhonda Small, Morton Klein, and Rebecca Jean Smith



Leo Terrell, Esq., recipient of ZOA's Robert B. Kasowitz Defender of Jewish Civil Rights Award



Standing for the U.S. and Israeli national anthems



Rita Cosby during the singing of Hatikvah



Dr. Joseph Frager, Morton Klein, and Sid Rosenberg



Dr. Victoria P. Werth; Dr. Kevin Jon Williams, Greater Philadelphia ZOA vice president; and Malka Kantor-Rapkin, Greater Philadelphia ZOA board member



Dan Pollak, ZOA Government Relations Dir., and Morton Klein



Amb. Ofir Akunis, Consul General of Israel in New York



Morton Klein, Marc Kasowitz, Esq., Leo Terrell, Esq., and Rita Cosby



Amb. Danny Danon, recipient of ZOA's Steven Sass Award for Outstanding Diplomacy



ZOA National President Morton Klein



Students and young professionals enjoying the Gala



Sid Rosenberg with Gala guests



ZOA National Board member Dr. Rosaline Barron (waving) and Robert Kushner (on right) with Gala guests



Caroline Katz



Rita Klein, ZOA National Board member Dr. Stanley Benzel, Aliette Abo, and Dr. Marc Abo



Students at the Gala



Morton and Rita Klein with James Tisch



Kobi Erez, ZOA Michigan Exec. Dir.; and ZOA National Board member Dr. Arthur Kook



Beth Berman, Morton Klein, and Steven Sass



Steven Sass, presenter of the Steven Sass Award for Outstanding Diplomacy



ZOA Women Co-Chair Rhonda Small



ZOA staff



Ilana Lax, ZOA's Dir. of Marketing & Communications; Susan Tuchman, Esq., Dir. of ZOA's Center for Law & Justice; and Kobi Erez



Rabbi Dr. Yechiel Leiter, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. and recipient of ZOA's Dr. Miriam & Sheldon G. Adelson Defender of Israel Award



Dr. Kiron Skinner, Morton Klein, Amb. Jeff Bartos, Leo Terrell, Esq., and Amb. Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun



Morton Klein, Steven Sass, Amb. Danny Danon, and Rita Cosby



Jonathan & Irit Tratt



Morton Klein and Rita Cosby (rear)



Kobi Erez, Lt. Col. (Res.) Yaron Buskila; and Sheldon Freilich, ZOA Michigan President



ZOA's Dir. of Research & Special Projects Liz Berney, Esq. and her band



Ali Meli



Jonathan and Irit Tratt with Gala guests



Rita Cosby, Morton Klein, and Amb. Rabbi Dr. Yechiel Leiter



ZOA National Board member Dr. Rosaline Barron, Morton Klein, and Robert Kushner



Guests mingling in the Ziegfeld Ballroom

Center for Law and Justice

ZOA's Continuing Support for Strong Legal Protections in the Workplace for Jewish Employees



Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.
Director, Center for
Law & Justice

In 2023, the ZOA filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in Groff v. DeJoy, urging the Court to expand the legal protections for Jewish and other employees who need religious accommodations from their employers. In a landmark decision, a unanimous Supreme Court expanded the legal protections that religious employees needed. An employer could no longer avoid providing a religious accommodation because it would face some minimal cost. Now, an employer must provide religious accommodations to an employee unless it would cause substantial increased costs in relation to the employer's particular business.

ZOA's amicus brief documented the serious and alarming problem of antisemitism in the workplace and the critical importance of strong Title VII protections to deter bigotry against Jewish employees.

In May 2026, the ZOA again weighed in to protect Jewish employees' religious freedom. Jerome Sandberg, who observed the Jewish Sabbath, worked for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). For 15 years, the TSA accommodated his religious observance and did not assign him to work shifts that fell on the Sabbath. After all those years, the TSA informed Mr. Sandberg that it could no longer accommodate his religious obligations and offered him a combination of shift swaps, paid leave and unpaid leave, which would result in a twenty percent loss in his weekly income.

Mr. Sandberg filed suit in federal district court in Maryland, alleging religious discrimination in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The district court dismissed his suit, and he appealed to the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Representing Mr. Sandberg in his appeal, the Harvard Law School Religious Freedom Clinic approached the ZOA for support. Having read the ZOA's amicus brief in Groff v. DeJoy, the Harvard clinic asked the ZOA to submit an amicus brief in support of Mr. Sandberg's claims.

The ZOA filed an amicus brief that highlighted the legal errors in the district court's decision to dismiss Mr. Sandberg's case. The brief also documented the serious and alarming problem of antisemitism in the workplace and the critical importance of strong Title VII protections to deter bigotry against Jewish employees.

The Massachusetts Teachers Association furnished curriculum resources for teachers to use in their classrooms that included images of the Star of David made out of folded dollar bills.

ZOA Fights Antisemitism in Teachers' Unions

Antisemitism and anti-Israelism have infected teachers' unions, rendering them hostile and unwelcoming places for their Jewish members. The ZOA has been exposing and battling this problem, which affects not only teachers but their students, too.

In August 2025, the ZOA filed a 26-page complaint against the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) – which represents 117,000 teachers and other education professionals at public K-12 schools and public colleges and universities across Massachusetts – with the Massachusetts Attorney General. The complaint documented the hostile and discriminatory environment that the MTA created and fueled, in violation of Jewish educators' civil rights.

In addition to passing multiple anti-Israel resolutions and failing to condemn or even acknowledge the Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023, the MTA furnished curriculum resources for teachers to use in their classrooms that contained antisemitic imagery and messaging. This included images of the Star of David made out of folded dollar bills, and a workbook that described Zionists as "bullies" who "stole [land] by force and hurt many people."

At the time that the ZOA filed the complaint, some Jewish educators had already left the MTA because they could no longer stomach the hostility there. The ZOA called on the Attorney General to investigate the union's conduct and exercise its authority to bring a civil action against the MTA to enforce and restore Jewish members' civil rights. The Attorney General responded that it was deferring to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, which was reviewing and investigating individual complaints filed against the MTA.

In November 2025, the ZOA demonstrated its support for Jewish teachers in California who were represented by United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA). The teachers filed suit in federal district court, asserting that their compelled representation by the UTLA under California law – when the union was taking positions and engaging in conduct hateful toward Jews and Israel – violates their First Amendment rights. After the district court dismissed their suit and they appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the teachers asked the ZOA to submit an amicus brief in support of their claims, having reviewed the amicus brief that the ZOA filed in August 2024, in support of professors at the City University of New York who were battling antisemitism in their own union.

The ZOA's brief explained Israel's centrality to Judaism and to the Jewish identity of most Jews, and that forcing these teachers to associate with an anti-Israel, antisemitic union conflicted with their religious beliefs in violation of the First Amendment. The Ninth Circuit has not yet issued a decision.

ZOA Files Federal Lawsuit to Protect the Civil Rights of a Jewish Student in Upstate New York

In April 2026, in partnership with the law firm of Tulley Rinckey PLLC, the ZOA filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York on behalf of a Jewish student who endured three years of unrelenting antisemitic harassment and discrimination at a public junior-senior high school in upstate New York. The student and his parents reported the bullying – which included antisemitic name-calling, vulgar antisemitic slurs, verbal abuse, physical threats,

and physical assaults – to school and district officials. But, as detailed in the complaint, officials ignored, downplayed and even justified the harassment.

Desperate to protect their son, the parents requested that he be transferred to a new school. It was only then that the superintendent finally suggested developing a safety plan for him, a step that should have been taken three years before, when the antisemitic bullying was first reported.

The defendants moved for partial dismissal of the complaint, which we opposed. We are awaiting a decision on that motion.

As alleged in ZOA's complaint, the Jewish student endured three years of unrelenting antisemitic harassment, including name-calling, vulgar slurs, verbal abuse, physical threats, and physical assaults.

With ZOA's Help, Adelphi University Reinstates Its SSI Chapter

Students Supporting Israel (SSI), an international pro-Israel organization, reached out to the ZOA for support after Adelphi University suspended its SSI chapter. The suspension followed from a complaint by the antisemitic, anti-Israel Students for Justice in Palestine chapter at Adelphi, which alleged that SSI's social media posts created a hostile environment for Muslim students in violation of university policies.

After meetings and communications with university officials, Adelphi reinstated SSI in January 2026, which allowed the group to resume its pro-Israel programs and activities. The president of the SSI chapter expressed gratitude to the ZOA, writing: "Navigating the meetings and the university process was a lot to handle, and I am incredibly grateful for your guidance and advocacy. I truly don't think we would have reached this outcome without your support." SSI's president and founder wrote: "[O]n behalf of SSI, our students, and my entire team, I want to sincerely thank you for always being just one



Adelphi University

phone call away and for dedicating so much time and effort to supporting our students. From speaking with them during the appeal submission back in October to attending meetings alongside them, your commitment never wavered."

ZOA Supports a Jewish Doctor Targeted After the Hamas Massacre

The ZOA assisted a Jewish doctor who was suspended from his professional position based on understandably emotional, strongly worded comments he posted on social media immediately after the Hamas massacre. The doctor became the target of a smear campaign by anti-Israel groups which pressured his employer to fire him.

After the matter concluded, the doctor expressed his thanks, writing, "I can say with no uncertainty that ZOA has been the most supportive Jewish group in the country and I will be forever grateful. There is no way for me to easily thank you." At his own initiative, the doctor traveled to Florida to express his appreciation publicly at the ZOA's 2026 gala.

ZOA Continues the Fight Against Antisemitism in K-12 Schools

The ZOA's complaint against Fairfax County (Virginia) Public Schools (FCPS) is still under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The ZOA documented years of antisemitism that FCPS officials knew about but failed to address effectively in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, including "Heil Hitler" salutes, Jewish "jokes," antisemitic name-calling, and swastikas defacing school property that district officials did not condemn or even publicly acknowledge.

Since filing the complaint, the ZOA has continued to furnish OCR with more evidence of the district's wrongdoing. For example, though knowing that it is being investigated by OCR, FCPS nevertheless failed to effectively respond to the anti-Israel "Kuffiyeh Day" and "Kuffiyeh Week" protests that the Muslim Student Union deliberately scheduled to coincide with the second anniversary of the Hamas massacre, at the expense of Jewish students' safety and well-being.

ZOA documented years of antisemitism that district officials knew about but failed to address effectively, including "Heil Hitler" salutes, Jewish "jokes," antisemitic name-calling, and swastikas defacing school property.

The ZOA is also representing Jewish families in Arlington, Virginia, whose children faced antisemitic harassment and retaliation after the Hamas massacre, which school and district officials knew about but failed to effectively remedy. We are urging the Virginia Attorney General to hold the school district accountable, after it completed a lengthy investigation and determined that there was reasonable cause to believe that the district violated both state and federal law.

Government Relations



Dan Pollak
Director, Government Relations



Adam Turner
Deputy Director, Government Relations

Israeli Sovereignty over Judea and Samaria is a vital part of ZOA's agenda

The ZOA's annual advocacy mission to Washington D.C., held on June 9, 2026, was a great success. ZOA participants lobbied their House members and Senators regarding crucial issues that are before the Congress, including threats from the Islamic regime in Iran, the rising problem of antisemitism, and the need for Israeli sovereignty in Judea and Samaria.

Some attendees were surprised to find the legislative focus on our third issue. The status of Judea and Samaria as an integral part of the state of Israel has always been a core principle of the ZOA. Judea and Samaria are the historic heartland of the Jewish people. We remain the only major Jewish organization with an active lobbying presence in Washington, D.C. to focus on the issue. ZOA opposes the ahistorical use of the label "West Bank,'" which was invented by the Arabs to explicitly dejudaize the region.

The Different Factions in Congress regarding Israel

Within each political party, there are differences in approach between hard-core and moderate supporters of Israel, as well as between the enemies and supporters of Israel. In our experience, the actual subtleties of each camp are not always accurately understood. Often, the way the member of Congress uses language helps identify the sub-group in which she or he belongs. Going from the most pro-Israel to the least, here are the types of viewpoints we deal with. It is important to remember that with the exception of the Democratic Socialists, most members of Congress would insist they are pro-Israel, but from ZOA's perspective, some promote policies that are counterproductive or even dangerous.

As always, keep in mind that ZOA is non-partisan and we cannot and do not endorse or oppose any candidates for office. Any differences the ZOA has with members of Congress are entirely determined by their specific stances on our agenda.

GOP Stalwarts: Members of this group are so ideologically in sync with the ZOA that they could serve on ZOA's Board. They always call the territory "Judea and Samaria"' and never refer to "Palestine" without pointing out that it is a fiction. There are only about four senators in this category, including Senators Ted Cruz (from Texas) and Tom Cotton (from Arkansas), and 10 to 15 House members.

GOP Zionists: Most Republican members of Congress would identify themselves this way. They firmly support Israel's defense needs and funding for joint programs with the IDF. They broadly support the war against Iran and the operations in Gaza, but when pressed, they might dissent from specific Israeli actions or privately complain that Israel has been excessive in ignoring the international community. What many pro-Israel people get wrong about this group is that they often have a soft spot for surprisingly ineffective policies in the region, including funding the Palestinian Authority (PA) and even establishing a Palestinian Arab state. Most of the GOP leadership are GOP Zionists.

"GOP Zionists firmly support Israel's defense needs and funding for joint programs with the IDF."

Democratic Zionists: This group includes only one Senator (John Fetterman of Pennsylvania) and about a half dozen House members, including Reps. Josh Gottheimer (New Jersey), Brad Sherman (California), George Latimer (New York), Tom Suozzi (New York), Jared Moskowitz (Florida), and Brad Schneider (Illinois). These members are actively fighting the anti-Israel left in their party and are strong supporters of AIPAC. They still support the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state someday but recognize the evil of the PA as it is currently constituted. They also recognize that the primary reason there has been no progress in the region is because of rejectionism by the Arabs. This recognition, however, does not prevent these Democrats from being very sympathetic to the political left in Israel. They are highly suspicious of everything Prime Minister Netanyahu does for that reason. They tend to demonize the coalition partners of the existing government in Israel, while ZOA respects the ability of Israeli voters to make their own decisions on forming coalitions.

ZOA generally has good relations with this group. We recognize that some of these Congress members actually agree with the ZOA but must sometimes act in ways with which we disagree to maintain their credibility with their left flank for purely political reasons. For example, when ZOA National President Morton Klein testified on the status of Judea and Samaria at a House hearing, Rep. Brad Sherman complained about Israeli efforts to "annex" Palestinian Arab areas and "disenfranchise" the Arabs.

Democratic Traditionalists: These members are fighting a rear-guard action to keep things the way they were before the extremists took over parts of the Democratic party. They are invested in the idea that Israel is only a problem because of the unreasonable, authoritarian, and possibly corrupt practices of Prime Minister Netanyahu. Most of this group frankly do not know much about actual Israeli political trends. Several prominent Jewish Democratic members of Congress are in this category. This group holds the completely unrealistic position that the only solution for peace in the Middle East and for the benefit of Israel is to grant the so-called West Bank independence under the PA. Weirdly, these Democrats refuse to consider the terrorist record of Fatah, the largest faction in the PLO. Also, when it comes to Lebanon and Syria, this group is strangely optimistic about the prospects for peace once Israel's "extremist" government is ousted.

GOP Isolationists: This is a new group that regretfully is gaining strength, although it has faced several recent setbacks. It consists of only one Senator (Rand Paul of Kentucky) and just a handful of House members, with Reps. Thomas Massie (Kentucky) and Marjorie Taylor Greene (Georgia) having both been pushed out of office by the President and other Republicans. This group has become obstructionist on everything to do with Israel. Before the latest explosion of antisemitism, they probably shared those antisemitic sentiments but had the good sense not to publicly espouse them. Opposition to the war in Iran and supposed concern for constitutional principles have driven them to be a consistent irritant to House leadership, which remains strongly pro-Zionist. The good news is that this group is less populated than the press attention to the Tucker Carlson/Candace Owens phenomena might lead one to expect, and the GOP leadership is moving against them. The bad news is that every time this group loses a primary election, it is more proof of the power of the supposed Jewish conspiracy.

Democratic New Left: This is a growing presence in both the Senate and the House. They have basically given up on the Democrats' traditional relationship with AIPAC and Israel. Although most would insist they are pro-Israel, that is largely window dressing, and their policies are in practice anti-Israel. They often claim a strong desire to save Israel from the positions of the Jewish state's majority of voters. This group seeks a strong relationship with J Street. It is the biggest threat to future military cooperation with Israel.

This group frequently argues that an existing law (sponsored by former Democratic Senator Pat Leahy) preventing American military aid from going to countries which commit human rights violations, is being violated because of Israeli actions. In reaction to media demonization of Israel, this is the group that formerly pro-Israel lawmakers are joining, especially if they have urban constituents.

Democratic Terrorist Sympathizers: This is the worst group, and it has grown surprisingly large in the Senate. Although they would (mostly) deny that they support terrorists, as a practical matter they largely do. This group includes the "Squad" and all the Democratic Socialist sympathizers. They demonize Israel at every opportunity. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) is the most well-known, and some senators in the "progressive" group are migrating to this group, for example Sen. Chris Van Hollen (Maryland) and Chris Murphy (Connecticut). They have found foreign policy support from the supposedly libertarian Quincy Institute, funded by the Koch and Soros families, but actually set up partly by the pro-Iranian lobby in the U.S. The House will have some high-profile additions to this group because of recent New York and Colorado primary results, but the expanded squad will still be small – about 10 members out of 435 in the House. The danger is that treating them as a legitimate presence in the Democratic party broadens the "Overton window" of what are considered to be acceptable policies for the entire Democratic Caucus. This group is also overtly anti-American.

Other Government Relations Activities

At the ZOA's Mission to Washington, D.C. attendees participated in lobbying on 11 bills in both chambers and met with their own representative and senator or a staff person from the office. We encourage everyone to attend our next mission, which will take place in the spring of 2027.

The Government Relations staff continues to serve on the National Task Force to Combat Antisemitism. We have met with senior officials at the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Education. We work closely with ZOA's Center for Law and Justice on issues relating to antisemitism. We are scheduled to speak at churches and synagogues in Virginia, Maryland and Ohio in the near future.

D.C. Mission

ZOA brought nearly 200 pro-Israel advocates to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress from both parties to discuss the Iran war, rising antisemitism, and Judea and Samaria. The program began the prior evening with a reception sponsored by ZOA Women featuring U.S. Department of Justice Task Force on Antisemitism Chair Leo Terrell, Esq.

"Iran and antisemitism are the main reasons we are here. We must stop Iranian aggression, its pursuit of nuclear weapons and intercontinental missiles, and its funding and arming of Islamic terrorist groups."
—ZOA National President Morton A. Klein

ZOA TESTIMONIAL

Carol Heumann

As one of the youngest participants in the ZOA's lobbying mission to Washington, D.C., I spent much of the trip listening, observing, and learning. I left with a deeper understanding of Israel and the lobbying process, but even more importantly, I left with a new appreciation for what meaningful advocacy truly looks like.

During the first half of the mission, I had the opportunity to hear from experienced advocates, community leaders, and members of Congress. What struck me most was that these elected officials took time out of their demanding schedules to speak with us personally and ensure that we knew that they were committed to fighting antisemitism and ensuring Israel's safety and security. That alone made this experience meaningful. As each congressman and congresswoman came up to the podium, I grew more and more impressed with how eloquently they presented themselves. They spoke with confidence, conviction, and



Carol Heumann and her father Sergio Heumann at the D.C. Mission

a deep understanding of the issues they were addressing. Simply listening to them speak made me feel empowered. Their words reinforced that support for Israel is backed not only by passion, but also by thoughtful leadership and genuine commitment. It was unexpectedly an emotional experience for me.

As inspiring as it was to hear from members of Congress, I left with an equally strong appreciation for the people sitting beside me. I, as a 19-year-old in college, had the time to participate in this event during summer vacation.

However, around me were dozens of people who took time away from their families, careers, and daily lives to travel to Washington, D.C. because they believed their voices could make a difference. It inspired me to see how everyone was passionate, knowledgeable, and ready to fight for Israel despite having busy lives.

For the second half of the day, our larger group divided into smaller groups so we could meet with assigned members of Congress and their staff to advocate for Israel. Because of this, I had the opportunity to personally speak with congressional staff about issues that are important to me – something I never imagined I would get to do at 19 years old. It made the entire experience feel much more personal and showed me that advocacy isn't just something you watch from the sidelines. It's something anyone can be a part of.

I was also able to get to know many of the other participants throughout the trip. I met people of all ages, professions, and different levels of advocacy experience. It impressed me how a common purpose can bring people from various backgrounds together. I appreciated hearing about their lives and learning from their experiences.

Overall, the ZOA's mission trip gave me much more than a better understanding of the lobbying process. It showed me that making a difference doesn't always start with someone in a position of power, but that it starts with ordinary people who care enough to get involved. As one of the youngest people on this mission, I left feeling inspired by everyone I met, from the members of Congress to the people who filled that conference room advocating for something they believe in. What made it even more special was that I was able to share this experience with my father. Seeing him participate in advocating for Israel and the Jewish people was very meaningful to me. I am incredibly grateful to ZOA and its leaders for giving me this opportunity and taking the time to organize amazing events like this one. I know the lessons I learned and the people I met will stay with me for years to come.

"Fighting antisemitism is a 24/7 commitment."
—Leo Terrell



Leo Terrell, Esq. and Morton Klein

"Anti-Zionism is antisemitism. It is rooted in Jew-hatred."
—Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY)



Morton Klein



ZOA lobbying group

"Antisemitism is a gateway drug that, unless eradicated, will ultimately erode the democratic values we cherish."
—Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)



U.S. Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY-24)



U. S. Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)

Additional speakers included Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND), Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ), Rep. Randy Fine (R-FL), Rep. Laura Gillen (D-NY), Rep.Kevin Kiley (I-CA), Rep. George Latimer (D-NY), and Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-MI).

ZOA Campus

Jonathan Ginsburg
Managing Director,
ZOA Campus

Northeast Region



Or Taylor
Associate Director,
ZOA Campus

West Coast Region



Ariana Hoblin
Campus Coodinator

Southeast Region



Sebastian Scharovsky
Campus Coodinator

Midwest Region



Reaching Students Across the Country

Over the course of the 2025-2026 academic year, ZOA Campus engaged and educated hundreds of college students nationwide through impactful programming, leadership development, educational workshops, advocacy training, and community-building events. At a time when many students were facing intimidation, misinformation, and marginalization for supporting Israel, ZOA Campus gave them the tools and confidence they needed to embrace and strengthen their Jewish and Zionist identities.

A central focus for ZOA Campus was fact-based education about the realities facing Israel and the Jewish people around the world, including the dangers posed by the Iranian terror regime and its regional network, led by Hezbollah and Hamas. ZOA Campus also created educational resources and led outreach efforts to enable students to respond effectively to the "genocide" blood libel directed against Israel and its supporters, including Jewish students on campus.

ZOA CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP

The ZOA Campus Fellowship remained the cornerstone of our student leadership work. ZOA Campus Fellows led the way in pro-Israel activism, organizing educational initiatives, responding to campus incidents, and building vibrant Zionist communities. These student leaders showed courage, resilience, and dedication in standing up for truth and confronting antisemitism and anti-Zionism in an increasingly difficult campus climate.

They organized highly visible tabling initiatives and awareness campaigns highlighting Israeli society and Israel's defensive actions against Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas, working to counter the anti-Israel propaganda spreading on campuses nationwide.

In many instances, ZOA Campus Fellows stood on the front lines confronting antisemitic incidents and efforts to marginalize Jewish students inside and outside the classroom.



ZOA Campus Managing Director Jonathan Ginsburg tabling at the 2026 Hillel International Global Assembly conference

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Northeast

Under the leadership of Managing Director Jonathan Ginsburg, ZOA Campus strengthened its community engagement and campus network across the New York, Mid-Atlantic, and New England regions.

At Yale University, ZOA Campus collaborated with the Yale Alliance for Solidarity with Iran and CAMERA on a two-day conference supporting the Iranian people and U.S.-Israel action against the Iranian terror regime. ZOA Campus also proudly participated in UConn Hillel's celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, which brought together over 250 students to share publicly in the joy of Israel's independence.

Similar programs aimed at strengthening Jewish student communities were held across the Boston area. At Tufts University, ZOA Campus co-sponsored a special Israel-themed Shabbat dinner in partnership with the Tufts Jewish Student Association. The campus department established strong partnerships with various Chabad and Hillel chapters in the region. Jonathan Ginsburg also represented ZOA Campus at the annual Hillel International Global Assembly conference.

At Cornell University, ZOA Campus partnered with Cornell Chabad to host legal scholar Eugene Kontorovich, who spoke about Israel's right to wage war against Hamas and Hezbollah, and its legal sovereignty over Judea and Samaria. Professor Kontorovich's lecture gave students critical tools to counter the anti-Israel lies promoted in college classrooms and social settings.

Among the most impactful partnerships this year was ZOA Campus's close relationship with Baruch College Hillel. Together, we hosted programs that educated students about Israel and fostered their connection to the Jewish state. ZOA Campus hosted similar programs at John Jay College, City College, Pace University, FIT and more. During the spring semester at Baruch College, ZOA Campus co-sponsored a powerful speaking event about the essence of Zionism featuring former MK Natan Sharansky. Dozens of students and CUNY professors attended and learned about the hardships that Sharansky endured in a Soviet gulag

as a "refusenik" and about his eventual immigration to Israel. ZOA Campus also proudly hosted a Krav Maga self-defense training program for students at Baruch College, where they learned about the history of Krav Maga and the ethos and importance of Jewish self-defense.



Students at a ZOA Campus co-sponsored Krav Maga self-defense training in partnership with Baruch College

One of the year's most powerful events took place at Columbia University, where ZOA Campus partnered with the Jewish Student Association and Columbia University Hillel to host former Israeli hostage Omer Shem Tov, who delivered an inspiring speech. Omer shared the horrors he endured in Hamas captivity and how his Jewish faith kept him strong. The event had a significant impact on students, especially given the antisemitism that has plagued their campus since the October 7 massacre. ZOA Campus also hosted a screening of the Israeli series "Red Alert," a drama depicting the horrors of October 7 and the heroism of ordinary people.

At the University of Pennsylvania, ZOA Campus partnered with pro-Israel students to host a Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration with UPenn Hillel, drawing over 250 students to celebrate Israel's independence. We sponsored additional programs at Binghamton University (through the Binghamton University Zionist Organization) and Lehigh University (through Lehigh Friends of Israel) that engaged students on those campuses.



Legal scholar Eugene Kontorovich with ZOA students at Cornell University

West Coast

Associate Director Or Taylor led Israel 101 seminars and "How to Debate Anti-Zionists" workshops at UC Davis Hillel, SDSU Hillel, and UCSD Hillel, equipping students with the knowledge and confidence they need to push back on the anti-Israel hostility on those campuses.



ZOA Campus Associate Director Or Taylor leads an "Israel 101" advocacy workshop at the University of California San Diego

Other standout programs featured former Israeli hostages Luis Har and Clara Marman, who shared their stories at a packed "129 Days in Captivity" event at Chapman University, and freed hostage Omer Shem Tov, who spoke at a ZOA co-sponsored event at UC Berkeley. ZOA Campus also co-sponsored a multi-school Shabbaton that drew over 200 students from more than 20 West Coast campuses; an expansive Israel Week series held at San Jose State University in partnership with Hillel of Silicon Valley; and a UCSD Jewish Night Market featuring

over 20 booths of Israeli culture. Or also represented ZOA Campus at the StandWithUs Conference in Los Angeles. And he led the development and launch of a new and improved ZOA Campus website that better showcases the department's mission, resources, and programming.

Southeast

Led by Southeast Campus Coordinator Ariana Hoblin, ZOA Campus hosted dozens of meaningful events throughout the Southeast. Students at Nova Southeastern University, Elon University, Virginia Tech, and Tulane University heard from October 7 survivors and former Israeli hostages, including Maya Regev. At the University of Texas at Austin, ZOA Campus hosted a sold-out talk in partnership with UT Austin Chabad featuring former Jerusalem Post editor-in-chief Yaakov Katz, who spoke about his new book, "While Israel Slept." Katz discussed the strategic failures that led to October 7 and advocated for a proactive security doctrine, meaning that Israel must anticipate and disrupt emerging threats before they mature. ZOA Campus also hosted Israeli cultural programming in collaboration with IAC Mishelanu and UT Austin Hillel.

At the University of Central Florida, ZOA Campus collaborated with Chabad and Belev Echad to host a special BBQ event featuring wounded IDF soldiers who shared their heroic personal experiences. We also co-sponsored large celebrations for Yom Ha'atzmaut throughout the region. In addition, ZOA Campus co-sponsored a Tel Aviv-themed party with Florida Atlantic University's Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach. The party drew nearly 300 students, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

Midwest

In collaboration with pro-Israel student groups and partners on several campuses (Students Supporting Israel at DePaul University, Wildcats for Israel at Northwestern University, and Maroons for Israel at the University of Chicago), ZOA Campus hosted one of the premier events of the academic year at DePaul University featuring former IDF spokesperson Jonathan Conricus. Students gained insight into Israel's geostrategic threats and its defensive actions against Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Iranian-backed terror axis.

ZOA Campus also partnered with Ohio State University Chabad to host a special Tel Aviv Aroma coffee night, which proudly celebrated Israeli culture on campus. In addition, as part of ZOA's Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities, the campus department collaborated with Washington University Hillel to co-host a Tel Aviv beach style Independence Day celebration.



Former IDF Spokesperson Jonathan Conricus at a ZOA Campus event in partnership with pro-Israel students at DePaul University, Northwestern University, and the University of Chicago

Summer Internship

In July 2026, ZOA Campus held its annual summer student internship program at ZOA headquarters in Manhattan. Our summer interns are students at Yeshiva University, New York University, Binghamton University, and Muhlenberg College. They worked closely with ZOA Campus staff to strengthen their knowledge, advocacy and communication skills about Israel and Zionism, and helped create new educational materials and resources for students and others.

Around the Country

FLORIDA

Expanding our reach and strengthening our mission



Allison Zur
ZOA Florida Executive Director

Over the past year, ZOA Florida has continued to build on its mission of strengthening Zionist education, fostering community engagement, and standing proudly in support of Israel. As antisemitism has risen around the world and the Jewish community has faced unprecedented challenges, our commitment to educating, inspiring, and uniting our community has never been stronger.

This year was filled with meaningful programs and unforgettable moments that brought together thousands of supporters from across Florida.

One of the year's defining moments was our impactful ZOA Florida Annual Superstar Gala, a celebration of ZOA Florida's mission and the remarkable individuals who have strengthened our community and the State of Israel. During the evening, we proudly honored Barbara Feingold and Robert Meyer as community leaders for their unwavering dedication and support. We also recognized Leo Terrell, Esq., Pastor John Hagee, and U.S. Rep. Randy Fine for their steadfast leadership and courageous advocacy on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people.

Guests were deeply moved by the personal story of Dr. Darren Klugman, which underscored the vital work of ZOA's Center for Law and Justice. After facing sustained attacks that threatened both his livelihood and reputation, Dr. Klugman found critical support from the ZOA which defended his rights and stood firmly for justice. His story is a powerful reminder that ZOA not only advocates for Israel but also protects the fundamental rights of those who speak in its defense.



Guy Finkelstein, IDF reservist and FAU grad, speaks at ZOA Orlando event at Decision Tactical

Throughout the year, we brought together the community for a variety of events:

ZOA National President Morton Klein spoke across South Florida, including at an event held by the Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust, with over 600 people in attendance.

We hosted distinguished leaders from Judea and Samaria through the Nachala Movement, who spoke of their significant work in expanding and strengthening communities in those areas. ZOA is proud to partner with them.

Our community also had the privilege of hearing directly

from IDF soldiers returning from Gaza, who spoke with honesty and courage about their experiences during one of the most challenging periods in Israel's history.

Recognizing the importance of personal security, ZOA Florida offered Krav Maga self-defense training, equipping participants with practical skills while empowering members of our community with greater confidence and preparedness.

Our commitment to engaging the next generation continued through a series of sold-out Young Adult events, bringing together passionate Zionists to build friendships, strengthen their connection to Israel, and cultivate future leaders.

We celebrated another exciting milestone by hosting our first ever Zionist Singles event for adults ages 45 and older. The response exceeded every expectation, becoming the largest singles event for that age group in all of South Florida and demonstrating the tremendous desire for meaningful connections within the Zionist community.

Kickoff for our ZOA Women initiative took place in South Florida, bringing together 75 women from all over the United States, with a shared passion for helping to promote ZOA's critical mission to protect Israel and the Jewish people.

Over 300 people combined joined us for an electric event with U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, who spoke about her new book "Poisoned Ivies" and her commitment to continue to work with ZOA to combat discrimination against Jewish and Zionist students on campuses.

We ended the year with a strong representation of Florida constituents at our Annual ZOA Advocacy Mission to Washington D.C., where we met with 14 members of Congress. We discussed the Islamic Republic of Iran, Antisemitism, and the status of Judea and Samaria. We advocated for the passage of 11 specific bills during these meetings.

These accomplishments represent only a glimpse of what ZOA Florida achieved this year. Every event we hosted, every educational program we presented, every advocacy meeting we held, and every new relationship we cultivated reflects our unwavering commitment to strengthening Jewish identity, defending Israel, and building a vibrant Zionist community throughout Florida.

As we look ahead, our momentum continues to grow. We remain dedicated to expanding our reach, creating innovative programming, and ensuring that Zionist voices are heard loudly and proudly across our state.



ZOA Florida Executive Director Allison Zur interviews U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik at ZOA Women Florida event at Anshei Emuna Congregation in Delray Beach, Fl.

Harry Cohen

From happy hours to mahjong classes, young Jewish professionals have many events competing for their attention. While one can fill their calendar and sip to their heart's desire, these events lack the Zionist ruach needed for today's times. ZOA Florida has entered this competitive space to change that. Led by Allison Zur, ZOA Florida's Young Leadership Division has combined both fun and substance.

The Division is focused on reaching out to Jews under 40 who want to put their Zionism into action and have fun doing it. So far, our Division has hosted krav maga classes, policy discussions, comedy events and, of course, happy hours throughout South Florida. Recently, we hosted Sammy Yahood, a young Jewish man from England who discussed his experiences as a secular Jew in London, his transformation in the wake of October 7, and his Aliyah process. Prior to the program with Sammy, the Division hosted speakers such as Adela Cojab, who discussed her experience fighting antisemitism while a student at NYU, and Dan Pollak, ZOA's Director of Government Relations, who discussed the status of Zionism in the halls of Congress. We have also put words into action by attending lobbying days and meeting with elected officials.

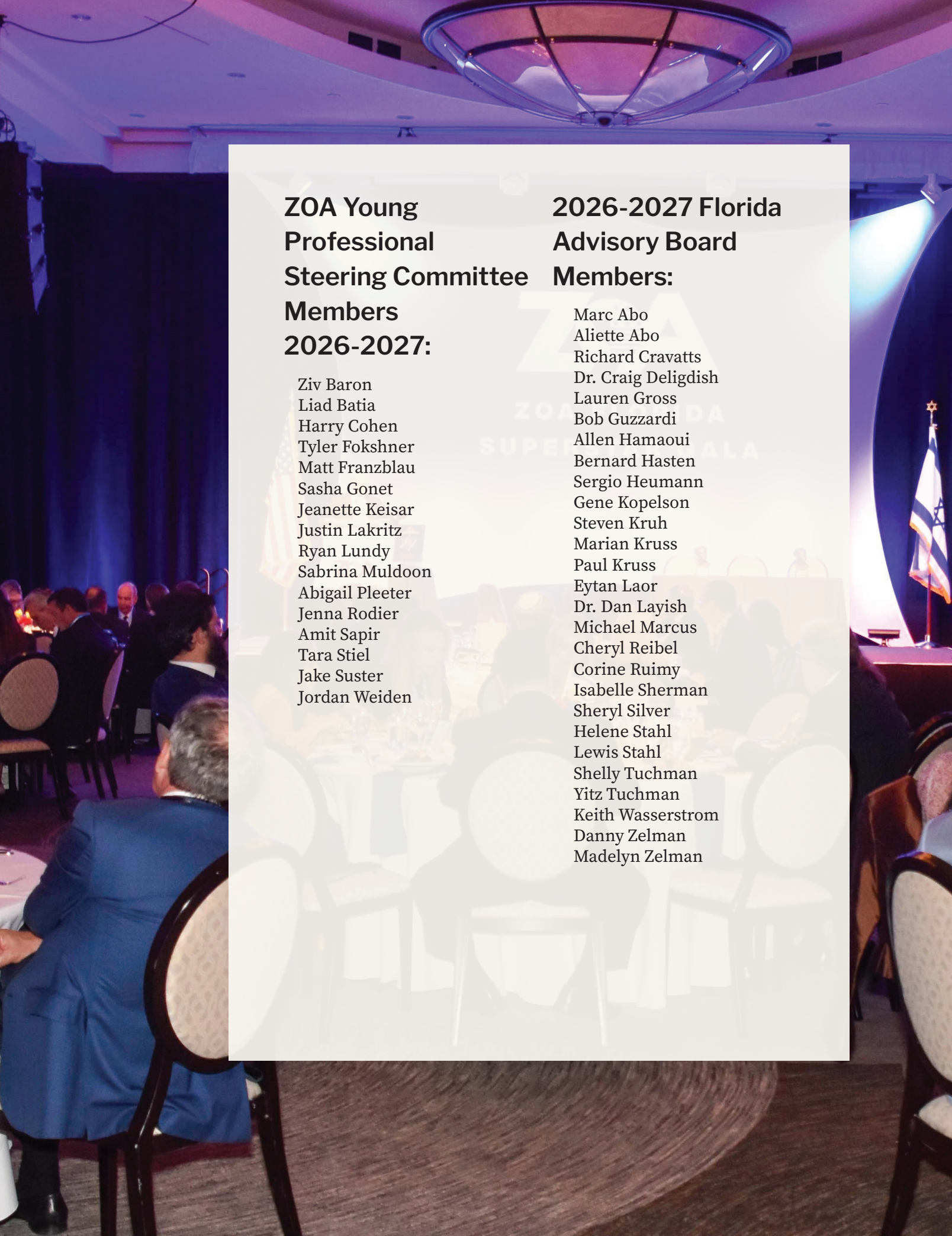
ZOA's Young Leadership Division is dedicated to gathering unapologetic Zionists and making an impact through our events. We invite you to come, sip, laugh, make new friends, and join in our Zionist mission.



Harry Cohen, ZOA Florida young adult steering committee member and others at ZOA Florida young adult happy hour hosted by The Greenwald Family Impact Foundation in Aventura, FL featuring guest speakers from the Yatar unit of the IDF

ZOA's Florida Superstar Gala





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Liad Batia
Harry Cohen
Tyler Fokshner
Matt Franzblau
Sasha Gonet
Jeanette Keisar
Justin Lakritz
Ryan Lundy
Sabrina Muldoon
Abigail Pleeter
Jenna Rodier
Amit Sapir
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2026-2027 Florida Advisory Board Members:

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Aliette Abo
Richard Cravatts
Dr. Craig Deligdish
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Keith Wasserstrom
Danny Zelman
Madelyn Zelman


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Stella Escobedo, Siggy Flicker, Leo Terrell, Esq., Morton Klein, Barbara Feingold, Rep. Randy Fine, and Ellie Cohanim



Tila Falic Levi, Siggy Flicker, Diana and Pastor John Hagee, Barbara Feingold, Sandra Hagee Parker, and Morton Klein



Barbara Feingold and Leo Terrell, Esq.



Rep. Brian Mast and Morton Klein



Jane and Bruce Burwick



Ezra Hanz, Barbara Feingold, Rita and Morton Klein, and Rep. Randy Fine



Rep. Randy Fine, Bob Meyer and Suzan Mitchell, Benjamin Meyer, and Morton and Rita Klein



Rebecca Jean Smith and Karen Smith



Morton Klein and Lewis Stahl



Rep. Brian Mast, Rep. Randy Fine, and IDF veteran Ben Ladany



Joe Lubeck, Morton Klein, and Leo Terrell



Ryan Mermer, Morton Klein, ZOA National Board member Sheryl Silver, Leo Terrell, and Rep. Randy Fine



Aliette and Dr. Marc Abo



Gila Bronner and Dr. Craig Deligdish



ZOA's Susan Tuchman and Nancy Hollander



Robert Guzzardi, Esq. and Leo Terrell, Esq.



Allen and Renee Hamaoui, Dr. Craig Deligdish, Gila Bronner, and Paul and Marian Kruss



Yunia DeMicco, Esq., Barbara Feingold, Morton and Rita Klein, Helene and Lewis Stahl, and Rep. Randy Fine



ZOA National Board member Ed Lewis and Morton Klein



Lauren Gross



ZOA National Board member and founder and co-chair of ZOA Women, Susan Good and Morton Klein

From Awareness to Action: ZOA Michigan in the Community

For Jewish families in Michigan, concerns about antisemitism have become deeply personal. Parents are asking whether their children will be safe on their college campuses. Students are weighing whether to display symbols of Jewish identity or speak openly about Israel. These are not questions any young person should have to face simply to receive an education.

ZOA Michigan made those concerns the focus of its June 9, 2026, program at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, bringing together scholars and community organizations to examine rising antisemitism on campuses and throughout American society. The free community program addressed not only the manifestations of hatred, but also the forces allowing it to spread—and the responsibility of our community to respond.

The panel featured Professor Amy Elman of Kalamazoo College, Professor Victor B. Lieberman of the University of Michigan, and Professor Michael Weingrad of Portland State University. Their discussion presented campus antisemitism as an entrenched problem without simple solutions. They examined media bias, the influence of social media on young people's understanding of Israel and Jewish issues, and university practices that can reinforce ideological uniformity within academic departments.

In addition to educating the community about how antisemitism manifests on campus and what helps to breed it, the program demonstrated the importance of communal cooperation. Participating organizations included schools, social-service agencies and advocacy groups, bringing different perspectives and areas of expertise to a shared concern.



Kobi Erez
ZOA Michigan Executive Director

Standing With Soldiers After the Battlefield

For many Israeli soldiers, returning from combat means confronting challenges that family members and friends cannot easily see. They may be home with their loved ones, back in a classroom or trying to reopen a business, while still carrying the emotional weight of everything they experienced during the war.

Together with our Israeli partners, ZOA Michigan helped organize programs for IDF soldiers struggling with these emotional wounds.

The programs incorporated working the land, planting trees, shared meals, music and conversations around a campfire. These activities created natural opportunities for companionship and reflection. Some soldiers spoke openly; others listened. Being among people who understood their experiences meant that no one had to explain everything – or speak before they were ready.

One soldier described sitting at the Shabbat table with his fiancée while feeling emotionally far away. Another recalled repeatedly reading the same paragraph in class without being able to absorb it. A business owner explained that decisions he once handled confidently had become overwhelming after months of reserve duty.







Kobi Erez providing support for traumatized IDF soldiers.

Others spoke about nightmares, sleeplessness, and remaining constantly on guard even when they were somewhere safe. A sudden noise or crowded room could bring back memories of combat. All these experiences made clear that the burdens of war do not always appear as visible injuries. They can surface in relationships, education, work and the basic ability to feel comfortable at home.

One particularly meaningful moment came when the soldiers learned about ZOA's efforts in the United States to support Israel and confront antisemitism. They expressed gratitude for work taking place thousands of miles from the battlefield – on campuses, in the media, throughout our communities and before government officials. Hearing their response was a powerful reminder that ZOA's work in Michigan and across the country matters to people in Israel.

Ensuring Michigan Voters Had the Facts



Sheldon L. Freilich
ZOA Michigan President

ZOA Michigan's public advocacy in 2026 also extended directly into the civic arena, including Michigan's closely watched U.S. Senate campaign. As voters prepared to choose their nominees, we believed it was essential that issues involving antisemitism, Jewish security, Israel and the treatment of Michigan's Jewish community not be pushed to the margins of the political conversation.

Our purpose was voter education – not telling Michigan residents whom to support. ZOA Michigan worked to place relevant public statements, appearances and associations before voters so they could examine the record for themselves and make informed decisions at the ballot box.

That effort included drawing attention to statements by Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed following the March 12, 2026, attack on Temple Israel in West Bloomfield.

In a video discussing the attack, El-Sayed spoke about the attacker's loss of family members in Lebanon, described violence as a cycle and used the phrase: "Hurt people hurt people."

Whether a candidate is a Democrat, Republican or independent, statements concerning antisemitic violence deserve careful public examination. When violence is deliberately directed at a Jewish institution, the focus should remain on the attack itself and the responsibility of the person who committed it – not on political grievances involving Israel.

ZOA Michigan also called attention to El-Sayed's campaign appearances with political streamer and commentator Hasan Piker. Piker has said that Hamas was a "thousand times better" than the Israeli government, and that the U.S. "deserved 9/11."

ZOA Michigan will continue working to ensure that Michigan voters have information they can examine for themselves – and that the safety, dignity and security of Michigan's Jewish community remain part of the public conversation.

Demanding Transparency in Foreign Funding of American Universities

In September 2026, ZOA Michigan called on Michigan U.S. Senators Elissa Slotkin and Gary Peters to support the DETERRENT Act – the Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions Act – legislation designed to strengthen disclosure and oversight requirements involving foreign money flowing into American colleges and universities.

Foreign financial relationships with universities are not, by themselves, evidence of improper influence. But when substantial foreign gifts and contracts are hidden, reported late or incompletely disclosed, students, parents, policymakers and the public cannot fully evaluate those relationships or ask informed questions about potential conflicts of interest.

Students, parents and taxpayers should be able to know when universities receiving substantial public support are also entering significant financial relationships with foreign governments, state-linked organizations or other overseas entities. Researchers and policymakers should be able to examine whether those relationships affect academic programs, partnerships, research priorities or institutional decision-making.

American institutions entrusted with educating the next generation must operate with the openness and accountability that such an important responsibility demands.

Responding When Antisemitism Reaches the Classroom

On only the second day of classes at Warner Middle School in Farmington Hills, a Jewish student encountered a drawing containing swastikas and Hitler imagery. ZOA Michigan quickly alerted the community, supported the family and brought the issue before the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education.

ZOA Michigan President Sheldon L. Freilich addressed the board and submitted a detailed letter calling for a thorough investigation and meaningful accountability; clear procedures for reporting and responding to antisemitic harassment; an unequivocal public condemnation; staff and student training; and age-appropriate Holocaust education.

Drawing on guidance from ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, the letter also urged the district to use the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as a practical resource for identifying and responding to antisemitic conduct.

From Harrisburg to Philadelphia and beyond, elected officials, government institutions and quasi-government agencies sometimes lead anti-Jewish activity and foment more of it. In addition to preempting and challenging Jew-hatred and attacks from anti-Jewish groups and individuals in the private sector, Greater Philadelphia ZOA has devoted its efforts to addressing the worsening public front. We are shoulder-deep in this effort.

A recent example of anti-Jewish incitement in the public sector was committed by none other than the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC), whose members are appointed by the governor and whose responsibility it is to prevent and combat prejudice. In May 2026, the PHRC announced a webinar for Pennsylvanians on the topic, "How Antisemitism Is Exploited to Drive Islamophobia," featuring officials from the Southern Poverty Law Center (which, according to federal prosecutors, secretly funneled funds to individuals associated with violent extremist groups including the Ku Klux Klan and Aryan Nations). According to the PHRC, the webinar's title was supposedly an improvement over the original title: "How Anti-Muslim Hate and Fears of Antisemitism Prop Up [a] Pro-Israel Façade."

After learning about this webinar, Executive Director Steve Feldman immediately contacted the PHRC and explained to multiple officials that the webinar's title and premise were false and would encourage prejudice against Jews, in violation of the PHRC's mission.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA was not the only group to protest this outrage; others opposed the webinar, too. Thanks to this concerted effort, the program was cancelled.

After making a forceful case to PHRC staff, Steve Feldman was invited to address the PHRC board at its meeting on May 18, 2026 – the only external person to address the PHRC board on this matter. Steve called on the board to investigate how and why this event was approved in the first place, and to investigate the anti-Jewish activity in schools throughout the commonwealth. The board did not commit to taking either step.



Steve Feldman
Greater Philadelphia ZOA Executive Director

Preventing Hijacking of Graduation Ceremonies

Prior to high school graduations in the spring of 2026, Greater Philadelphia ZOA wrote to the superintendents of 12 of the largest school districts in eastern Pennsylvania to alert them to the ways in which many graduation ceremonies have become vehicles for expressing hatred of Jews and Israel, turning these celebratory events into events that are hostile and unwelcoming to Jews and others. We called on the superintendents and their districts to institute guidelines about what can be displayed and said during commencement, and to enforce penalties for violations of the guidelines. We received responses from half of the school districts expressing appreciation for our advisory.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA weighed in on an incident in a suburban high school where the Muslim Students Association displayed the Palestine Liberation Organization flag at a cultural event, and MSA students were coaxing other students to put on keffiyehs – politicizing this cultural event. We wrote to the school board president and received a response that included a letter from the district superintendent, who made the MSA students out to be the victims because Jewish students had complained about the MSA's actions.

Calling Out the Governor . . .

In April 2026, Greater Philadelphia ZOA issued an open letter to Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro after Shapiro went on the "All-In" podcast and asserted falsely that Israel had coerced President Trump and the United States to go to war with Iran. Our headline inquired: *"Governor Shapiro: Why Are You Fostering Jew-Hatred Rather Than Leading the Fight Against Jew-Hatred?"*

In the body of the letter, we asked the governor what he was doing to address the rampant anti-Jewish activity in Pennsylvania, specifically noting the following:

- That the governor refused to direct the Education Secretary to investigate and address the well-documented statewide anti-Jewish incitement and indoctrination in Pennsylvania's K-12 schools;
- That the governor had awarded a $5 million grant to a blatantly anti-Jewish Philadelphia mosque to expand and increase enrollment at its school;
- That the governor had barely condemned the anti-Jewish, hatred-inciting lies at rallies and demonstrations throughout the commonwealth; and
- That after the governor's official residence was attacked in April 2025, in the hours after the governor and his family celebrated the first night of Passover, the governor failed to immediately label the attack as anti-Jewish even though the attacker reportedly stated that he was motivated by his hatred of Israel.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA called on Governor Shapiro to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, and institute programs to prevent Jew-hatred in Pennsylvania's schools. We offered our assistance to achieve these results.

. . . and the Mayor of Philadelphia

In November 2025, Greater Philadelphia ZOA wrote to Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker calling on her to cancel an event that she was hosting in City Hall to recognize "International Day of Solidarity With the 'Palestinian' People," and to withdraw a proclamation that she had issued for the occasion. We published the letter as a full-page ad in the Jewish Exponent newspaper.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA's letter to the mayor stated: "You are about to legitimize a movement that has as its goal the destruction of the Jewish state of Israel, and you will validate a cause whose participants have murdered thousands of people – mostly Jews, and including scores of Americans." We urged the mayor to "speak out against this hatred and violence" and to "stop the Jew-hatred before there is a calamity here."

In a related matter, an ad-hoc coalition of anti-Jewish groups in Philadelphia announced that they were holding an event on Independence Mall to mark "International Day of Solidarity With the 'Palestinian' People." When we learned about the plan, Greater Philadelphia ZOA filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the coalition's permit application, to determine whether there was a basis to challenge the permit. For unknown reasons, the event was moved to a private, indoor location.

Rescuing the Truth

We continue to periodically dispatch our "Information Ambulance" – an LED-panel truck loaded with fact-filled messages and messages of support for the Jewish community, Israel and Zionism – to "rescue the truth" where and when it is needed. Recently, we deployed the ambulance to the area outside the Philadelphia office of U.S. Senator John Fetterman (D-PA) who has been relentlessly attacked by Jew- and Israel-haters who stage a weekly protest outside his office. In addition to our usual messages, we loaded the ambulance with two others to thank the senator for his strong support for Israel.

Other Activities

Twenty-five members and friends from our region participated in the ZOA Capitol Hill Advocacy Mission in June 2026. The feedback from participants was all positive as the full day of hands-on advocacy and learning was both educational and gave each participant a sense of accomplishment.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA continues to offer our two-part situational awareness, self-defense and first-aid courses taught by a certified instructor. Participants can also learn about firearms handling and safety from a certified instructor. We are the only Jewish organization in the region offering these courses.

We will also be offering courses in effective advocacy as well as a refresher course on the history of the Middle East and recent developments.

In recent months, Steve Feldman was a frequent guest on the city's highest-rated talk-radio show, "The Dom Giordano Show," heard weekdays on 1210 AM WPHT. Steve was also the subject of a front cover profile in Philadelphia's Jewish Exponent newspaper; and a featured speaker at a Tiferet Bet Israel Congregation Men's Club breakfast and a luncheon of the Rotary Club of the Lower Main Line. Steve's essays were published by the Jerusalem News Syndicate and Times of Israel.



Steve Feldman with PA Treasurer Stacy Garrity, recipient of ZOA's Defender of Israel Award; and Lynne K. Lechter, Esq., Greater Philadelphia ZOA co-president, board member, and gala chair.



Ofir Akunis, Consul General of Israel in New York, briefing Greater Philadelphia ZOA leaders and supporters



ZOA's "Information Ambulance" at City Hall

Israel Day Parade



ZOA was proud to join 65,000 Zionists at this year's Israel Day on Fifth parade in NYC. Thank you to everyone who marched with us and proudly wore our parade T-shirt declaring "Unapologetic Zionism Since 1897."




EST 1917
ZOA
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
PROUD ZIONIST
& AMERICAN


PROUD ZIONIST & AMERICAN
ZOA CAMPUS
CENTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE
HOLDING U.S. INSTITUTIONS ACCOUNTABLE BY LAW
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
INFLUENCING POLITICIANS ON CAPITOL HILL
Zionist Organization of America
Founded 1897
ZOA
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
ZOA CAMPUS
ZOA ISRAEL
ADVOCATING FOR ISRAEL IN ISRAEL

ZOA Women

Empowering Women to Mobilize, Advocate, and Lead

ZOA is expanding its reach through ZOA Women, a growing national initiative uniting women leaders and philanthropists committed to advancing the interests of the State of Israel and the Jewish people. Founded by ZOA National Board member Susan Good and co-chaired by Good and Rhonda Small, ZOA Women has grown to approximately 300 women from across the country, ready to mobilize, advocate, and lead through education, activism, and community.

At a time when Israel and Zionism need strong leaders, ZOA Women is creating opportunities for women to make their voices heard, strengthen the U.S.–Israel relationship, confront antisemitism and anti-Zionism, and expand women's impact and philanthropy within ZOA and the broader pro-Israel/Jewish community.

Susan Good's leadership and outreach helped expand ZOA Women's educational and advocacy efforts into the Chicago area, where in June 2026, she helped organize a series of highly successful programs featuring ZOA National President Morton Klein. These included a gathering of Christian Zionists at the Quentin Road Baptist Church and a program at Bryn Mawr Country Club in Lincolnwood entitled "Truth Under Fire: Confronting the Lies Against Israel." Both events drew large audiences eager to learn more about ZOA, Israel's security challenges, the rise of antisemitism, and the importance of the U.S.–Israel alliance.

At Quentin Road Baptist Church, Klein addressed the moral and historical case for supporting Israel and participated in a question-and-answer session moderated by Pastor Jim Scudder Jr., host of InGrace Israel. That evening, at the sold-out community event in Lincolnwood, Klein discussed ZOA's decades of advocacy, challenged misinformation about Israel, and addressed threats to Israeli security and the growing prevalence of antisemitism on college campuses and in public discourse. Both events brought Jewish and Christian supporters together around a shared love of Israel and helped lay the groundwork for a lasting ZOA presence in the region.

ZOA Women's growing presence was also evident in Florida, where its events brought together Zionist women leaders for education, engagement, and action. A ZOA Women's Brunch in March 2026, began with Mort Klein, who highlighted the historic role of Zionist women in shaping and defending the Jewish future. Susan Tuchman, Esq., director of the ZOA Center for Law & Justice, discussed ZOA's groundbreaking success in securing legal protection for Jewish students under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act when they face antisemitic harassment and discrimination in their schools and on their college campuses. Ellie Cohanim, former U.S. Deputy Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, emphasized the importance of the U.S.–Israel alliance in confronting the Iranian regime and its decades of state-sponsored terrorism. Good and Small encouraged attendees to become actively involved in ZOA's advocacy efforts.



Rita Klein, Susan Good, and Morton Klein at a ZOA Women's Chicago event

In April 2026, ZOA Women also hosted two highly successful events featuring U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY), author of "Poisoned Ivies: The Inside Account of the Academic and Moral Rot at America's Elite Universities." The April 17 book signing in Palm Beach was sold out, and the April 19 event at Anshei Emuna Congregation in Delray Beach also drew a capacity crowd. Stefanik praised ZOA as a leading pro-Israel advocacy organization and highlighted her collaboration with ZOA's legal team in advancing civil rights protections for Jewish students facing antisemitism on campus.

In June 2026, ZOA Women extended its impact to ZOA's national advocacy efforts, sponsoring the VIP reception at ZOA's Capitol Hill Israel Advocacy Mission in Washington, D.C., featuring Leo Terrell, Esq., Chair of the Department of Justice Task Force on Antisemitism. The event provided another opportunity to bring together leaders and supporters committed to advancing ZOA's mission and strengthening advocacy for the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

As ZOA Women enters its second year, the initiative looks forward to building on this momentum, expanding its national network, and offering even more programs and events that empower women to mobilize, advocate, and lead on behalf of the State of Israel and the Jewish people. Through these efforts, ZOA Women will continue to strengthen the U.S.–Israel alliance, equip women to challenge antisemitism and anti-Israel narratives, expand philanthropic engagement, and cultivate a new generation of women leaders within ZOA.

Together, these women are demonstrating what proud, passionate, and philanthropic women can achieve when they unite around a common purpose. ZOA Women invites women across the country to join this growing movement and together advance the safety, security, and strength of the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

Join ZOA Women: Visit zoa.org/zoawomen or email zoawomen@zoa.org to learn more.



ZOA Women co-chair Rhonda Small (center) and ZOA Florida Executive Director Allison Zur (right) with guests at the ZOA Women's brunch (Florida)

ZOOM WITH ZOA

Webinars and Book Clubs

Webinars

ZOA's expert-led webinars provided timely analysis, in-depth briefings, and informed perspectives on the critical issues shaping Israel's security, the fight against antisemitism, and the Jewish people's future.

January 2026

Iran Update and Analysis: Implications for the Middle East and the United States — Lisa Daftari, foreign affairs journalist and frequent commentator on Fox TV; MidEast and counterterrorism expert, and Ali Meli, renowned financial professional; philanthropist; Iranian-American; former partner, Goldman Sachs

February 2026

The Information and Cyber Wars Against the Jewish People and How to Overcome Them — Jeffrey Kahn, global strategist

March 2026

ZOA Briefing: Iran Update — Ali Meli

More Jew Hatred in Congress? Primary Elections to Watch — Steve Feldman, Greater Philadelphia ZOA Executive Director; Dan Pollak, ZOA Government Relations Director; and Adam Turner, ZOA Government Relations Deputy Director

Urgent Briefing: The War With Iran & Operation Lion's Roar — MK Dan Illouz, Likud Member; Former ZOA Israel Representative

May 2026

The War on Israel and Antisemitism on Capitol Hill: An Update from the ZOA Department of Government Relations — Dan Pollak, ZOA Government Relations Director and Adam Turner, ZOA Government Relations Deputy Director

NYC's Israel Day Parade: History and Meaning Today — Elizabeth Berney, Esq., ZOA Director of Research & Special Projects; Akiba Covitz, Ph.D., ZOA Strategist; and Dr. Paul Brody, ZOA Long Island / Queens President

July 2026

The Past, Present, and Future Plans for Judea/Samaria — Oren Seliger, Director of Strategy at the Yesha Council

August 2026

The Surging Influence of Islam's 'Infidel' Hatred: A Danger to America, Israel, and the World — Dr. Andy Bostom, former professor of medicine and epidemiology at Brown University and scholar, author, and lecturer on Islam

October 2026

Commemorating the 3rd Anniversary of the October 7th Anti-Jewish Islamist Massacre and More With Cong. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) — Cong. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)

Book Clubs

ZOA's Book Clubs, moderated by Director of Research and Special Projects Liz Berney, Esq., brought leading authors to explore important books examining Israel, antisemitism, Jewish identity, and the ideological challenges facing the Jewish people and Western civilization.

December 2025

Rogue Justice: The Rise of Judicial Supremacy in Israel — Yonatan Green

January 2026

The Canary on the Couch: The Psychology of Jewish Self-Delusions in the Face of Rising Antisemitism — Dr. Kenneth Levin

February 2026

Lawless: The Miseducation of America's Elites – An Insider's Account of Institutional Weakness and the Transformation of Law Schools — Ilya Shapiro, constitutional lawyer

March 2026

United in Hate: The Left's Romance with Tyranny, Terror and Hamas — Dr. Jamie Glazov

From Gaza to Tel Aviv: The Unbelievable True Story of a Muslim Palestinian Who Escaped to Israel and Became a Jew — Dor Shachar

Holy Hell: Islam's Abuse of Women and the Infidels Who Enable It — Robert Spencer, director of Jihad Watch; Shillman Fellow, David Horowitz Freedom Center

April 2026

Antisemitism: History & Myth — Robert Spencer

May 2026

Poisoned Ivies: The Inside Account of the Academic and Moral Rot at America's Elite Universities — Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY)

June 2026

Israel and Civilization: The Fate of the Jewish Nation and the Destiny of the West — Josh Hammer

July 2026

Jewish But Not Religious: Secular Jews and Jewish Continuity — Professor Farrell Bloch

August 2026

The Mysticism of Andalusia: Exploring HaRambam's Mystical Tradition — Rabbi Yamin Levy

Visit our YouTube page at  or @ZOAnational to watch these programs.

ZOA People

Michael Orbach

ZOA National Board Member & Co-Vice Chair



Michael Orbach

Michael Orbach has been a ZOA National Board member for close to 35 years, as well as a trusted advisor to ZOA National President Morton Klein. For as long as he can remember, Michael has been interested and involved in politics and Jewish life here in the U.S. and in Israel.

These interests were planted early. The son of a Holocaust survivor from Zolynia, a small village in Poland, Michael grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where he attended Yeshivah of Flatbush High School. While a business student at Baruch College in Manhattan, Michael formed the Jewish Action Committee of Baruch (JACOB)

From a young age, Michael was deeply affected by world events as they related to world Jewry. The events that shook the Jewish world starting in the 1970's particularly shaped Michael's outlook going forward. In 1972, 11 members of Israel's Olympic team were massacred by Palestinian Arab terrorists at the Munich Olympics. In 1975, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution that "Zionism is a form of racism." In 1976, an Air France flight from Paris to Tel Aviv was hijacked by members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and a German terrorist group during a stopover in Athens. The plane was forced to fly to Entebbe International Airport in Uganda, where the terrorists immediately separated the Jewish and Israeli passengers from the rest of the captives who were released.

The 1970's also saw a determined Soviet Jewry looking to be freed and a unified American Jewry that organized, gathered and marched together down Fifth Avenue to the United Nations to protest for their freedom. Michael joined with his father, Mark z"l, and a small group of dedicated Jews in southern Brooklyn – the Oceanfront Council for Soviet Jewry – to participate in the march. This was the only group to add a float to the march, which recreated the harsh conditions that the Jews in the Soviet Union were enduring.



Michael Orbach at a 1970s NYC march for the freedom of Soviet Jewry

All these events "taught me how fragile Jewish life is," Michael explained. "They taught me that we need to speak out and to be active in supporting Israel wherever we are."

Then, another world event influenced Michael's thoughts and actions: the Oslo Accords, the agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1993 and 1995 that were aimed at achieving peace between the Palestinian Arabs and Israel and establishing a framework for Palestinian Arab self-governance.

"It was so clear to me that Oslo was not going to work," Michael said. "I knew it in my gut." For Michael, Oslo was history repeating itself. In 1938, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain went to Munich and acceded to Adolph Hitler's demand to annex the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia, foolishly thinking that appeasing Hitler would avert war. Given the words and actions of the PLO, Michael knew that it was equally foolish to believe that the PLO was genuinely committed to peace with Israel.

Shimon Peres, Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs, came to New York in 1993, before the Oslo Accords were signed, as part of an effort to garner international support for this supposed peace process. Michael co-led the first and only demonstration in Times Square against Oslo.

Michael's outlook on Oslo was a minority view. "The Jewish world was in this euphoria that Oslo was so wonderful. I could see clearly that it wasn't," Michael said. In 1993, even before the ink was dry on the first agreement, PLO leader Yasser Arafat announced that the Oslo Accords were merely part of the PLO's "stages plan," which called for first establishing a national authority on whatever territory the PLO could obtain inside Israeli territory and then using that beachhead to destroy all of Israel.

Michael looked for Jewish leadership that would not be fooled by wishful thinking, that would instead make a clear-eyed assessment of history and the facts and the conclusions that should be drawn from them. He found that Jewish leader when he heard Mort Klein speak.

Michael saw that Mort knew the facts, could easily summon them on demand, and was completely unafraid to tell the truth about the dangers of Oslo, even if that meant disagreeing with the Israeli government and most of the American Jewish community. "Other Jewish leaders were going with the program just to get along." Michael said. "They were mostly weak individuals. Mort had strength and passion. He knew the facts and the other side couldn't refute them." To the consternation of other Jewish leaders who enthusiastically embraced Oslo, "Mort wouldn't go along with the program."



Michael Orbach at ZOA's Leadership Mission to Israel

In 1993, Mort Klein ran for the national presidency of the ZOA, after having served as president of the ZOA's Philadelphia chapter. His campaign focused on the dangers of Oslo. Michael threw his support behind Mort. Though it seemed impossible that Mort would win – because the incumbent "was running the show and setting the rules," Michael explained – Mort won the election, though the vote was close.

Michael played a role in ensuring that the


Michael Orbach with Morton Klein at the Knesset

election was fair. He went to Washington, D.C. with Mort and others during the election process, which took place at the Washington Hilton Hotel. "I asked where all the ballots were and found them in a room full of people who were loyal to the incumbent. I oversaw the ballot-counting process and made sure that the ballots were counted fairly and accurately. The count was close and Mort won by 17 votes."

After he was elected, Mort put together a national board and asked Michael to join it, which he did. Then 38 years old, Michael was younger than most of the rest of the board. That began his now over 30 years of dedication and commitment to the ZOA.

Within a few years, Michael became Chairman of the Board – then and still the youngest to ever serve in that capacity. He has remained a board member and officer ever since, currently serving as a National Vice Chair and a member of ZOA's executive committee. Throughout, he has been a deeply respected and trusted advisor to Mort Klein. In 2004, ZOA gave Michael the prestigious Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award in recognition of his contributions to the Jewish community and the state of Israel.

Michael has attended meetings and taken



Michael Orbach and Morton Klein in Israel, late 1990s

trips on ZOA's behalf. One trip, to Israel in the late 1990s, remains remarkable to Michael to this day. He and Mort visited Kfar Silver in Israel, a youth village and school that ZOA established in 1957 and named for its former president and a Zionist giant, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver. Located in southern Israel near Ashkelon, Kfar Silver provided education and agricultural training to local young Israelis and to new immigrants to Israel from places such as Ethiopia, Latin America and the former Soviet Union.

On the day of their visit to Kfar Silver, Michael recalls that he and Mort met with 30 Kfar Silver students who hailed from Ukraine. Mort was asked to address the students. Before he did, he asked each student their name and where they were from in Ukraine. Each one replied, sharing their Ukrainian names that would be unfamiliar and difficult to pronounce for most English speakers.

After Mort spoke with the students and it was



Michael Orbach and Morton Klein meeting with Ukrainian students at Kfar Silver

time for goodbyes, Mort addressed each and every one of the 30 students by their first and last names. Michael couldn't believe it – "I almost fell off my chair," he said. "Mort remembered each student's name. He has a photographic memory. I'd never seen anything like it before."

In the 1990's, Michael traveled with Mort to Qatar. They were among 40 Jewish leaders – representing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations – who traveled to Qatar at Israel's request. A new administration had just come into power in Qatar, and Israel and the Conference of Presidents thought it was an opportune time to encourage Qatar to improve its stance toward Israel. Michael recalls their delegation traveling from Israel to Jordan in an unmarked bus, shades drawn, and taking a private jet from Jordan to Qatar.

In the early 2000's, Michael represented the ZOA on the Jewish National Fund (JNF) board in New York. At the time, the JNF's New York office

was refusing to promote the planting of trees in Israel over the Green Line. Though the Jewish members of JNF's New York board fought him every step of the way, Michael was successful in convincing JNF in New York to plant trees in Judea and Samaria and to promote planting trees in Judea and Samaria in its brochures.

Michael is particularly proud of his plan to sell



Michael Orbach with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

the ZOA's building on East 34th Street in Manhattan (known as the Jacob and Libby Goodman ZOA House) and purchase new office space for ZOA on Third Avenue. ZOA's headquarters had been located at the 34th Street building since 1974, and the building was deteriorating and badly in need of major capital improvements.

Based on his background and experience, Michael believed that his idea, if implemented, would have immense benefits to ZOA. In 1985, Michael founded a major real estate company based in Manhattan and has had a successful track record of amassing commercial, residential and retail properties in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Long Island.

Michael knew that the building on Third Avenue was one of the very few condominium office buildings in Manhattan where businesses could purchase rather than lease space. There were other non-profit organizations in the building already, and security was excellent there.

One day, Michael took a walk over to the Third Avenue building with Mort, to show it to him. Mort was impressed. Michael put together a proposal to sell the building on 34th Street and purchase space in the building on Third Avenue, and he presented the proposal to the board. The board approved it. The 34th Street building was sold and ZOA purchased magnificent office space in the Third Avenue building which has served as ZOA headquarters since 2016. The proceeds that remained after the sale and purchase "changed ZOA's trajectory," Michael proudly noted.

Michael is equally proud of his wife and family, all of whom share his support for Israel's safety and security. Michael regularly attends ZOA programs and events, including the ZOA's annual gala. His family members enthusiastically attend with him. "It's comforting to know that my family is as pro-Israel as I am," Michael said. In 2023, Michael participated in the ZOA leadership mission to Israel.

In Michael's view, the October 7 terrorist attacks in Israel were a "wake-up call" for many in Israel and the U.S. who now understand that the "two-state solution" is not a viable solution for Israel; it would mean a terrorist state next to Israel, committed to Israel's destruction. He also believes that "it's more important than ever that we all fight for the state of Israel" – and that Mort Klein and ZOA are central to that battle. "We need the ZOA – for clarity, for purpose, and for its support for Israel's safety and security," Michael noted. "ZOA stays true to Israel and fights effectively for its success and survival. That's why I'm a proud supporter of the organization and its work."

Praise for ZOA

When I think of ZOA, I think of an organization that refuses to compromise on the truth regardless of prevailing fashion. The ZOA is a bulwark in the defense of Israel. I urge you to support the ZOA and its efforts on behalf of Israel."

- Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel

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."

— Mike Huckabee, U.S. Ambassador to Israel

Mort, I want to publicly acknowledge that you and ZOA have been right about everything."

—Michael Oren, Former Israeli Ambassador to the United States at a Meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Israel Mission

The ZOA is the most credible advocate for Israel on the American Jewish scene today."

— The Wall Street Journal

ZOA has been utterly fearless in speaking the truth and calling out evil, in calling out radical Islamic terrorism and standing up for the people of Israel, and in standing up for the people of America."

— U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)

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Ensure the ZOA's Future. Remember the ZOA in Your Will.

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.

Happy Hanukkah

May the courage of the Maccabees
continue to inspire us
as we champion the State of Israel
and the Jewish people.

Am Yisrael Chai.

Zionist Organization of America



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