



# ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Adelson  
Netanyahu  
Ya'alon  
Cantor

## ZOA's Herzl-Brandeis Award Dinner



SPRING  
2010

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Published by the  
Zionist Organization of America

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## ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Perilous Times Ahead for Israel and the U.S.

# Now

into the second year of the Obama Administration, the Middle East remains a great source of peril and insecurity for Israel, the United States and the Western world. Anyone who doubts this should pause to reflect on two on-going subjects: incitement to hatred and violence within the Fatah-controlled Palestinian Authority (PA) of Mahmoud Abbas; and Iran's drive to obtain nuclear weapons.

Incitement to hatred and violence against Jews and Israel in the PA-controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps continues undiminished as a matter of policy. Fatah, at its

first conference in 20 years last August, could have set a new path by the Palestinian leadership, a new commitment to making peace. But instead this conference made a mockery of peace. Fatah reaffirmed its refusal to accept Israel's existence as a Jewish state, glorified terrorists and the "armed struggle," insisted on the so-called "right of return," and pledged closer cooperation with Iran. Fatah, this alleged "peace partner," opened its conference with former PA Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia declaring, "In the name of shahids [martyrs, i.e. dead terrorists]." Abbas also made clear that there was no change in Fatah's

belief in the righteousness of terrorism, saying, "We maintain the right to launch an armed resistance, which is legitimate as far as international law is concerned."

Obscenely, Fatah honored terrorists by name, including Khaled Abu-Isbah and Dalal Mughrabi, responsible for the 1978 coastal road bus hijacking, in which 37 Israelis, including 12 children, were slaughtered. Qureia praised these killers, saying, "We have in our midst the hero Khaled Abu-Isbah, hero of the operation [terror attack] led by the Shahida [Martyr] Dalal Mughrabi (loud applause from the audience). We salute him and welcome him. And [we salute] the hero, the Shahida [Martyr] Dalal." Numerous other Fatah senior leaders, like Jibril Rajoub and Husam Khader, also made virulent statements extolling the virtues of terrorism.

But none of this should surprise. Fatah has never formally recognized



**Morton A. Klein**  
President, Zionist  
Organization of  
America

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Israel. It has never rescinded its own Fatah Constitution, which calls for “Opposing any political solution offered as an alternative to demolishing the Zionist occupation in Palestine” (Article 22). The Fatah Constitution also insists that “Armed struggle is a strategy and not a tactic, and the Palestinian Arab People’s armed revolution is a decisive factor in the liberation fight and in uprooting the Zionist existence, and this struggle will not cease unless the Zionist state is demolished and Palestine is completely liberated” (Article 19).

**I**ndeed, Abbas has often stated that Fatah does not accept Israel, as in April when he declared, “I say this clearly: I do not accept the Jewish State, call it what you will.” That is why Abbas told the conference that Fatah retains the “right” to murder and maim Israelis.

In recent weeks, Abbas inaugurated a town square named in honor of Dalal Mughrabi. The PA also failed to condemn the most recent terror attack by Fatah’s own Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in which an Israeli, Rabbi Meir Chai, a father of seven, was killed in a drive-by shooting. Worse, Abbas himself sent condolences to the families of the three terrorists; PA Prime Minister Salaam Fayyad personally visited the terrorists’ families; and Mahmoud Al-Aloul, mem-

ber of the Fatah Central Committee, also praised the dead terrorists as heroes. It would be hard to imagine a senior Palestinian leadership more openly committed to honoring terrorists.

The only good news in all this is that the Israeli government has commendably started raising the issue of Palestinian incitement, citing these latest examples, with the Obama Administration and placing them on the agenda. The ZOA, which has been alone among major American Jewish organizations in focusing on this issue, will continue to work to this end. In fact, when attending President Obama’s Hanukkah party at the White House, I personally raised with President Obama the issue of Palestinian incitement.

Israel’s problems are not confined to the Palestinian Arabs. Over the horizon, the brutal, terrorist-sponsoring Iranian regime is building nuclear weapons. We view with deep concern indications that have emerged over the months that the Obama Administration might be willing to accept a nuclear-armed Iran. The administration has not strongly supported the adoption of tougher sanctions, perhaps the only thing that might induce Iran to relinquish its quest for nuclear weapons without military action. We are also deeply concerned at the linkage which President Obama and senior Administration offi-

cials have made between the Iranian issue and the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Not only is this linkage infamous, but it is also illogical. Arab states that are genuinely threatened by the looming Iranian nuclear threat need no inducement to cooperate with America in our efforts to prevent Iran from manufacturing these weapons. Weakening or pressuring Israel does not deter Iran; quite the contrary, as we can see by the contemptuous manner in which Iran has rebuffed all

President Obama spoke of “coupling” American commitment to Israeli security with Israeli fulfillment of the “claims and rights of the Palestinians.”

So wherever we look, we see peril ahead for Israel and the United States. Worse, despite all of the clear failures of past policies, like the Oslo process, there is very little change in the approach to the Arab war upon Israel. Thus, we see the same international indulgence for Palestinian non-compliance with their

**“When I think of ZOA, I think of an organization that refuses to compromise on the truth regardless of prevailing fashion and no matter what the costs may be.”**

**— Prime Minister Netanyahu**

American diplomatic efforts. Before being elected president, Barack Obama said repeatedly that he would do “everything” to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power. Yet we see little to suggest that anyone other than Israel will be prepared to stop it.

We are also especially concerned that, in his September 23 speech to the U.N. General Assembly,

obligations to arrest terrorists, outlaw terrorist groups and end the incitement to hatred and murder within the PA-controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps that feed terror. There has been a flickering of hope on this issue when, after discussing the Fatah conference with the ZOA, Senator Arlen Specter (D-PA) wrote to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, urging



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

her to condition U.S. annual aid of \$800 million to the PA "on at least some level of assurance that the beneficiaries are committed to long-term peace."

On the domestic scene, the ZOA has worked for years to counter the bur-

on campus for the terrorist group Hamas.

In the past year, the ZOA published some twenty op-eds in various newspapers across the country, while nearly 40 ZOA letters to the editor were published in the New

**"Mort has never let political correctness shackle his advocacy. I see it as my job to support and protect Mort. If anyone wants to take him down, they have to go through me first."**

**— Sheldon Adelson**

geoning culture of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism on our university campuses. It was the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice which has made it clear to university authorities that they must protect Jewish students from anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation. Anti-Zionism and anti-Israelism have been recognized as forms of anti-Semitism, in part because of the ZOA's efforts and testimony before the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. In a real breakthrough, the *Forward*, *Jerusalem Post*, *Associated Press* and other media outlets credited the ZOA as being the main factor triggering the University of California-Irvine to contact law enforcement and launch its own probe regarding whether a student group, the Muslim Student Union, illegally solicited funds

*York Times*, *New York Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Commentary*.

The challenges and perils facing Israel are serious and multi-faceted and the ZOA will not desist in working to overcome them. We will continue to advance understanding of the truth of the Arab war against Israel among the American public, Congress and the media, and seek to deepen the American-Israeli relationship.

With Zionist greetings



Morton A. Klein  
National President

## AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH MORTON KLEIN

- Morton A. Klein was the keynote speaker at Israel Bonds events in Hollywood and Deerfield Beach, Florida.
- He spoke for the Jewish Federation in Sarasota, Florida and California.
- Mort has also spoken about ZOA in events in Arizona, Nevada and Philadelphia.
- In the past few months he has published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *New York Times* magazine, *Jerusalem Post*, *Forward*, *New York Post*, and many other Jewish publications.
- Mort also appeared on numerous radio programs, and was part of a two-person dialogue with the Rabbi at Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, PA, the largest synagogue in the Philadelphia area.
- Along with Nathan Lewin, a nationally renowned attorney, Mort will be giving a series of lectures as "Keynote Guest Scholar" at the Rocky Gap Lodge and Gold Resort in Cumberland, Maryland during the Passover holiday.
- He also travelled to Israel in February, meeting with many of the Israeli leaders and analysts including the Prime Minister.



**Morton A. Klein, ZOA National President**



## Zionist and Philanthropy Giant Sheldon Adelson Receives Herzl Gold Medallion at ZOA Dinner

PM Netanyahu, Vice PM Ya'alon, Minority Whip Cantor speak

# The

Zionist Organization of America is proud to announce that Mr. Sheldon G. Adelson was the recipient of its supreme, rarely bestowed, historic Zionist award "the Theodor Herzl Gold Medallion." Mr. Adelson is the Chairman and CEO of Las Vegas Sands Corporation with resort hotels in Las Vegas, Macau, China, Singapore and Pennsylvania. This award is given to individuals who have made a unique, lasting and historic contribution to the cause of Zionism and the Jewish people. Some have referred to this award as the "Nobel Prize for Zionism." Speakers included Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (by video), Israeli Vice Prime Minister and former Israel Defense Forces Chief-of-Staff Lt.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, and U.S. House Minority Whip, Congressman Eric Cantor (R-VA), the second most powerful Republican position in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Herzl Award was presented at a Gala Dinner in the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City on Sunday night, December 13, 2009. There were about 700 people in attendance.

In presenting the award to Mr. Adelson, Mr. Klein reminisced about the years in which he had come to know him and about the

love and devotion he had personally witnessed between Sheldon and his wife Miriam. He recounted how, at various Jewish organizational meetings, Mr. Adelson had supported his statements and vice versa on various occasions where the two of them were in a distinct minority in their skepticism of Oslo and deal-

ing with Arafat during the 1990s. This had cemented their friendship and mutual respect. Klein described Adelson as a visionary, possessing a mastery of facts and brilliance in analyzing complexities: "in the proper sense of the term, he is a genius." He noted the Adelsons' munificent philanthropy on behalf of the



**Morton A. Klein giving Brandeis award to Dr. Miriam Adelson and Sheldon Adelson**

# ZOA'S HERZL-BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER

Birtheright Israel program, to which they have over the years devoted \$90 million. "If I had given \$90 million to Birtheright that would have almost completely wiped me out" joked Klein, to high applause.

Mr. Adelson spoke movingly of his parents and their experiences, his very modest upbringing and the many challenges he and his wife have faced over the years as well as the ideals that animate their extraordinary support for Israel. "I am honored to receive this award. It is the highest award I have ever been given. I am the eighteenth recipient of this rare honor and I like it that 18 stands for chai (life)." He also reminisced about his

father's deep affection for Zionism and Israel and how he inculcated deep values about the Jewish people and Zionism as well as the values upon which America was founded.

Mr. Adelson movingly told the story of his wearing of his late father's shoes when he first went to Israel, so that his late father could in some sense fulfill his unrealized Zionist dream of walking on the holy land of Eretz Yisrael. He also said, "I believe in the Liberty Bell and what it represents." Speaking of Mort Klein, Mr. Adelman said, "Mort has never let political correctness shackle his advocacy. I see it as my job to support and protect Mort. If anyone

wants to take him down, they have to go through me first." Of his profound sense of awe upon receiving the Herzl Medallion, he said, "I am humbled by the people who have received it before me and that it comes from the oldest Zionist organization in the world."

Mr. Klein said, "We're here tonight to recognize Mr. Sheldon Adelson for his gigantic Jewish heart and soul, for his unwavering love of and commitment to Israel and the Jewish people, for his relentless efforts and energies on behalf of the Jewish state, and for his being one of the greatest Zionists in the world today.

"Mr. Sheldon Adelson and his partner in life, his

wife Dr. Miriam Adelson live and breathe the spirit of Zionism. They are always thinking about what will make the greatest impact to benefit Israel and the Jewish people and how they can make that happen. If there is one word that I would use to describe you, Mr. Sheldon Adelson, it would not be businessman or even philanthropist, it would be Zionist.

"Past recipients of this Herzl Gold Medal include such historic and legendary figures as Lord Balfour, Winston Churchill, Harry Truman, David Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Shamir.

"Mr. Sheldon Adelson – you now and forever are part of this august group of Zionist giants.

"Just as Herzl was a visionary – so are you, Mr. Adelson. Just as he was a trail-blazer unfurling the flag of political Zionism, so are you, Mr. Adelson.

"Just as Herzl met with Monarchs and Prime Ministers and Presidents to promote Zionism and Israel, so do you, Mr. Adelson.

"Just as he was inspired to fight against anti-Semitism because of the Dreyfus Affair in France – you are committed to fight the radical Islamist Jihadist enemy of the Jews and the West.

"Your whole life has exemplified Jewish courage, Jewish pride, and Jewish confidence.

"You are a Jewish Patriot



**Martin Gross of Washington Institute giving award to Minority Whip Eric Cantor**



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and a proud advocate of the Zionist Dream.”

Dr. Miriam Adelson received the ZOA's Louis D. Brandeis Award. She spoke with deep affection for her parents. Coming from differing Jewish backgrounds in Poland, they had made British-controlled Palestine their home before the Holocaust, which had been a savior for her immediate family. She spoke with passion for the many Jewish and other humanitarian causes, especially drug rehabilitation, which have been the object of her devoted efforts over the years. She also thanked the ZOA for the unique position it occupies among American Jewish organizations in fighting for truth and Israel's honor.

In bestowing this prestigious award on Dr. Adelson, Morton Klein said, “This award is to recognize all you've done effectively and magnificently to promote the enhancement of Jewish life in America and in Israel, and to reduce suffering for all humankind. Dr. Adelson, as a full partner in all the Adelson Family pro-Israel philanthropic activities, we salute you as a genuine Jewish heroine.” Past recipients of the Brandeis Award include Vice President Joe Biden, Abba Eban, Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Elizabeth Taylor, Mort Zuckerman, Natan Sharansky, and Simon Wiesenthal.

Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presi-



Vice Prime Minister Ya'alon talking with Minority Whip Eric Cantor

dents of Major American Jewish Organizations Malcolm Hoenlein introduced Prime Minister Netanyahu's video address.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke by video from Israel, praising Sheldon Adelson as “the most committed Zionist I have ever known.” He also praised the ZOA for speaking the truth to power and never allowing political correctness to interfere with its pro-Israel positions, adding, “When I think of ZOA, I think of an organization that refuses to compromise on the truth regardless of prevailing fashion and no matter what the costs may be.”

In introducing Vice Prime Minister Moshe Ya'alon, ZOA Board Member and Treasurer Henry Schwartz spoke of General Ya'alon's more than 40-year illustrious career in the IDF, his masterminding the counter-offensive against Palestinian

terror; Operation Defensive Shield, and his absolute integrity. Noting that his position as IDF Chief-of-Staff had not been extended, as is customary, because of Ya'alon's opposition to the Gaza withdrawal, Mr. Schwartz said, “He was willing to pay a personal price to prevent a national mistake.”

Vice Prime Minister Ya'alon said, “It is a great honor to be here to address the ZOA, which supports Israel's struggle to secure Israel from the hostility of enemies who wish to see it swept from the map...I want to thank you for your support ...We do not compromise on the right of Jews to live in any part of Eretz Yisrael. We do not accept that Arabs can live anywhere, whereas Jews may not live in some parts of Eretz Israel.”

General Ya'alon observed that some might wonder if it would have

been a better use of his time to address hostile or undecided audiences but to this idea he replied, “It is much more important to speak to a home crowd like you who will volunteer to support wholeheartedly the security and integrity of Israel ... I am here to thank the ZOA –its leaders, members and supporters– for your tremendous support.”

Turning to the challenges Israel faces in the international arena, Ya'alon said, “The Goldstone Report is the most evident example of a new blood libel. We must fight it – we don't have the luxury of losing the high ground.” As to Israel's strategic dangers with which he deals daily, “ Hamas and Hizballah do not lose a moment to build up their weapons and plan new attacks against us. Hamas has now got Iranian rockets with a 60 kilometer range – enough to hit Tel Aviv. But

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above all he pointed to the threat posed by Iran developing nuclear weapons: "The nuclear project of Iran must be stopped." He also addressed the fundamental need for reforming Palestinian society before there could be any prospect of peace, saying, "It was an illusion to believe that Oslo can be continued while Palestinian children are educated from birth for extremism and hatred. Thank you for your support. Together, we will prevail."

Mr. Martin Gross, president of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, introduced Minority Whip Eric Cantor. Congressman Cantor said, that he was "thrilled" to be addressing the ZOA Dinner. He called on the Jews of the Diaspora "to rally around the Jews of Eretz Yisrael." Of the ZOA, he said, "There has been one consistent voice – ZOA. The ZOA has never wavered in trying to make sure that U.S. – Israel relations are at the forefront of our national strategy."

Congressman Cantor quoted documentary filmmaker Claude Lanzmann who, when asked why he made his acclaimed documentary, *Shoah*, replied that he wanted to find the answer to the question: "At what point did it become too late?" Congressman Cantor then asked, "So when is it too late? When Hamas is celebrated internationally? When the Goldstone Re-

port attempts to strip Israel of its legitimate right of self-defense? When a Swedish newspaper libels Israel for allegedly harvesting the organs of Palestinians? When a Turkish TV series depicts Israelis as murderers? When Venezuela's Hugo Chavez welcomes Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, condemns Israel and persecutes Venezuelan Jews?" Regarding the existential threat posed to Israel by an Iran that obtains nuclear weapons, Cantor urged people to reflect, "When someone points a gun at you, believe what they say." He said that "Israel's security is synonymous with our own." Congressman Cantor concluded by saying, "ZOA has always been in the forefront of our struggle and you must continue the fight. I look forward to your continued leadership Mort, before it is too late."

**I**n introducing the Cherna and Irving Moskowitz Award recipient, Robert Guzzardi, Cherna Moskowitz said that "Irving and I feel it is a great privilege to be associated with ZOA."

Laura Stein, a ZOA leader and attorney, introduced Jeff Jacoby, the distinguished *Boston Globe* columnist. In accepting the Ben Hecht Award for Journalism, Mr. Jacoby noted with awe some of his distinguished predecessors as recipients of this award. He praised the efforts of the ZOA over

the decades saying, "ZOA is invaluable – with more than a century-long fighting spirit and, as in olden days, battling the Hellenists in our midst but, thank G-d, we've always had our Maccabees." Previous recipients of the Ben Hecht Award for Journalism have included A.M. Rosenthal, Daniel Pipes, Cal Thomas and Caroline Glick.

Dinner Emcee Gary Erlbaum, a leader in the Jewish Federation of Philadelphia and former National Chairman of Young Leadership for Israel Bonds, in introducing Morton A. Klein, referred to the *Wall Street Journal* as having named the ZOA as "heroic and ... the most credible advocate for Israel on the American Jewish scene today." Mr. Erlbaum said that "if there's one person in the universe who will say that the emperor has no clothes, it's Mort Klein." He also quipped, "Eric Cantor must be breathing a sigh of relief that Mort Klein isn't running for President."

In his address, ZOA President Morton Klein spoke of the ZOA's unique place in the spectrum of American Jewish organizations, noting that "We were the only major American Jewish group to warn against the Oslo accords, against dealing with Arafat, Abbas and the Gaza withdrawal... Mahmoud Abbas' promises are as phony as Bernie Madoff's. At the time of Oslo, the ZOA refused to be part of this political Ponzi

scheme, with its glitter, excitement and promises of a rosy future ... What sort of a peace process is it that, instead of jailing terrorists, Mahmoud Abbas demands the release of terrorists? If you truly want peace, you lock up terrorists." He also cited Abbas' repeated rejection of Israel as a Jewish state, his open defense of Palestinian terrorism at Fatah's recent conference, along with Fatah's refusal to accept an end of claims in any future agreement that might be signed and its intention to forge a closer relationship with the Iranian regime. Klein noted how the PA, the recipient of enormous aid from the U.S. and other countries, used little of this money for building schools, courthouses and infrastructure to benefit their people, but rather spends it all on weapons and bombs.

Klein noted the hypocrisy of the European Union (EU)'s stance in support of setting up a Palestinian state, noting that the EU's own conditions of membership would preclude a country resembling the PA, in its lack of stability and protection of human rights and minorities, from becoming a member. Yet the EU was proposing that Israel help turn the PA into a terror state on its border. He said, "Palestinian statehood will not bring peace. Syria, Iran and North Korea are all states. Are they peaceful and lovely?" Klein also pointed to the anomaly



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of an Obama Administration foreign policy that stresses modesty, humility and not dictating to other countries and how this applies everywhere, including countries like Syria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, but not when it comes to Israel. Here, Klein noted, the Obama Administration demands that Israel stop Jews from moving into Judea and Samaria. So slanted is this policy that it has met with criticism from even liberal legislators like Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA). In this connection, Klein also cited diverse authorities like former International Court of Justice head, Justice Stephen Schwebel, and State Department official and former Yale Law School Dean Eugene Rostow on the legality of Israel's claim to Judea and Samaria.

Klein turned his attention to some of the ZOA's achievements and areas of endeavor in the past year, noting that "We were the only group to lobby on Capitol Hill against the appointment of Chas. Freeman to the National Intelligence Council." Freeman was and is a vicious Israel-basher. The ZOA's Washington office, headed by Dan Pollak and Josh London, had worked tirelessly on Capitol Hill against the Freeman appointment. Mort noted that "Freeman himself went on CNN to tell Fareed Za-

karia that it was indeed the ZOA who was responsible for derailing his appointment." He quoted Freeman's own estimate of the role the ZOA played, as he put it to Zakaria, "the ZOA organized a campaign. This morning, indeed, there were various postings by the organizations that organized the campaign, the Zionist Organization of America, for example, detailing, setting out in considerable detail how they organized, researched to find [sic] material that they could use to agitate first Congressmen who were sympathetic to them and later others on various issues." Mort noted that articles in the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* highlighted the ZOA's role in Freeman's withdrawal from that appointment.

Klein also singled out the work of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, headed by Susan B. Tuchman, and the invaluable work it has done to defend Jewish students from harassment and vicious Israel-bashing on various university campuses, including the University of California at Irvine. The ZOA repeatedly wrote to officials at UC Irvine, raising concerns about whether the Muslim Student Union, a registered student group, at UC Irvine, solicited funds on campus in violation of University policy and used the campus as a base for fundraising for the terrorist group Hamas in violation of

federal law. Mort also spoke of the ZOA, with its campus division, headed by Josh Nason, being the only Jewish organization with campus programs that bring Jewish students to Israel, including to Judea and Samaria and the Golan Heights. He spoke of the ZOA's Israel office headed by Jeff Daube, and its work in the media through op-eds and letters, and with a range of Knesset members, journalists and other groups to advance the causes espoused by the ZOA. Klein also commended the work of the ZOA's Center for Middle East Policy, headed by Dr. Daniel Mandel. He also thanked the entire ZOA office for its hard work in organizing the Dinner.

**K**lein pointed to the fact that the ZOA's activities continue to be constantly noted by our opponents, including Stephen Walt, co-author with John Mearsheimer of the vicious anti-Israel lobby tract, writing recently in *Foreign Policy*; and by James Zogby of the Arab-American Institute, who has written that "ZOA changes the minds of members of Congress and the media. ZOA has risen like a phoenix ... if we don't stop them they'll win," to which Mort added, "Yes, Mr. Zogby, we will win."

The sons of Michael

Orbach, a member of the ZOA's Board, made the blessing over the bread, while renowned rabbi, author and TV host Rabbi Shmuley Boteach delivered a rousing Invocation and lit the Chanukah candles.

The Dinner was co-chaired by Mr. James S. Tisch, CEO of Loew's Corp., and former Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the top post in the American Jewish organizational world; and by Mr. Irwin Chafetz, Director of the Las Vegas Sands Corporation and long-time personal friend of Mr. Adelson.

Dinner Tribute Committee members included Ken Abramowitz, Ed Ames, Morrie Amitay, Gary Bauer, Ken Bialkin, Michael Bohnen, Ambassador John Bolton, Shoshana Cardin, Midge Decter, Douglas Feith, Stephen Flatow, Frank Gaffney, Ambassador Dore Gold, Martin Gross, Malcolm Hoenlein, Richard Joel, Hon. Ed Koch, Andrew Lappin, Ronald Lauder, Michael Leven, Nathan Lewin, Dr. Marty Peretz, Daniel Pipes, Jon Podhoretz, Norman Podhoretz, Lester Pollack, Seymour Reich, Ingeborg & Ira Rennert, Governor Mitt Romney, Mel Salberg, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Neal Sher, Jack Stein, Jonathan Tobin, Marion & Elie Wiesel, Professor Ruth Wisse, Fred S. Zeidman and Mortimer B. Zuckerman.



## Triggered by ZOA's Complaints of Alleged Fundraising for Terrorist Group Hamas, UC Irvine Refers Muslim Student Group's Activities to Law Enforcement Officials and Begins Internal Investigation

**In** September 2009, responding to concerns raised by the ZOA – that the Muslim Student Union, a student group at the University of California, Irvine, may have used the campus as a base for fundraising for the terrorist group Hamas – the university referred the matter to law enforcement officials and initiated its own internal investigation. Writing to the ZOA, the university's chief campus counsel, said, "UC Irvine takes very seriously all allegations of wrongdoing. We appreciate your [ZOA] bringing this to our attention."

At issue is a Muslim Student Union-sponsored event on May 21, 2009, featuring radical Israel-bashing British politician George Galloway. Galloway spoke about the group he had founded called "Viva Palestina," which was supposedly bringing "convoys" of humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. Both Galloway and members of the Muslim Student Union solicited funds for Viva Palestina from the more than 850 people reportedly in the audience. Collection boxes were distributed and volunteers were designated to collect them.

In alerting UC Irvine

to its concerns about this event, the ZOA furnished evidence that Viva Palestina is not a humanitarian group, but rather has been providing material and other support to Hamas, a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). Providing material support to an FTO is illegal.

In March 2009, Galloway led a convoy of trucks loaded with supplies from the United Kingdom to Gaza, called "Viva Palestina UK." After he arrived in Gaza, Galloway gave a public address in the presence of senior Hamas officials. He announced the donations – which included more than 100 vehicles and approximately 1.4 million dollars – and proclaimed, "We are giving them to the elected government of Palestine," [i.e., Hamas].

After his March 2009 trip to Gaza, Galloway tried to go to Canada but was refused entry. According to one news report, a spokes-

person for Canada's immigration ministers explained that Galloway "actually brags about giving 'financial support' to Hamas, a terrorist organization banned in Canada.... I'm sure Galloway has a large Rolodex of friends in regimes elsewhere in the world willing to roll out the red carpet for him. Canada, however, won't be one of them." A report dated January 8, 2010, issued by terrorism expert Steve Emerson's Investigative Project on Terrorism, states that Galloway was deported from Egypt and may not be allowed back into that country.

When he returned from Gaza in March 2009, Galloway went on a speaking tour in the United States, in order to organize a Viva Palestina convoy from the U.S. One of the campuses he visited was UC Irvine, as part of the Muslim Student Union's annual anti-Semitic, Israel-bashing event, this time entitled "Israel: The



**Susan Tuchman**  
Director, Center for  
Law and Justice

# CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

Politics of Genocide.”

In addition to raising the possibility that federal law was violated at the Muslim Student Union’s Galloway event, the ZOA furnished evidence that the group and several UC Irvine administrators may have violated university policies and regulations. The Muslim Student Union was required to obtain the university’s approval to solicit funds, which it failed to do. In fact, according to the university’s own records, the Muslim Student Union misrepresented in writing to UC Irvine that the Galloway event was not going to be a fundraiser. The representation was false.

In addition, at least four university officials were present at the Galloway event where funds were solicited from the crowd. The officials either knew or should have known that the solicitation of funds had been neither disclosed by the Muslim Student Union nor approved by UC Irvine. Yet not one put a stop to the conduct. And when one official submitted a report about the event to a senior administrator, the solicitation of funds by the Muslim Student Union and Galloway was not even mentioned.

In addition to notifying UC Irvine of its concerns about the Galloway event, the ZOA notified the U.S. Attorney, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, University of California President Mark Yudof, and several other

government and public officials, including Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA).

In three separate letters to federal officials dated December 1, 2009, Congressman Sherman expressed concern about whether Viva Palestina might be soliciting funds for the terrorist group Hamas. He called on Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Douglas Shulman to investigate. In a letter to Dr. Michael V. Drake, the Chancellor of UC Irvine, the Congressman urged him to thoroughly investigate the activities of the Muslim Student Union. The Congressman referred to the videotape evidence provided by the ZOA, showing that at the Muslim Student Union event, Galloway had solicited funds at UC Irvine on behalf of Viva Palestina USA. Calling the evidence of fundraising “alarming,” Congressman Sherman said: “I strongly urge you to review this evidence in your investigation. I believe your investigation will confirm that the UCI MSU [Muslim Student Union] has solicited funds for a terrorist organization (or knowingly aided and abetted such solicitation). After you confirm these facts, I believe you will, at a minimum, prevent the MSU from operating on campus unless and until its leadership is purged of those responsible.”

The ZOA also notified Congresswoman Sue Myrick (R-NC) of its concerns about what had occurred at UC Irvine. Congresswoman Myrick founded the bipartisan congressional Anti-Terrorism Caucus. In a letter dated January 11, 2010, to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Congresswoman Myrick documented that Viva Palestina “actively provides financial and political support to Hamas, a designated Foreign

Terrorist Organization.” The Congresswoman called on the Treasury Department to “swiftly take action to designate Viva Palestina as a supporter of a Foreign Terrorist Organization, and thus prevent this group from continuing to provide material and/or financial aid to Hamas.”

The ZOA is awaiting the results of the government investigation, as well as the findings from UC Irvine’s own internal probe.

## ZOA Joins in Amicus Brief to U.S. Supreme Court Concerning “Lawfare”

**O**n December 7, 2009, the ZOA joined three other Jewish organizations – the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, and Agudath Israel of America – in filing an amicus (“friend of the court”) brief with the U.S. Supreme Court. The brief urged the Court to “establish as the law of the land” that foreign government officials who are sued in the U.S. based on their official acts are immune from liability, whether they are foreign officials at or after the time of suit. The brief was authored by renowned lawyer Nathan Lewin of Washington, D.C., who is a member of the advisory board of the ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice.

The case before the Supreme Court had been decided by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. It involves a former Somali government official who was sued in the United States for acts committed while he was in of-



# CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

fice. When the Somali official claimed that he was immune from suit under the federal Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA), the Fourth Circuit rejected his claim, concluding that the FSIA grants absolute immunity to foreign governments, but not to the officials who acted on their behalf. This conclusion conflicts with the majority of courts that have looked at the issue and decided that individuals, as well as their governments, are covered under the FSIA.

The amicus brief described how the Fourth Circuit's decision, if upheld by the Supreme Court, would affect Israel and our country's relationship with Israel. There could be a torrent of unfounded lawsuits in the U.S. against present and former Israeli officials, a strategy that has been used by Israel's enemies in foreign countries. The brief explained that the tactic – popularly called “lawfare” – is designed to force Israeli officials to “shade” their decisions out of concern that they might later be sued for actions they take while exercising governmental authority. The brief emphasized that government officials must be able to exercise independent judgment, unaffected by the prospect that their decisions might provoke retaliatory lawsuits that they will have to defend.

The brief also noted that if the Fourth Circuit's deci-

sion were upheld, it would affect the flow of information into the U.S. The threat of being subjected to unfounded litigation would deter officials from visiting and sharing ideas with organizations like the ZOA, and with educational and research facilities that benefit from the exchange of information with present and former foreign government leaders, including Israeli officials.

“Lawfare” tactics have been used by Palestinian Arabs in England and other European countries, particularly after Israel's defensive operation in Gaza in response to the daily barrage of rockets from Gaza into southern Israel. Such suits falsely claim that Israeli officials have committed war crimes against Palestinians, when in fact these officials were fulfilling their moral and legal obligation to defend the Israeli people against terrorist groups deliberately trying to murder them. As Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz and British Army Colonel Richard Kemp have recognized, no country has done more than Israel to reduce civilian casualties in a time of war.

If the Supreme Court does not reverse the Fourth Circuit and decide that foreign government officials have immunity for their official acts, then U.S.-Israel relations could be undermined. In addition, the threat of being sued would

understandably cause Israeli officials to be concerned about carrying out their duty to defend the people of Israel.

## ZOA's CLJ Director Delivers Major Lecture at City College on Global Anti-Semitism

In September 2009, Susan Tuchman, the Director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, delivered the Lillie and Nathan Ackerman Lecture on Equality and Justice in America at Baruch College of the City of New York. Susan's topic was “Global Anti-Semitism in the 21st Century.”

Susan was asked to deliver the lecture by Kenneth L. Marcus, formerly the head of the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education who was then appointed by President George W. Bush to be the Staff Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Ken is now a visiting professor at Baruch College, holding the Ackerman Chair in the School of Public Affairs. This chair – and the Lillie and Nathan Lecture Series on Equality and Justice in America – is supported by a gift from Rosalyn and Irwin Engelman in honor of Mrs. Engelman's parents, Eastern European immigrants to America in search of opportunity and freedom from persecution.

Advertised in the *New York Times*, Susan's lecture was delivered to a crowd comprised of community members, faculty and administrators, including the Dean of the School of Public Affairs, the Dean of the Business School, the wife of the Interim President of Baruch College, and Baruch's immediate past president. Baruch College hosted a reception before the lecture and a dinner afterwards.

Susan described the many manifestations of anti-Semitism around the world – including right here in the U.S. and on our college campuses – including physical attacks on Jews, the vandalism of Jewish property, and the anti-Israel and anti-Zionist speech and conduct that cross the line into anti-Semitism. A question-and-answer period followed.



## Education and Outreach on Capitol Hill: Building Support for Legislative Efforts to Thwart the Arab War Against Israel

# This

is a dangerous time for Israel in Washington, D.C. The hostile, antagonistic policies of President Barack Obama towards Israel have already strengthened the resolve of Israel's adversaries around the globe and have weakened the U.S.-Israel relationship. The ZOA's Capitol Hill activities continue to be the leading force of opposition within the American Jewish community. The Government Relations Department of the ZOA speaks out against the mistaken policies of the "peace process" and the appeasement of terrorists, and we continue to educate Members of Congress about the Arab war against Israel.

Israel faces significant threats from several quarters, though the biggest immediate threat remains from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Not only does Iran continue its indirect war against Israel through its surrogates in Gaza (Hamas) and Lebanon (Hezbollah), but also through Iran's unabated efforts to complete its nuclear offensive capability as soon as possible. The ZOA tirelessly lobbied for "The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act," introduced by

Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), which passed with overwhelming support (412-12) and seeks to impose a new package of unilateral sanctions on Iran that would prohibit companies engaged in Iran's energy sector from having access to U.S. markets. Indeed, the ZOA has consistently supported these efforts, including the 2007 and 2009 "Iran Sanctions Enhancement Act" spearheaded by Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL), which served as the model for the current legislation. As of now, a vote on similar legislation in the Senate has been held up by

the Obama White House, even though 77 Senators have already signed on to this bill. But even if these sanctions are signed into law, it may not be sufficient to prevent Iran from achieving a military nuclear capability. As it becomes increasingly clear that the United States will not act speedily and decisively, the ZOA's Government Relations Department has been working hard to build a consensus of support for Israel within Congress should military action against Iran become necessary.

The ZOA remains the only credible voice on Capitol Hill trying to stop the flow of U.S. financial and material aid to the Palestinian Authority (P.A.) and to halt the mistaken and misguided effort to create a Palestinian terrorist state out of Judea and Samaria and Gaza. After we had discussions with Senator Specter (D-PA), he sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, urging her to "predicate" the \$800M in annual U.S. aid



**Josh London,**  
Co-Director,  
Government Relations  
Department



**Dan Pollak,**  
Co-Director,  
Government Relations  
Department

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

to the Palestinian Arabs on their commitment to peace. Senator Specter wrote, "This support ought to be predicated on at least some level of assurance that the beneficiaries are committed to long-term peace."

Due to the continued ill-conceived policies of President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and U.S. Middle East Envoy George Mitchell, very few Members of Congress grasp, and even fewer will publicly recognize, that Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah, which dominates the PLO and the P.A., is as vicious and violent an

anti-Israel terrorist movement as Hamas, and which daily continues to poison the minds of the Palestinians through incitement to hatred and murder of Jews in the P.A.-controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps. A related issue is the ongoing U.S. pressure on Israel to make greater unrequited concessions for "peace." The ZOA remains the leading and loudest voice to oppose such pressure and is working tirelessly in Congress to thwart these policies.

The ZOA has also worked closely with Mem-

bers of Congress in helping to build support for a variety of legislative efforts including: a bi-partisan letter to the State Department calling for U.S. leadership in disarming Hezbollah and clearing Southern Lebanon of Iranian weapons; a bi-partisan letter to the House Appropriations Committee urging that any provisions appropriating or authorizing funding for the IMF or the World Bank include tough language designed to ensure that the world's worst regimes (such as Hezbollah, which has sought funding from the IMF, or Iran, which

has received over \$1.4 billion from the World Bank) not benefit from these institutions; H.RES.175 "Condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights"; H.R. 557, "The United Nations Transparency, Accountability, and Reform Act of 2009"; H.R.1062 – the "Foreign Assistance Partner Vetting System Act of 2009"; H.RES.557 "Expressing support for the

*continued on page 19*

## SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2010



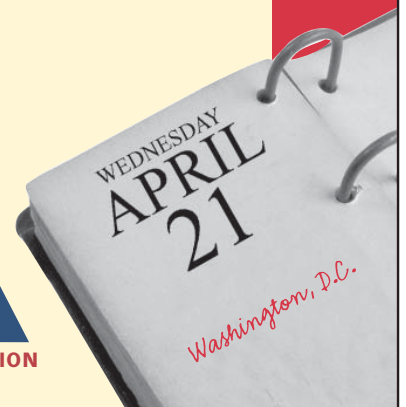
### **GIVE ONE DAY OF YOUR LIFE FOR ISRAEL – JOIN THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA MISSION ON CAPITOL HILL IN WASHINGTON, D.C. YOUR VOICE MATTERS – MAKE SURE IT IS HEARD**

- Personally lobby your members of Congress on issues of vital interest to Israel's security
  - Attend private luncheon with dozens of members of U.S. Congress addressing us
  - Gain valuable insights into the Arab war against Israel and pertinent U.S. policy positions
  - Informative morning session on lobbying, facts and issues
  - Meet and greet ZOA members from around the country
  - Round trip transportation is available from New York Metro Area & Philadelphia
  - Registration, including kosher meals – ZOA subsidized cost of only \$100!
- SAVE! Register by March 18th and pay only \$75!**
- **Special Student and Young Professional Discounts Available**

**For more information, contact Felice Capustin  
at the Zionist Organization of America at  
(212) 481-1500 ext. 229 or email: [felice@zoa.org](mailto:felice@zoa.org)**

MORTON A. KLEIN  
President

DR. MICHAEL GOLDBLATT  
Chairman





# ZOA'S HERZL-BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



Gary & Vicki Erlbaum, Awardee Jeff Jacoby, Honoree Bob Guzzardi and ZOA Board Member Gene Shusman and wife



U.S. Congressman Eric Cantor and ZOA Board Member Stanley Rosenberg



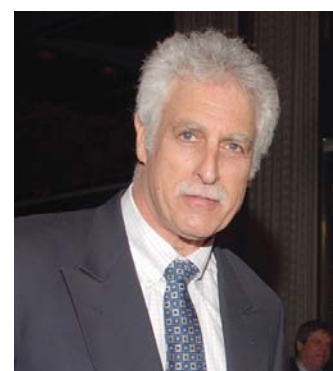
ZOA Vice Chairman Steve Goldberg and his wife with leaders of Israel town of Kedumin



Matt Brooks, Director of Republican Jewish Coalition and wife



ZOA leaders Linda and Robert Stulberg



ZOA Board Member Jay Miller



ZOA Board Member Martin Sokol and wife; Former Chair of Presidents Conference Seymour Reich and wife



Dinner Co-Chair Irwin Chafetz and Mrs. Chafetz



ZOA Treasurer Henry Schwartz giving ZOA Award to Deputy Prime Minister Ya'alon



ZOA leaders Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Savin, Gary Ratner, ZOA official



Morton Klein, Aliza Davidovitz, Lifestyles Editor, Sheldon and Miriam Adelson



Congressman Eric Cantor speaking with James Pollack



# ZOA'S HERZL-BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



ZOA leader Laura Stein gives Ben Hecht Journalism Award to Jeff Jacoby, *Boston Globe* columnist



Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Ya'alon and ZOA leader Ken Abramowitz



ZOA Board Member Eli Hertz and wife Marilyn; Chuck Jacobs, Founder; David Project and wife



Ingeborg and Ira Rennert



ZOA leaders Judy and Jerome Taylor, Dr. Sam Klein



ZOA leaders Carl and Sylvia Freyer, Sonny Sklar, Dr. Paul Brody, and Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald, Director of National Jewish Outreach Program



Nationally known Rabbi Shmuley Boteach lighting Chanukah candles



# ZOA'S HERZL-BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



Morton Klein displaying Herzl medal; Sheldon and Dr. Miriam Adelson



ZOA leader Gloria and Harvey Friedman



Young ZOA members doing the blessing over the bread



Dr. Marvin Belsky, ZOA Manhattan Chapter President



Michael Orbach's daughter and son-in-law



Morton Klein and his brother, Dr. Samuel Klein



Emcee Gary Erlbaum introducing dais



Congressman Eric Cantor; Jewish leader Jeff Ballabon, ZOA official Rubin Margules and his wife



# ZOA'S HERZL-BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



Brandeis Honoree Dr. Miriam Adelson addressing well-wishers



Herzl honoree Sheldon Adelson



Morton Klein ending ZOA dinner by blowing shofar



ZOA President Morton A. Klein and Brandeis honoree Dr. Miriam Adelson



ZOA leader Cherna Moskowitz gives Irving and Cherna Moskowitz Award to Bob Guzzardi



Michael Orbach and others speaking to Sheldon Adelson



Michael Bohnen, Director of Adelson Family Foundation



Executive Vice Chairman, Conference of Presidents, Malcolm Hoenlein introduces Prime Minister Netanyahu video



ZOA official Dr. Alan Mazurek and Karen Mazurek



Former AIPAC Director Neal Sher, Morton Klein, Conference of Presidents Vice Chair Malcolm Hoenlein, Ira Rennert, and Deputy Prime Minister Ya'alon



Herzl Award winner Sheldon Adelson after receiving award



# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT



PHOTO CREDIT: UPSTATEMEN

***continued from page 14***

State of Israel's inalienable right to defend itself in the face of an imminent nuclear or military threat from Iran, terrorist organizations, and the countries that harbor them"; H.RES.560 "Expressing support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law, and for other purposes"; H.R.3832 the "Peace Through Strength

Act of 2009"; H.CON. RES.29 "Expressing the sense of Congress that the United Nations should take immediate steps to improve the transparency and accountability of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) in the Near East to ensure that it is not providing funding, employment, or other support to terrorists;" and the latest attempts, S.2737 in the Senate and H.R.3412 in

the House of Representatives, to force the move of the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by revoking the President's National Security Waiver.

Additionally, the ZOA's Government Relations Department has continued to broaden its outreach and education efforts through writing articles, letters to the editor, speakers programs on Capitol Hill and through interviews on television

and talk radio. Most recently, for example, the Co-Directors authored an article for *inFocus*, the quarterly journal of the Jewish Policy Center, on the history of Iran Sanctions. They have also appeared in various public forums to help make Israel's case, including appearing before the House Congressional Sovereignty Caucus presenting on the Goldstone Report's threat to U.S. Sovereignty.



## ZOA Campus Department Launches New Educational Series

The ZOA Campus Department has launched a new educational series designed to educate campus activists on core issues to understanding Israel and the Arab war against Israel. The first two topics were rolled out this semester: "Judea & Samaria: The Jewish Homeland," and "The Case for an Undivided Jerusalem." Two more topics will be added in the near future: "The Strategic Importance of the Golan Heights," and "Hamas & Fatah: Two Sides of the Same Coin." Each of these topics includes an interactive presentation available free to all campuses.

## ZOA National Essay Contest for Students

The ZOA has launched its first ever student essay contest. The theme of this contest is to support the validity of the following statement: "Jews have a legal, historical, and religious right to live in Judea & Samaria." The contest will be ongoing through March, and features cash prizes for the top 3 essays as well as a student leadership luncheon for the top 50 participants.

## ZOA Campus Counters J Street

Josh Nason, Managing Director for ZOA Campus Programs, debated J Street Staff Member Amy Spitalnick on the issue of settlements at Tufts University in November. The lunchtime event drew a capacity crowd. Nason argued in favor of Jewish rights in the Land of Israel based on legal, historical, and religious grounds as well as security considerations. Video footage of the event is available at [tuftsroundtable.org/media/video](http://tuftsroundtable.org/media/video).

In addition to this event, the ZOA has been instrumental in helping students on numerous campuses counter J Street through Letters to the Editor, Petitions, and exposing J Street's positions.

## ZOA Mobilizes Student Activists to Protest Honoring Mary Robinson

Pro-Israel student activists mobilized to protest an award to Mary Robinson at Case Western Reserve University. Students rallied together to challenge the administration, and express their displeasure with honoring Robinson, who oversaw the notoriously anti-Israel Durban Conference. As a result of this effort, the ZOA has been able to help organize a pro-Israel student group at Case Western Reserve University to continue providing a voice for pro-Israel students.

## ZOA Aids Student Leaders at Binghamton in Improving Black-Jewish Relations

The ZOA aided Jewish student leaders in hosting a Black-Jewish leadership dinner at Binghamton University. The dinner featured close to 50 student leaders from a variety of Black, Jewish, and pro-Israel organizations. Keynote speaker Duncan Kirkwood spoke about the importance of pro-Israel activism in the African-American community. During the week following the dinner, former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney gave a viciously anti-Israel speech at Binghamton. Jewish leaders have reported that the Black-Jewish leadership din-



**Josh Nason,**  
Managing Director,  
ZOA Campus  
Programs



**David Kadosh,**  
ZOA Campus  
Coordinator, East  
Coast Region; Director  
of Young Professional  
Activities



**Michelle Palmer,**  
ZOA Campus  
Coordinator,  
Midwest Region



**Sharona Whisler,**  
ZOA Campus  
Coordinator,  
Southeast Region



# CAMPUS ACTIVISM NETWORK

ner has been vital in maintaining good relations between the two communities and laying the framework for future pro-Israel activism together.

## New Issue of ZOA's The College Zionist Magazine

Thanks to the hard work of ZOA student activists, a new issue of the ZOA's campus magazine, *The College Zionist*, has been published. The magazine features articles written by students geared towards campus activists. This semester's issue includes articles on "The Future of Jerusalem", "The Danger of Gaza Smuggling Tunnels", "The Importance of Ma'aleh Adumim", and much more.



## Jerusalem Post Journalist Khaled Abu Toameh Speaks on Campus

The ZOA was instrumental in bringing Arab Journalist Khaled Abu Toameh to campuses this fall. Abu Toameh has been exposing the corruption and incitement of both Fatah and Hamas for years. He spoke to campuses throughout the East Coast. He is one of the most courageous Arab journalists who exposes the truth about the Arab war against Israel.

## IDF Sgt. Benjamin Anthony and Col. Bentzi Gruber Tell the Truth About the IDF

The ZOA brought Sgt. Benjamin Anthony, founder of "Our Soldiers Speak," to campuses this fall. Anthony spoke about his experiences in the IDF, and how the IDF fights in difficult urban warfare. His presentation has been instrumental in helping dispel some of the vicious myths on campus about the IDF.

The ZOA worked with students from University of

Miami and American University to bring Col. Bentzi Gruber to campus to discuss "Ethics in the Field." Col. Gruber's presentation shows specific examples of how the IDF upholds ethics while fighting terrorism. Over 50 students attended his presentation at Miami.

## Record Student & Young Professional Turnout at ZOA Annual Dinner

Over 75 students and young professionals attended the ZOA Annual Dinner this past December. The Dinner provided an excellent opportunity for pro-Israel activists to network with each other, and re-energize for the semester ahead.

## Countering J Street at UPenn

ZOA Campus played a major role in exposing J Street as an anti-Israel organization when Jeremy Ben-Ami, executive director of J Street, came to speak at the University of Pennsylvania Hillel on February 4, 2010. The ZOA Campus staff, along with the Penn Zionist Freedom Alliance, organized an educational discussion the night before entitled

"Is J Street Bad for Israel?" which was led by Daniel Pollak, Co-director of Government Relations for the Zionist Organization of America. The discussion delved into the roots of J Street during the 2008 U.S. Presidential election and its founding ideology of supporting the candidacy of Barack Obama regardless of its implications for Israel. Mr. Pollak also dispelled some of the common misconceptions surrounding J Street, such as their claim that it is a pro-Israel organization, by quoting the positions of J Street operatives and tracking J Street's questionable funding from Arab sources and others hostile to Israel. ZOA Campus also developed a fact sheet with information presenting J Street's actions that are contrary to their self-declared "pro-Israel" agenda, which student volunteers distributed outside of Ben-Ami's speech. UPenn students stood up to declare that they do not support J Street nor the extreme message they have brought to the UPenn Hillel.



## Seeing the Land of Israel: ZOA Student Leadership Mission 2010

The Annual ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel took student activists from over 20 campuses to Israel from December 23 until January 6. The trip provided an intensive two week experience: visiting sites throughout Israel, meeting with top level Israeli politicians and policy experts, and showing solidarity with the citizens of Israel. Josh, a student at the University of Minnesota, said **“This has been one of the most profound, enlightening, elucidating experiences of my life.”**

**The** most important aspect of the ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel was visiting important places throughout the Land of Israel. The goal of the trip was to show students the importance of the Jewish connection to the land, as well as the strategically important sites throughout the country.

Studying the importance of Jerusalem was a central theme of the mission. The trip began with a tour of Eastern Jerusalem neighborhoods such as Har Homa, Gilo, Sur Baher, Mt. of Olives, and much more. Through this students came to understand the geography of Jerusalem, and gained a newfound commitment to keeping Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital. Trips to the Old City, as well as seminars with speakers, helped the students gain appreciation for the more than 3000 years of Jewish history in Jerusalem.



**ZOA student leaders at Maarat Hamachpelah in Hebron**

The most unique aspect of the ZOA mission was the chance to visit the communities of Judea & Samaria. One day was spent in the Shomron, where students had a chance to meet leaders from the Shomron Regional Council, see the beautiful panoramic view from Elon Moreh, meet students at Ariel University Center, and had an audience with Ariel Mayor Ron Nachman. A second day was dedicated to seeing Hevron and Gush Etzion. Students toured the Jewish community of Hevron, visited the Cave of the Patriarchs, then drove to Gush Etzion for a meeting with Mayor Shaul Goldstein, listened to an educational program on Kfar Etzion, and ate a delicious lunch at the Gush Etzion Winery.

The final Shabbat of the trip was spent in Efrat, staying with host families. For many students, this proved to be an extremely moving experience. Jaclyn, a student at George

BANNER PHOTO CREDIT OF PLANE: ARPINGSTONE

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL



Picking oranges for Project Leket to provide for soup kitchens throughout Israel

Washington University, said **“I found Efrat to be the most meaningful, not only because of the relationships we made with our host families, but because I gained a better understanding of what settlements truly are, the people that live in them, and why it is imperative that we remain there.”**

Lastly, the ZOA mission had a chance to visit Israel’s strategic border regions in the North and South. ZOA student activists toured Sderot and stood in solidarity with the people of the Western Negev, while learning the important facts they will need for their advocacy. Up North, ZOA activists got a chance to see the Golan Heights and the Syrian border, as well as the Lebanon border. The trip to the Lebanon border provided an especially moving experience for many students, as the group was able to stand literally close enough to hear the calls of the Shi’ite muezzin from a Lebanese village.

## Helping Out in Israel

**The** notion of lending a helping hand in Israel was crucial to the students on this trip. Throughout the trip, ZOA student activists left their mark on many people and places in Israel. Through their kindness, the students were able to make an impact on Gush Katif refugees, hungry people throughout Israel, families trying to start anew in Maskiot, and IDF soldiers along the Lebanon border.

Perhaps the most moving part of the trip involved the chance for the students to visit with Gush Katif refugees. Three stops were coordinated: Nitzan, Kibbutz Ein Tzurim, and Yad Binyamin. At each stop, students heard from a different speaker about the expulsion from Gush Katif, and the terrible conditions of the refugees today. The bright spot in this was the ability to deliver duffel bags full of brand new toys to the Kindergarten in Nitzan. As the students delivered the toys, the children gleefully sang. Rachel Saperstein left the students with these words **“These children were born here, in this shantytown, to parents who had lost their beloved homes and jobs. Their parents brought new life to this land despite the edict of expulsion that turned them into homeless Jews. Their love of the Torah and the land remains unshaken.”**

Several days later, the students got a chance to see the story of those Gush Katif refugees who have started to rebuild in Maskiot. Rachel, a student at Queens College, had the opportunity to help place a mezuzah on a new home just completed in Maskiot. Rachel recalls that **“It was a very moving experience and I feel honored that I was able to contribute in a small way to the building of this new community.”**

For other students, though, the chance to deliver packages to IDF soldiers along the Lebanon border was a life-altering experience. Sean, a student at Indiana University, said **“One of the best parts of this experience was meeting the IDF soldiers... These conversations influenced me to make the most of every second of my life because, unlike me, most Israeli citizens must be soldiers and put their lives on the line... I will be a strong pro-Israel advocate for the rest of my life.”**

Lastly, ZOA students volunteered through Project Leket to pick oranges that would be delivered to soup kitchens throughout Israel. Whether through these hands-on projects, or through the small interactions with individuals throughout Israel, these student activists left their mark.



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL

## Hearing from the Experts

**In** order to best prepare themselves to advocate for Israel on campus, ZOA student activists met with some of Israel's leading experts on a number of important topics. These sessions gave students unprecedented access to Knesset members, journalists, and analysts.

Four Knesset Members spoke to the ZOA group. Vice Prime Minister Moshe Ya'alon (Likud) discussed Israel's strategic challenges. MK Aryeh Eldad (National Union) discussed the notion of an ideological conflict as opposed to a territorial conflict. MK Danny Danon (Likud) and MK Uzi Landau (Yisrael Beiteinu) both discussed the current political landscape, especially in light of Prime Minister Netanyahu's decision to freeze settlements in Judea & Samaria.

Each of the other speakers focused on a specific area of expertise to help the students sharpen their knowledge of the facts. A small sampling of the sessions offered:

- Ambassador Dore Gold gave a seminar on "Israel's Right to Build in Jerusalem."
- Dan Diker (Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs) discussed the importance of Rights-Based Diplomacy over Concessions-Based Diplomacy.
- Arab Journalist Khaled Abu Toameh shed light on Fatah & Hamas as obstacles to peace.
- Ambassador Yoram Ettinger discussed the current demographic situation.

All in all, the students gained a tremendous amount of knowledge from these experts that they will be able to use to defend Israel on campuses.

## Bringing it Back to Campus

**The** ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel was a tremendous success, and these student activists will now be using what they learned to defend Israel on campuses across the country. Danny Ehrlich, the guide for the mission, said "these ZOA student activists are different – they do get involved, they put themselves on the line for Israel and the Jewish people. They organize, they publicize, they debate, they march, they protest, they publish... these students fill me with hope for the future. We need courage, faith, confidence and leadership. We need to believe in ourselves... and trust in God. And in many of these student activists, I saw exactly that." The ZOA is proud to have trained dozens of student leaders who will put themselves on the line for Israel, and look forward to seeing their great work over the next year on campus.



Enjoying a relaxing dinner at Café Kapiche in Tel Aviv



ZOA student leaders meet with Ambassador Dore Gold at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs



ZOA Israel Director, Jeff Daube, addresses ZOA student leaders overlooking Gaza border



## Newton Becker, ZOA Board Member

# Newt

Becker's conviction that Israel and the West need to be defended strongly and that the neglected line of defense is the war of ideas has been with him many decades. The renowned philanthropist and founder of the largest and most prestigious CPA course in the world, the Chicago-headquartered Becker CPA Review Course, attributes his long-held convictions to his early realization of Jewish vulnerability.

Growing up in Cleveland during the 1930s, he was aware from an early age of the danger that was threatening the Jews of Europe: his mother's sister left Europe in 1939 but the rest of his aunt's family, including her brother and his family, perished in the Holocaust.

Becker was too young to serve in World War II, being called up only after its conclusion.

After military service in Allied occupied Germany, Becker completed his BS in Business Administration at Kent State University in 1952, then worked for Price Waterhouse & Co. as an auditor in their Cleveland office. During his eight years there, he became a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) and earned an MBA in 1958 while attending Case Western Reserve University evenings.

In 1957, Becker volunteered to start a CPA review course for the staff of Price Waterhouse, teaching the staff free, on his own time, from his own notes. He left Price Waterhouse in 1960 to devote more time to his course. It quickly became the pre-eminent CPA review course in Cleveland, and by 1966 became the major CPA course in the U.S.A. Today, the Becker CPA Review Course is available in more than 300 cities throughout the U.S.A. and overseas, including many cities in the Arab world such as Beirut, Cairo, Riyadh and Amman. But his professional aspirations are only one side of Newton Becker.

In 1952, after his military experience overseas, Becker returned to America with ideas that shaped his philanthropic interests. While stationed in Germany, he undertook a journey to visit the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau. He then realized that the Holocaust did not begin with physical structures of execution

but with "what takes place in men's minds. This was to have a big influence on my philanthropy."

Becker was only 14 when he made his first donation – 75 cents to his local Jewish federation. But the philanthropic priorities of Jewish federations have changed over the decades. Becker explains, "In the 1940s and 1950s, when you gave money to federations, you were actually saving lives – they were moving displaced persons from Europe to Israel, Jews out of Morocco and Algiers, Yemen and so on, to Israel. When I look around today, I see federations supporting the Jewish communities' social and philanthropic structure – schools, hospitals and so on, which is also very important, but I see very little today being done that pertains to the survival of the Jewish people. The way I look at organizations I wish to support is by asking – 'which ones are working hard at saving, and/or securing the safety of Jewish lives, and coincidentally building



**Newton Becker,  
ZOA Board Member**

## SPOTLIGHT ON ZOA LEADER

structures that also save Western civilization?”

Over time, Becker devised his own ‘hierarchy of impact criteria’ to answer his own question before deciding how to distribute his donations. Today, he puts three-quarters of his money toward the top layer of his hierarchy – policy makers. He is a major supporter of the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), the ZOA and others.

In 2003, he founded ‘The Donor Forum,’ a group of foundations that funds organizations that counter anti-Israel bias. In 2005, he founded the ‘Coalition for Responsible Peace in the Middle East,’ which put together four organizations to counter the campaign being waged in various mainline Protestant Churches to divest from Israel. It was

successful: the Presbyterian resolution calling for divestment in Israel which was passed in 2004, was rescinded in June 2006.

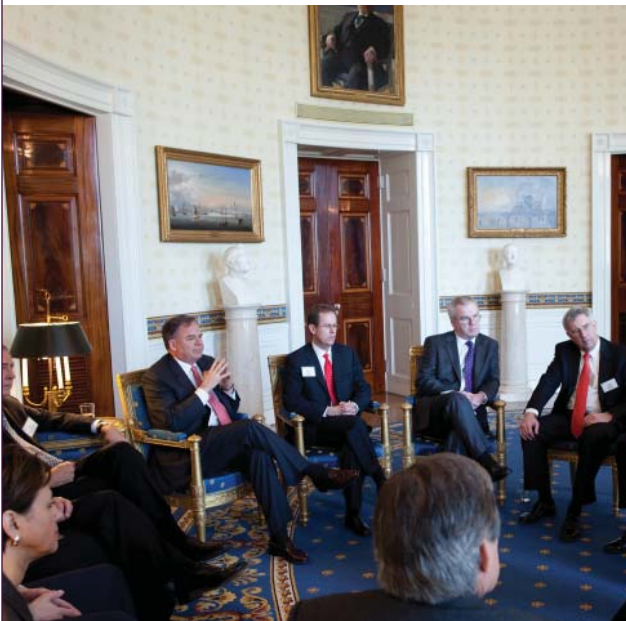
Becker strongly supports the ZOA because he sees it fulfilling a vital role left largely untouched by most other American Jewish pro-Israel organizations: it speaks truth to power. “ZOA maintains a solid focus on the goal. Mort Klein is not swayed or deterred by the prevailing climate of political correctness. He has guts and he says it like it is. He’s like a breath of fresh air among Jewish leaders. ZOA is the only organization that is constantly candid and forthright. I look upon ZOA as a counterpoint to left-wing Jewish organizations that do not support Israel. The policy of being forthright on behalf of Israel, in naming culprits and not

ignoring unpleasant truths is what’s going to make a difference in the decisions that can affect Jewish survival and avoid future disasters.”

“Some people think that calling things by their name is unsophisticated or counter-productive,” Becker continues. “I disagree. There are those people who don’t want to believe the raw truth or who are too naïve or trusting, who do not understand that there is evil in this world, and one needs to fight evil. That can’t be done if we don’t name it and start organizing to fight it. I understand the importance of the war of words. You can’t only fight the war of bullets. You have to invest resources in the war of ideas and hopefully never have to fight a war of bullets”

Referring to the recent move of the Israeli govern-

ment seeking U.S. intervention with the Palestinians over continuing incitement to hatred and murder in their media, mosques, schools and youth camps, Becker observes, “In my opinion, the Israeli government is only now starting to wake up to this necessary effort. They never really devoted money or attention to the war of words. In recent years, Israeli governments wouldn’t even complain about the incitement against Israel by the Palestinian government-controlled media. I’m hoping this fighting of incitement will blossom into a full-blown campaign to expose the detractors of Israel and put forth the benefits Israel has to bring to the region and their people. If the Netanyahu government follows up on this, it could be a major breakthrough.”



### SAVE THE DATE

#### ZOA NATIONAL CONVENTION Sunday, June 6, 2010

Featuring A Full Day Agenda Of Governance Matters, Policy Sessions And Other Issues Of Importance Affecting The Ongoing Mission And Functioning Of The ZOA.

**For Information About Joining Your Region's Delegation, Please Call The ZOA National Office at (212) 481-1500, and speak with Felice Capustin (ext. 229).**





## Fostering Communications Between the Respective Leadership of the U.S. and Israel

**Narrowing** the gap between the political cultures of Israel and the U.S. is paramount as we face the challenges of a less-than-friendly U.S. administration, a Middle East threatened by WMDs and rampant terrorism, and international censure and boycotts meant to stigmatize and even delegitimize. With an advocacy program bridging two countries, the ZOA is well positioned to foster communications between the leaderships of each, and point out the mutual benefits that accrue when strategic allies are on the same page.

The wisdom of pursuing an Israeli public policy informed by historic and inalienable rights—rather than concessions-based diplomacy—remains a core theme of ZOA-Israel's lobbying message. Toward that end, the Israel Office continues to develop and deepen relationships with dozens of Members of Knesset, government ministers, extra-parliamentary leadership and policy advocacy groups. Severely understaffed and with myriad responsibilities, the MKs, especially, are very appreciative of our efforts to bring materials and issues to their attention and arrange interactions with their counterparts in Congress.

Our office continues to serve as a center for Israel advocacy, offering information, guidance and networking leads for security-minded proponents



**Jeff Daube**  
Director, ZOA Israel

from all over. ZOA-Israel's ongoing activities also include community-based speaking engagements to galvanize American Israeli political involvement; collaborative projects with like-minded organizations; regular briefings for ZOA leadership; and participation in conferences and think tank sessions on the salient issues of the day.

### Program Highlights

#### Government Action and Interaction

**Palestinian Statehood:** PA/Fatah/Abbas' hardline, maximalist positions is the recurring refrain of ZOA-Israel's Knesset lobbying sessions, for which we compile timely examples of immoderation, incitement and noncompliance with agreements. We note improving reception to Palestinian sovereignty alternatives among legislators, as is the case in academic, media

and public circles today like never before. Still, persuading Israel's leadership there is sufficient US congressional support for a resolute policy based on security and national interests remains an uphill battle.

**Security:** Following PM Netanyahu's public statements in favor of Palestinian statehood, ZOA-Israel added to its central talking points the folly of demilitarization; impossible to enforce, and denying a nation's right of self-defense under international law. Later, when the debate began in earnest about releasing security prisoners in exchange for Gilad Shalit we provided evidence of the recidivist return to terrorism that results. More recently we have been drawing attention to the security implications of reopening Highway 443 to Arab vehicles—originally closed because of drive-by shootings and other murderous attacks.

**United Jerusalem:** ZOA-Israel lobbied a bill sponsored by Habayit

# ZOA ISRAEL OFFICE

Hayehudi that would have classified Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish People. Additionally, we drafted a letter of support for a united Jerusalem, which we are circulating among members of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus with the help of its chairman, MK David Rotem. We plan to present this letter on Capitol Hill, with a parallel community letter from the American Israeli grassroots, to bolster congressional steps to ensure Jerusalem's indivisibility. We also enlisted the International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem for this project.

**Knesset Meetings:** The Israel Office is invited regularly to the Knesset for participation in briefings and consultations. Discussions in recent months have included the effects of the freeze; Iran; outreach to Washington; Jewish sovereignty and the Temple Mount; Zionist revitalization of the Galilee and Negev; and a bill, introduced by MKs Arie Elad and Tzipi Hotovely, meant to prevent the use of the IDF to evict citizens from their homes. For the latter we pointed out that a similar law, the Posse-Comitatus Act, has existed in the U.S. since 1878.

**Transatlantic Communications:** The new advocacy model we have been developing for some

time was very well received on a recent trip to Capitol Hill where we had 11 appointments with warm and lukewarm friends of Israel alike. A number of MOCs liked our bridging ideas: to arrange town hall meetings for them in Israel with the American Israeli community, a potentially significant constituency; and to bring articulate, English-speaking MKs to Washington—Danny Danon, Tzipi Hotovely, Ayoub Kara and Yariv Levin having already indicated strong interest. Back in Israel, where we closely follow the latest U.S. political trends, we contacted the offices of several congressmen to convey Knesset concerns about anti-Semitic vitriol on some California campuses, purported sales of Apache helicopters and Hellfire missiles to Egypt, and J Street obfuscations regarding its agenda and funding.

**Delegations to Israel:** ZOA-Israel spent quality time with Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS), a major sponsor of new pro-Jerusalem legislation, at the same time offering an on-site briefing to his delegation of Kansas business leaders on the history of Ir David. During meetings with two congressional delegations, the largest ever to visit Israel, the Israel Office also initiated private discussions with some of the dignitaries, including Reps. Pete Olson (R-TX), Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA) and Al

Green (D-TX). Recently we greeted a delegation of state attorneys-general led by former New York AG Robert Abrams.

**Distinguished Visitors:** The Israel Office enjoyed two full days of meaningful conversation with Gov. Mike Huckabee during his whirlwind trip throughout the disputed areas. We also arranged appearances for him with Minister Yuli Edelstein and MKs Zev Elkin, Tzipi Hotovely and Danny Danon, culminating in a possibly pivotal meeting with VPM Moshe Ya'alon. On another fact-finding mission to the Shomron, the Israel Office escorted Washington State senators Joseph Zarelli, the Republican minority leader, and Democrat Adam Kline. This marked the start of our office's continuing relationship with Zarelli's wife, a Christian Zionist activist promoting Israel through tours and enhanced business ties. During this period we also conducted multiple meetings with foreign affairs legislative aides for Sen. Brownback (R-KS) and House Minority Whip, Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA).

## Community and Media Relations

**Shomron Communities:** The Israel Office took on additional projects to support the growth of

Shomron communities and counter claims about their legitimacy: a civil rights initiative on behalf of Talmon and Dolev residents burdened by discriminatory government policies; and an Israeli-U.S. campaign to rebrand the settler image, such as through twinning and various PR efforts. ZOA-Israel was among the featured speakers at a Havat Gilad conference, along with MK Michael Ben Ari, Deputy Minister Ayoub Kara and former Deputy Minister Moshe Peled. There and in a previous engagement at Hareisha, ZOA-Israel underscored we should not be shy about defending Jewish residential rights; i.e., in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. Last Succot, we contributed several busloads of participants for a massive, anti-freeze rally attracting international media coverage, including CNN.

**ZOA Collegiate Mission:** This year's outstanding program led by Josh Nason with Sharona Whisler, David Kadosh and Michelle Palmer, and guided by Keshet Educational Tours, involved much planning by our office as well: We arranged visits to locales ranging from eastern Jerusalem to Sderot, the transplanted communities of former Gush Katif residents, and vital areas of the Shomron including the new and dynamic Maskiot. We enlisted speakers to inform about relevant top-

# ZOA ISRAEL OFFICE

ics such as Israeli campus life, the American Israeli political dynamic, and how to enhance Zionist identification. And we also made appointments for Knesset visits during which MKs and government ministers captivated the young leaders. Currently we are helping individual participants and ZOA Campus Activism leadership with follow-up advocacy projects.

## **Campus Activities:**

For its part in the struggle against anti-Zionist propaganda at Israeli universities, the Israel Office conducted brainstorming sessions with, among others, Im Tirzu, a leading student-run orga-

nization operating on nine campuses, and Prof. Rafi Yisraeli, on leave from Hebrew University. After visiting NYU students approached us, having experienced the indoctrination problem firsthand, we also contacted Israel Academia Monitor to plan counteractive strategies. And recently we began exploring ways to develop ties between U.S. and Israeli students with Prof. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East.

## **Media Interviews:**

ZOA-Israel was the featured subject of a recent *Jewish Press* interview: "Creating 'Synergy' Between the

U.S. and Israel." Our office was also interviewed five times for *Israel National News'* TV magazine, *The Jerusalem Post*: "Battle of the Boycotts," and the *Washington Times*: "Obama Loses Trust of Israel Backers." We described the Washington lobbying scene for Mina Mitsui of *The Yomiuri Shim-bun*, Japan's largest daily; and the persecution of Middle Eastern Christians and proliferation of Arab/Palestinian incitement for The Heart of Israel radio program. We continue to coach community leaders dealing with probing international media, most recently *Sky News* investigating clashes at the security barrier.

**Media Outreach:** The *Jerusalem Post* published several ZOA-Israel letters during this period. Our essay, "Mideast Paradigm Viewed Through Midwest Lens," was featured on *MikeHuckabee.com* and disseminated widely on the Internet. Furthermore, we analyzed the issues together with an array of pundits, columnists and independent journalists writing for more than 20 outlets, including: the *Jerusalem Post*, *Ynet News*, *American Thinker*, *Media Watch International*, *Tom Gross Media*, *Dry Bones*, *Unity Coalition for Israel* and the *Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs*.



PHOTO CREDIT: ITZIK EDRI





## ZOA Pittsburgh District

Pittsburgh District held its annual meeting in December. ZOA's own Daniel Pollak was the guest speaker. He explained the lobbying process and how our members outside the beltway can help support issues important to Israel and the Jewish people.

We are in the process of enrolling participants in our Ministers' Delegation to Israel which departs on April 11th. Clergy members will spend eight days exploring religious sites and learning first-hand about the difficult neighborhood in which Israel lives. We are developing a spring program schedule which includes guest speakers, a membership drive and a major fundraising event. Executive Director, Stuart Pavilack, represents the ZOA on the Iran Task Force of Pittsburgh, the Community and Public Affairs Council of the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh and two of its committees; the Israel Advocacy Committee and the Hot Topics, Cool Talk Committee.

## ZOA Philadelphia District

Our "Buy Israel" campaign which features flyers listing Israeli brands and products continues through 2010.

More than 40 members from our District attended the Annual Brandeis Award Dinner and Gala, including local honoree Robert Guzzardi, recipient of the Cherna and Irving Moskowitz Award and Emcee Gary Erlbaum.

We printed and distributed postcards calling on President Obama to end his administration's anti-Jewish bias toward Jerusalem.

We presented three fundraising events that featured "Dry Bones" cartoonist Yaakov Kirschen.

Philadelphia ZOA proposed an amendment to a JCPA resolution on the "peace process" and although our resolution did not pass, it did prevent another amendment from passing, calling for not referring to Israel as the "Jewish State".

National Vice President Leonard Getz had an op-ed in the *Philadelphia Bulletin* "Does the Media Misrepresent Obama on Israel?"

## ZOA Michigan Region

The Michigan Region held our 76th Annual Balfour Celebration in November, honoring Dr. Marcy Borofsky and Dr. Margo Woll. Business partners in Mobile Dentists, which serves underprivileged children in many US urban centers, they are both long-time Zionists and supporters of a strong Israel.

We concluded the 2009 Education Series with powerful lectures by Nolan Finley, Editorial Page Editor of the *Detroit News* and David Blewett, National Director of the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel. Mr. Finley, a true friend of Israel in the press and in person spoke about Israel and the media. Mr. Blewett spoke about the national meetings of Christian denominations and their positions on Israel and the Middle East. Attendees received sample letters to send to the Presbyterian Church before their meeting this summer, where they will be reviewing their official position on Israel. Our 2010 Education Series begins this March, with Alex Safian, associate director of CAMERA speaking to our chapter.

We continue to work on our efforts to make Gale Publishing understand the necessity of removing the chapter on "Zionism" from the Encyclopedia of Race and Racism published under their masthead in 2008. Members of the Political Action committee recently met with Congressman Gary Peters to ask him to get involved in this issue.

Our new website, [www.mizoa.org](http://www.mizoa.org), has been receiving a lot of traffic. People can now find out about our mission, make donations and learn about our upcoming programs. We continue to send our weekly e-news to over 800 people and speak out in the local press through letters to the editor.

## ZOA Los Angeles Chapter

In January, the chapter had a very successful briefing by Israeli Consul General Jacob Dayan to over 85 ZOA members. He spoke about the threat to Israel and the Western democracies from Iran's nuclear weapons program and about the current state of U.S.-Israeli relations, and took many questions.

## ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

In October, the chapter sponsored Yaakov Kirschen, author of the comic strip “Dry Bones” for five speeches in Southern California and two in Las Vegas. He spoke at the Museum of Tolerance in L.A, at a major Evangelical church in Simi Valley and to a reform synagogue in Orange County, plus two events at the Santa Barbara Federation and two at the Las Vegas Federation.

In November we held a Board Meeting to discuss current board member activities such as the media committee and the twinning project.

We initiated a twinning project between a school in the Shomron - the Ramon School - and a school in Los Angeles - Tifereth Israel. A video conference is planned for February 21 at 9 am PST and 7 pm Israel time. The video conference is expected to last about 50-60 minutes. Students at both schools have written letters to each other.

In September, we hosted Raphaella Segal, the Vice Mayor of Kedumim in Samaria at the homes of our Board members and also at Temple Beth Jacob in Los Angeles.

## NEW ZOA PUBLICATIONS

**The** ZOA has published and is widely disseminating two ZOA booklets. One is entitled “In Danger: Israel’s Sovereignty Over Jerusalem.” The other is entitled, “The Dangers of a Palestinian State.”

The Jerusalem booklet has articles by Gary Bauer, a leading Christian Zionist, who is a former Under Secretary of Education and Chief Domestic Policy Advisor in the Reagan Administration; U.S. Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona, a leader in moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; Dr. Daniel Pipes, a leading Mideast analyst and Director of the Middle East Forum; the late A.M. Rosenthal, former editor of the *New York Times*; Monsignor John Oesterreicher, a Roman Catholic theologian who was an architect of the Second Vatican Council’s statement repudiating

anti-Semitism and founder of the Institute of Judeo-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University; Dr. Menashe Har-El, who taught historical geography at Hebrew University; and many others.

The Palestinian State booklet has articles by Douglas Feith, who was Under Secretary of Defense for Policy under President Bush and a Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute; former U.S. Senator Connie Mack of Florida; Itamar Marcus, founder of Palestine Media Watch; Michael Freund, columnist for the *Jerusalem Post* and a former Associate Director of Policy Planning for Prime Minister Netanyahu; and others.

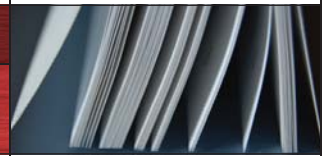
Copies of the booklets can be obtained by contacting the ZOA at 212-481-1500 or by email: [email@zoa.org](mailto:email@zoa.org).



**In Danger:  
Israel's  
Sovereignty  
Over Jerusalem**

**The Dangers  
of a  
Palestinian  
State**





## Is Clinton Soft on Fatah Intransigence?

By Morton Klein, Special to the *New York Jewish Week*

**A**t the 1993 Oslo signing ceremony in Washington, President Bill Clinton called the Oslo Accords a “brave gamble.” Actually, Oslo turned out to be a tragic gamble that cost Israel more than 1,900 dead and thousands more maimed. The reason: a concessionary policy that ignored continuing Palestinian rejection of Israel’s existence as a Jewish state and support for terrorist violence against her.

Now, however, the Obama administration is doing the same thing again. And it is Barack Obama’s secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, who is pretending that Palestinian terrorism and the incitement to hatred and murder that feeds it is nonexistent or unimportant.

Recently, Sen. Arlen Specter (D-PA.) wrote to Clinton, stating that he was “deeply concerned” about Mahmoud Abbas’ August 2009 Fatah Party Conference. He noted that “posters of children brandishing weapons [were displayed] ... senior Fatah officials routinely ... glorified perpetrators of terrorism ... leaders addressing the audience continuously championed the notion that Palestinians maintain the right to commit violence against Israel.”

Accordingly, Specter urged that the \$800 million in U.S.

aid to the Fatah-controlled Palestinian Authority (PA) be “predicated on at least some level of assurance that the beneficiaries are committed to long-term peace.”

How did Secretary Clinton reply? With a letter of rebuttal to Specter, claiming that the Fatah Conference showed “a broad consensus supporting President Abbas, negotiations with Israel, and the two-state solution.” She also claimed that Abbas and Fatah “reaffirmed” their “strategic choice to support a peaceful resolution of the conflict ... some individual Fatah delegates issued problematic texts and statements during the Congress. It is important to note that those texts and statements did not represent Fatah’s official positions.”

Were it only true. In fact, as the ZOA documented at the time, the conference reaffirmed Fatah’s refusal to accept Israel’s existence as a Jewish state and did not commit itself to a non-violent path. To the contrary, Abbas himself declared that “We maintain the right to launch an armed resistance.” Jailed Fatah terrorist leader, Marwan Barghouti, often touted as future Fatah leader, said “Resistance to the Israeli occupation is a national obligation, and it is a legitimate right.”

Another senior Fatah figure, Fahmi Al-Za’arir, said,

“It is not possible to rule out or to marginalize the military option. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades [Fatah’s armed force and a recognized terrorist group under U.S. law] are the jewel in Fatah’s crown.” Yet another senior Fatah official, Jibril Rajoub, declared that “Resistance was and is a tactical and strategic option of the struggle are part of Fatah’s policy.”

These are not merely the unrepresentative views of “some individual Fatah delegates” as Clinton claims — they are unequivocal statements of support for terrorism by senior leaders of Fatah from Abbas down. Moreover, the Fatah platform calls for increased international pressure on Israel and opposes any normalization of relations between Israel and Arab states. It also calls for a “strategic channel with Iran to be opened” — at a time Iran is defying the world by seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

Moreover, at this conference, Fatah openly honored terrorists, including Khaled Abu-Isbah and Dalal Mughrabi, responsible for the 1978 coastal road bus hijacking, in which 37 Israelis, including 12 children, were slaughtered. Former PA Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia honored their killers by declaring, “We have in our midst the hero Khaled Abu-Isbah, hero of the

operation [terror attack] led by the Shahida [Martyr] Dalal Mughrabi [loud applause from the audience]. We salute him and welcome him. And [we salute] the hero, the Shahida (Martyr) Dalal.”

In view of these easily ascertainable facts, Clinton’s response to Specter is deeply worrying.

Ironically, as senator, Clinton distinguished herself by pointing to the poisonous incitement to hatred and murder that permeates the PA. She stated that such incitement would have “dire consequences for peace for generations to come” and that “It is clear that the Palestinian Authority, as we see on PA TV, is complicit” in terrorist attacks. She urged that the U.S. should condition U.S. aid to the PA on a “cessation of Palestinian propaganda and hateful rhetoric.”

Now, however, confronting this matter and in a position to act, Clinton ignores her own insights and advice. Worse, she actually praises Fatah for its commitment to peace.

The time has come for American Jewish and pro-Israel organizations to publicly demand conditioning U.S. aid to the PA on the dismantling of Palestinian terror groups and an end to incitement to hatred and murder in its media, mosques, schools and youth camps.





## Obama Falsely States Israel Not Interested in “Meaningful Conversation” with Palestinians—Hasn’t Made “Bold Gestures” for Peace

# When

President Barack Obama gave an interview to TIME magazine on January 21, the ZOA immediately took issue with the President’s description of the Middle East situation, which included falsely stating that Israel has failed to make “bold gestures” for peace and has not been willing to engage in a “meaningful conversation” with the Palestinians. In fact, Israel has taken the step, unprecedented since Oslo, of freezing Jewish construction in Judea and Samaria for 10 months. It has also been repeatedly stated it is ready to talk with Mahmoud Abbas’ Palestinian Authority (PA).

In contrast, President Obama was indulgent of actual Palestinian failure to make either concessions or engage in negotiations with Israel, explaining these facts away by reference to Abbas “having Hamas looking over his shoulder” and also to the environment generally within the Arab world which is “impatient” with any diplomatic process.

In a press release, the ZOA stated that “We are disappointed and critical of President Obama’s remarks, which carries with it worrying implications for the way he intends to continue to conduct U.S. policy towards the Arab war on Israel ... Even President Obama acknowledges that Abbas has refused to make any concessions.” The ZOA pointed to the basic inaccuracy of the President’s words before adding that “Israel has made bold, unreciprocated concessions throughout the Oslo period until today, including ceding all of Gaza and almost half of Judea and Samaria to Palestinian control, as well as handing over assets, funds and



**President Barack Obama reflects during an economic meeting with advisors in the Roosevelt Room**

## ZOA ANALYSIS

even arms to the PA, only to get continuing rejection and violence ... the Netanyahu government has repeatedly offered to restart negotiations at any time with Abbas' PA, without preconditions. It is therefore incorrect, absurd and outrageous to say, as President Obama did, that Israel is unwilling to engage in a 'meaningful conversation' with the PA. This statement only applies to Abbas and the PA, not to Israel. Mahmud Abbas has publicly and repeatedly proclaimed that he won't come to the negotiating table and engage

in meaningful conversation under present circumstances."

The ZOA also pointed out that, by explaining away the admitted absence of any Palestinian concessions, President Obama gave Abbas and the PA a free pass for their refusal to negotiate with Israel and for failing to make any concessions whatsoever. We also queried why, if the facts are as stated by the President, does he support creating a Palestinian state when he himself suggests that Hamas is a major influence on Abbas and the PA and that it

would therefore be a major, pro-terror, anti-peace force within any Palestinian state that was created under existing conditions?

The ZOA also took the President to task for never having once in this interview referred to Palestinian incitement, the issue which even he has at times acknowledged to be very important. This omission is all the more worrying in view of the fact that in recent weeks, the Israeli government wrote to President Obama specifically raising numerous, recent cases of obscene glorification of terrorists and ter-

rorism by Mahmoud Abbas and the PA.

The ZOA also noted another, key omission in the President's account – his failure to acknowledge that his own Administration's heavy-handed and public efforts to pressure Israel to adopt the racist and discriminatory policy of freezing all Jewish construction in Judea, Samaria and eastern Jerusalem is responsible for the lack of diplomatic motion because it resulted only in the PA seizing on this as a pretext for refusing to negotiate with Israel until this occurs.

## ZOA Publicly Rejects Jimmy Carter's Phony "Apology"

# When

former U.S. President Jimmy Carter purported to apologize to American Jews for his past words and deeds regarding Israel, the ZOA was the first to point out that President Carter did not repudiate or retract as untrue or harmful even a single specific past anti-Israel statement he has made in over three decades of maligning Israel with vicious falsehoods and tendentious allegations in innumerable op-eds, interviews, speeches and books. To the contrary, in his 'apology,' Carter indirectly reiterated and reaffirmed his past criticisms as accurate and legitimate and having been only intended for "improvement" not for "stigmatizing Israel." In other words, Carter's calling Israel an apartheid, human-rights abusing, war-mongering state are still in his view true, but he is merely sorry that

they "may have" harmed Israel's image!

Additionally, the ZOA observed that Carter may have had an ulterior motive to offer his "apology": assisting the electoral prospects of his grandson, Jason, who is running for Congress in a district of Georgia with a Jewish population.

In a press release, the ZOA detailed Carter's three-decade long record of vociferous criticism against Israel. Only last November, Carter wrote falsely that in its military operations in Gaza during December 2008 and January 2009, Israel destroyed 40,000 homes; destroyed hospitals; rendered several hundred thousand Palestinians homeless; that Gaza was surrounded by an impenetrable wall; and that the Goldstone Report had investigated the

# ZOA ANALYSIS

deaths of 1,387 Palestinians in that conflict. In fact not a single one of these claims was correct; they were all lies against the Jewish state of Israel.

The ZOA also noted some of the more egregiously false claims contained in Carter's inaccurate, shallow and vicious 2007 book, obscenely titled "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid", in which Carter had falsely stated that "Israel's continued control and colonization of Palestinian land has been the primary obstacles to a comprehensive peace agreement in the Holy Land"; that Palestinian Arabs have long supported a two-state solution and the Israelis have always opposed it; that UN Security Council Resolution 242 calls for Israel to withdraw from all the territories conquered by Israel in the 1967 war; that Israel rather than Arafat refused to accept a Palestinian state as provided for in the 2000 peace proposals; and that Israel is to blame for the "exodus of Christians from the Holy Land."

The ZOA also pointed out that, at the very time that Jimmy Carter was issuing his phony apology, he had published an op-ed in the *Guardian* (London) making further harsh and false statements about Israel as well as justification and support for proffering stances taken by the



**Former President Jimmy Carter**

terror-supporting Palestinian Authority (PA). In his *Guardian* piece, Carter justified the PA refusal to negotiate with Israel until Israel stops allowing Jews to build homes in Judea and Samaria; advocated for the acceptance of Hamas, whose Charter calls for the destruction of Israel (Article 15) and the murder of Jews (Article 7); criticized the embargo of materials that can be used for terrorism imposed by Israel at its entry points into Gaza; and recommended UN condemnation of Israel for any further Jewish construction that may take place as a

means to bring the Palestinians to negotiate, while making no demands of the Palestinians. Carter also wrote that "Israel has long argued that it cannot negotiate with terrorists, yet has had an entire year without terrorism and still could not negotiate."

The ZOA argued that had President Carter made a substantive, specific disavowal of his previous, harsh and false statements about Israel, or if he had apologized by writing a major article or held a press conference on the subject, in which he repudiated past statements, his apparent appeal

for forgiveness could have been considered. In fact, he simply added to his record of hostility while purporting to apologize. We stated, "just as there is no forgiveness on Yom Kippur without an honest and sincere accounting for specific sins, there can be no meaningful apology without an explicit heartfelt repudiation of his past statements ... His half-hearted, vapid, misleading apology is truly an insult to Jewish and Christian Zionists everywhere ... We strongly urge other Jewish and Christian Zionist leaders to reject it as well."



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

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



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



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| <input type="radio"/> \$100,000 BENEFACTOR  | <input type="radio"/> \$10,000 GUARDIAN | <input type="radio"/> \$1,000 CONTRIBUTOR | <input type="radio"/> \$50 MEMBER           |
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| <input type="radio"/> \$25,000 PATRON   | <input type="radio"/> \$3,600 SUSTAINER | <input type="radio"/> \$100 SUPPORTER     | <input type="radio"/> \$ _____              |
| additional donation   |   |   |   |
| <input type="radio"/> I have enclosed a check payable to Zionist Organization of America  |   |   |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Please charge my credit card: <input type="radio"/> Visa <input type="radio"/> MasterCard <input type="radio"/> AMEX <input type="radio"/> Discover |   |   |   |

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