Over 850 Attend National Dinner
With Sen. Brownback and Uzi Landau

By Steve Feldman

That the United States and Israel are both homes of the brave could not have been made more clear at the Zionist Organization of America’s annual Justice Louis Brandeis Dinner on Dec. 12 in Manhattan.

From a senator from America’s heartland to a frontier mayor from Israel; from a columnist not afraid to point out uncomfortable facts, to a Jewish resident of the Gaza Strip who presses on despite the murder of his wife and four daughters, it was an evening filled with passionate speeches about supporting Israel and our nations’ common values and common enemies.

More than 850 Zionists crowded into the Marriott Marquis Hotel ballroom for the black-tie gala that coincided with the sixth night of Chanukah. The miracle that we commemorate during the holiday was a frequent reference point during many of the speeches.

During the event Israeli statesman Dr. Uzi Landau received the Judah Maccabee Award; keynote speaker Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) received the Defender of Israel Award; Dr. Daniel Pipes received the Ben Hecht Award for Outstanding Journalism on the Middle East; and Martin Gross and Michael Orbach each received the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award.

Those at the dinner also heard from Mayor Daniella Weiss of Kedumim in Samaria and David Hatuel, whose pregnant wife Tali and four young daughters were murdered in 2004 by Palestinian-Arab gunmen.

Dr. Alan Mazurek, chairman of ZOA’s National Executive Committee, was mas-

A Victory for ZOA:
Koby Mandell Act Becomes Law

The Koby Mandell Act, key legislation developed by the Zionist Organization of America intended to bring dozens of Palestinian-Arab murderers of Americans to justice, has been enacted by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush.

ZOA pushed hard to get the bill introduced, and then lobbied vigorously for its passage to end the State Department’s feeble effort and complete failure to bring these killers to justice by placing this responsibility instead with the Department of Justice.

Under the new law, the department will establish the Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism.

Since September 1993, when the Oslo Accords were signed at the White House, Palestinian-Arab terrorists have murdered 52 Americans in Israel, the Gaza Strip and Judea and (Continued on page 4)

Morton Klein
Re-elected by Acclamation

Morton A. Klein was re-elected national president of the Zionist Organization of America by acclamation during our National Convention.

During his tenure as president, Klein has established ZOA’s Campus Activism Network, its Center for Law and Justice and Washington Capitol Hill office. Under Mort’s tenure, ZOA’s budget has increased five-fold. Among the ZOA’s major donors are six people listed in Forbes magazine’s 400 wealthiest Americans.

Morton Klein is an economist who served in the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations and was a biostatistician at the UCLA School of Public Health and the Linus Pauling Institute of Science and Medicine.

The Forward newspaper named him one of the top five Jewish leaders in the U.S. today.

He has had hundreds of articles and columns published throughout the world and has been the subject of more than 30 feature articles.

In addition, Klein has delivered more than 400 lectures throughout the world, including at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, MIT and Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was also featured as part of the U.S. Department of State’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

(Continued on page 10)
Please Mark Your Calendar – June 21-22, 2005

JOIN US ON THE ZOA ANNUAL ADVOCACY MISSION TO CAPITOL HILL, WASHINGTON D.C.

- Attend Private Meetings with your U.S. Senators and Representatives
- High-Ranking Government Officials have been invited to address us
- Have Lunch with Senators and House Members as they brief us on U.S.-Israel Relations and legislative matters affecting Israel
- Lunch, Dinner and Continental Breakfast will be provided
- Round trip transportation is available from select locations
- Registration, including meals - $195 (airfare and hotel not included). Register by March 31st and save $25.
- Hotel arrangements are available at the ZOA special rate of $99, single or double occupancy at the Holiday Inn Downtown. Call (202) 737-1200.
- Special Student Discount Available
- Yigal Carmon, President of MEMRI, will address us on what the Arab leaders are really saying in Arabic to their people
- Dietary Laws Strictly Observed

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

ZOA’s Activities Around the U.S.

Manhattan Region
ZOA initiated and helped facilitate a landmark conference at Columbia University co-sponsored by students and faculty through Scholars For Peace in the Middle East. Speakers included Alan Dershowitz, Israeli Minister for Diaspora Affairs Natan Sharansky, ZOA National President Morton A. Klein, ZOA Center for Law and Justice director Susan Tuchman and feminist Phyllis Chesler. This event is in response to the bias, intimidation and indoctrination at Columbia and on other campuses against Jewish students and Israel. … In mid-October we initiated, coordinated and co-sponsored a bipartisan electoral forum at Lincoln Square Synagogue on the Upper West Side. More than 200 people attended on a rainy night. Democratic U.S. Rep. Jerry Nadler and Republican Jay Lefkowitz debated which presidential candidate would be better for Israel. … We plan toleaflet regularly at the United Nations against UNWRA and its pro-Palestinian policies. As large groups of students and tourists come to the UN to be indoctrinated, N.Y. ZOA believes this is an important venue and opportunity to present ZOA’s views.

Philadelphia Region
“The ZOA Middle East Report” radio show keeps expanding its prominent roster of guests. Author Bat Ye’or, analyst Michael Rubin and investigative journalist Lee Kaplan were among those recently featured. … Our Friday pro-Israel rally in front of the Israeli Consulate continues and has become quite a fixture. New signs keep up with the latest developments in Israel and the Middle East….President Lori Lowenthal Marcus, other officers and the executive director have been published in the last few months in The Evening Bulletin as well as the city’s Anglo-Jewish weekly. We have also commented on nationally syndicated talk-radio programs.

Los Angeles Region

The first Board of Directors has been installed. Ed Ames is board president. Board members include: Newton Becker, Chuck Chriss, Dudley S. Danoff M.D., Irving Gasmer, Morris Gasmer, Jona Goldrich, Mordechai Gur, Marsha N. Levine, Joe Murez, Michael Naim, Robert Gore Rifkind, Samuel J. Heller, Donald Salem DDS and Stanley Black.

Michigan Region
Some 1,200 people attended our Balfour Concert fundraising event on Oct. 24, 2004 at the Millennium Theatre. Dr. Leora-Bar-Levav and Dr. Gary Edelson received the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award. The concert featured “Forbidden Broadway” singer/songwriter/composer Michael HarPaz. … “The Zionist Information News Service” is the name of our new newsletter. We have published two four-page issues so far. Joseph Savin is chair of the newsletter committee and Dr. Jerome Kaufman is editor. … We co-sponsored the Jewish Book Fair in November. … We held our annual election meeting. Officers and board members for 2005-06 are: Saul Waldman, president; Beverly Baker, executive vice president; Leora-Bar-Levav, Ruben Isaacs, Rayna Kogan, Dr. Henry Krystal and Sheldon L. Miller, vice presidents; Seymour Rabotnick, treasurer and CPA; Diane Savin, secretary; and Joseph Savin, chair of the executive committee. … We have established a ZOA student chapter at the University of Michigan. It is led by Kimberly Woryl.

Pittsburgh Region
On Nov. 14, Pittsburgh ZOA held its 59th Annual American Zionist Fund Banquet. Honorees were Pittsburgh Friends-American Red Magen David for Israel (ARMDI); Thomas Kaplan-Chairman and the Jewish Association on Aging; and Woody Ostrow-Chairman Jewish Association on Aging. Among the speakers was Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice. … Pittsburgh Friends accepted the ZOA’s Israel Service Award for its work in support of Red Magen David in Israel. … The Jewish Association on Aging received Pittsburgh District ZOA’s Community Service Award. Dr. Harold Rhode, advisor on Islamic Affairs in the office of the Secretary of Defense-Net Assessment, was the guest speaker. … Nationally accredited forensic scientist Dr. Cyril Wecht was guest speaker on Dec. 5, 2004. Wecht commented on many high-profile murder cases. … The Pittsburgh District-ZOA supports the education of our youth via the ZOA Israel Scholarship Program. It includes contests and scholarships for area Jewish youths. For 2005, more than $15,000 has been budgeted to provide financial assistance to students traveling abroad. … We continue to offer tours of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. for high school students. Twenty-five buses will take nearly 1,000 students and their teachers to the museum. … Look for us on the Web at: http://home.att.net/~zoa/.
Morton A. Klein has been actively speaking out in favor of a safe and secure Jewish state of Israel and exposing the continued incitement and anti-Israel activities by the Palestinian Authority. Among his recent appearances has been: speaking at a conference in Israel sponsored by Israel National Radio; meeting with top leaders in Bulgaria, Romania and Israel as part of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations' delegation; and giving addresses at the University of California-Irvine, Yeshiva University and the College of Judea and Samaria in Ariel, Israel.

He also spoke at synagogues in Los Angeles and San Francisco, addressed the ZOA Los Angeles Region Board and was interviewed on television and radio in Los Angeles.

While in Eastern Europe, in response to Klein’s question, the prime ministers of Bulgaria and Romania agreed to speak out against the Palestinian-Arab so-called refugees moving to Israel. In Israel, then-IDF chief of staff Moshe Ya’alon told Klein in a private meeting: “Leaving Gaza will blow up in our faces.”

Also, during a program with Vice Premier Shimon Peres, Klein asked Peres whether he did call 200,000 Israeli demonstrators “schlemazel.” Peres responded: “Are you saying you disagree with that description.”

In addition to his speeches, Mort continues his prolific writing on behalf of Israel.

In recent months he has had op-ed articles published in the Jerusalem Post, Ha’aretz, the New York Jewish Week, Los Angeles Jewish Journal, the New York Sun and Philadelphia’s Jewish Exponent.

In addition, his letters appeared in Commentary magazine and the New York Sun.
Over 850 Attend Dinner

(Continued from page 1)

ter-of-ceremonies for the dinner. Rabbi Moshe Tendler, former dean of Yeshiva University’s rabbinical school, professor of Talmud and chairman of Yeshiva University’s Biology Department, delivered the invocation.

As always, ZOA President Morton Klein galvanized the crowd and crystallized the issues with another stirring speech.

Klein noted that Israel has made more concessions over the past 11 years than ever before in its history, and yet terror and murder of Jews has increased. The lesson, he said, is, “Appeasement and one-sided concessions simply don’t work.

“Giving up land will not work anyway, as most of us in this room know. The Arab war against Israel is no more a territorial conflict than is al-Qaeda’s strike against America.”

Klein was incredulous that the Bush administration is not only accepting Mahmoud Abbas – Yasser Arafat’s long-time deputy – as his successor, but that it also considers him a moderate.

“Would the United States of America support having Saddam Hussein’s deputy for 40 years to take over the new Iraq? Of course not. This is absurd.”

Klein said that all vestiges of terror must be removed from the Palestinian Authority before there can be peace.

“I am so sick and tired of the world saying [to Israel]: ‘We’re so sorry about a suicide bombing attack. We’re so sorry about a terrorist attack’... and then saying, ‘But of course, you’ve got to go back to the [negotiating] table: you have to make those concessions.’ Imagine,” Klein continued, “if, instead of these types of statements about negotiations and concessions, imagine if the United States and the world said: ‘Until you transform your society – your textbooks, your newspapers, your TV, your speeches, your sermons; until you arrest terrorists – we accept and support Israel having nothing to do with you and using any military means they determine to destroy this regime.’ But the appeasement, ladies and gentleman, continues.”

Now, Klein said, “We are told that Israel must give away the Jewish section of Gaza. It is really shocking that we would reward this terrorist regime at this point in time and give away this land. This is Jewish land according to our Torah.”

Uzi Landau warned that the so-called “disengagement” could be a tragic mistake, but he cautioned against maligning Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s intentions.

A staunch foe of Sharon’s plan, Landau said: “Let me make it clear … with whatever difference we might have, I highly respect Mr. Sharon – at least [what] the underlying assumption of this disengagement plan was … .

This plan “will highly damage Israel’s security and more than that, it will damage Israel’s chances for peace in the near future. Because the chances of peace are conditioned on prevailing over terror.”

Landau continued, “This disengagement plan is a prescription for more terror, more Katyusha rockets, more suicide bombing and I should add: that this Israeli disengagement plan – which is coordinated with the United States – is also perceived in that [Arab] area as an American move. And in the eyes of the Hamas-Palestinian extremists, this principle of relentless war against terror has been broken.”

Landau noted that “Israel these days is a target of international terror, but not the prime target. The prime target is the United States and Western Civilization.”
Israel is seen by Hezbollah, al-Qaeda and the regimes in Iran and Syria “as a laboratory, as a testing ground [for] how to bring to its knees a democracy by the use of suicide bombing.”

Dr. Daniel Pipes, renowned director of the Middle East Forum, internationally published columnist, author and lecturer, noted indeed that those who perpetrate the terrorism – namely radical Islamists – must be soundly defeated.

“Conflicts only end when one side loses. You have to choose your side. I think it’s pretty clear which side every one in this room wants to lose. Better get about doing it and getting the United States government to understand that, no less the Israeli government.”

Sen. Sam Brownback, in accepting his award, said the United States understands. “We are going to win this war with terrorism. We are going to conduct it to its fullest and we are going to win it,” he pledged.

“We dare not rest until we are safe and secure and until Israel is safe and secure. You and all of us must act and speak with courage. Never dare again to be the Jews of silence or the world of appeasement.”

Brownback reminded the audience that Israel “has the right to do whatever is necessary to protect its own people, wherever they may be, from terrorists.

“This is a country, Israel, that was justly founded and that since its conception has been continuously attacked. No other nation and no other people have shared the history that you’ve lived through. Israel has survived. The Jewish people have survived. Thus, we stand with Israel.”

Brownback said it is time for “for America to move our Embassy to Jerusalem and to recognize by this act that Jerusalem – undivided – is the capital of Israel, now and forever.”

Brownback said he supports many of ZOA’s initiatives because “I’m drawn to the moral clarity with which you speak.” His Kansas constituents, he added, “support Israel and the people support in and believe in the cause. This is the place that I come from.”

Two distinguished Jewish leaders, Michael Orbach, a businessman and past chairman of the ZOA national board, and Martin Gross Esq., president of Sandalwood Securities and a member of the national ZOA board, each received the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award, ZOA’s highest honor. In their remarks they graciously spoke of ZOA’s important work and the leadership of Morton Klein.

David Hatuel, whose pregnant wife Tali and their four daughters were gunned down at point-blank range in the Gaza Strip by Palestinian-Arab terrorists, bravely declared that he will not leave.

Hatuel said, “The way I decided to continue my life symbolizes the way the residents of Gush Katif are standing bravely in front of the terror. I stand alone but I decided to stay in Gush Katif and to continue to live there forever.”

“Appeasement and one-sided concessions simply don’t work”

ZOA President, Morton A. Klein

There was not a dry eye in the ballroom.

Daniella Weiss, mayor of Kedumim in Samaria, said that there was some good news: “This year, 95 new young couples joined our community.”

Weiss said, “We are doing our utmost” to derail Sharon’s plan, and “not just for the sake of the communities themselves, but because it endangers part of the whole state of Israel.”

“We are ready to sacrifice our lives for the future of Israel. May I be sincere with you: What I dream of most of all is to see you all in Israel.”
Conventional Wisdom: Elections and Insight

Serving as bookends to the spectacular annual dinner were the opening and closing sections of the Zionist Organization of America’s Biennial Convention.

These two sessions featured deep insights about some of the dangers for Israel and the Jewish people that is lurking in the United Nations and American university campuses; revelations about the so-called “disengagement plan;” and examples of how to be active on behalf of Israel in local communities.

Featured speakers included attorney and columnist Debbie Schlussel and Dr. Charles Jacobs, founder and president of The David Project.

Knesset Member Uzi Landau provided an “off-the record” behind-the-scenes look at Prime Minister Sharon’s “disengagement” plan.

President Morton A. Klein discussed the state of the ZOA and our accomplishments during 2004 including ZOA’s increasing presence on college campuses, increased activism on the part of our Law and Justice Center, and increased relationships with key members of the House and Senate.

Dr. Michael Goldblatt was elected chairman of the national board while Irwin Hochberg and Dr. Michael Franzblau were elected vice chairman of the board. Associate chairwoman of the Board of Directors is Sylvia Freyer.

Dr. Alan Mazurek was elected chairman of the National Executive Committee. Robert Guzzardi and Michael Orbach were elected vice chairman of the NEC. Associate Chairman of the NEC is David Schoen.

Other officers are: Henry Schwartz, treasurer; Bart Blatstein, associate treasurer; Joseph Loshinsky, chairman, Finance Committee; Harry Taubenfeld, associate chair, Finance Committee; Dr. Jerome Kaufman, national secretary; and Honorary President Jacques Torczyner.

Debbie Schlussel, offered an exposé of UNRWA – the United Nations Relief and Works Agency’s facilitation of anti-Israel terrorism in Palestinian-Arab “refugee camps.” Schlussel noted that the U.S. pays more than $100 million to UNRWA each year.

She also offered a window into incitement of terrorism and the activities and growth of American Muslim groups.

Jacobs screened his compelling and groundbreaking documentary, “Columbia Unbecoming.” The film offers examples of the intimidation and bias pro-Israel students face from some Columbia University professors and anti-Israel events on campus.

Murray Tenenbaum, director of government relations for ZOA in Washington, previewed the new session of Congress. Susan Tuchman, director of ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice provided an update as did Dror Elner, associate director of ZOA’s Campus Activism Division.

There was also a workshop on local pro-Israel activism by Steve Feldman, executive director of the Greater Phila. District

Gary Broom of American Express addresses ZOA on Planned Giving.

Dr. Michael Franzblau, ZOA Board Vice Chairman, addresses convention.

Dr. Jerome Kaufman, secretary of ZOA, and Morton Klein reviewing ZOA resolutions before meeting.

Dr. Michael Goldblatt, distinguished psychologist and incoming Chairman of ZOA’s National Board.

Irwin Hochberg, ZOA’s Vice-Chairman of the Board, former Chairman of NY-UJA, former National Chairman of Israel Bonds.

M. Broom of American Express addresses ZOA on Planned Giving.

Dr. Charles Jacobs of the David Project exposing anti-Israel lies on campus.

Debbie Schlussel, attorney, Israel activist, and regular guest on TV and radio exposing UN bias against Israel.

Dr. Jonathan Gold, member of ZOA’s National Board, addressing convention.
PROFILES: A look at ZOA leaders and members

It Takes Two

In 1987, Al and Edie Grossberg were in Israel for three months teaching English to little kids. In the evenings when they would talk to friends or family back in the States, those in the U.S. would tell the couple all of the terrible things about Israel that they were reading in the papers or seeing on the TV news.

But because they were there on the ground, the Grossbers knew that what the media were telling their friends and family was a pack of lies. When the couple returned home they contacted established Jewish organizations to do something about the lies and distortions; they were met with a chilly reception, they recall.

So they created “The Middle East Network” in South Florida to deal with this issue and others in the interest of supporting Israel.

Not long ago, the Grossbergs’ Middle East Network merged into the Zionist Organization of America, but for about a dozen years they and their cadre of activists grew into a small army on behalf of Israel in the lower part of the Sunshine State.

“When we got back, Edie and I contacted every Jewish organization in South Florida,” notes Al Grossberg, 89. “We asked if they would get involved to counteract what was in the media. “They said it’s not their agenda.”

Other groups that showed an interest “were not really aggressive.” So the Grossbers took the bull by the horns. They invited community leaders to their home in the Fort Lauderdale area and, noted Edie Grossberg, “It grew from there.”

Al Grossberg said the group “created a momentum of its own” and in a short time expanded to 800 members. The group grew from a parlor meeting they hosted to one which drew thousands to pro-Israel events with nationally known speakers such as national security expert Frank Gaffney and ZOA National President Mort Klein.

The group had a quarterly newsletter, placed pro-Israel ads in area papers and sponsored many meetings and events. Some drew as many as 4,000 people, notes Al Grossberg.

“We induced many people who were well-off to help us with ads and meetings,” he continues.

Our Doctor in the House

While every Zionist is deeply upset each time we learn a fellow Jew is hurt or murdered in Eretz Israel, no one seems to take it more personally than Dr. Alan Mazurek.

Each time a terrorist incident that claimed the life or even injured a Jew is recounted in his presence, the expression on his handsome face turns from happiness to anger and disgust as if it was a family member or close friend who fell victim.

Mazurek is chairman of the Zionist Organization of America’s National Executive Committee and a self-described “Torah Jew.” What that means — among other things, he says, is: “I believe all of us must defend Israel.”

To that end, Mazurek, who is 49, bought an apartment in Jerusalem and dreams of living there full time. “I have wanted to make aliyah for the last 15 years,” he says.

For now, though, he and his family live in Great Neck, N.Y. where he has a successful neurology practice. He is a graduate of Yeshiva University and earned his medical degree at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine.

It’s only natural that the good doctor is a leader with ZOA both in his local region and nationally. His mother, he notes, was one of the secretaries in ZOA’s Queens/Long Island Region.

Mazurek first got involved in ZOA in 1994. The fact that Israel’s capital is Jerusalem, yet the U.S. Embassy is in Tel Aviv, disturbed him. He and a friend formed a group to get the Embassy moved, and they enlisted then-Sen. Al D’Amato to help. He also asked Mort Klein to get behind the campaign, and of course, Mort agreed. Together, they got the “U.S. Embassy Relocation Act” passed by Congress. However, presidents Clinton and now Bush have chosen not to implement the measure.

Mazurek’s goal is to not only move a building, but also the attitudes of American Jews. Motivation, he notes, is “a big problem. You have to make it personal; attach a human face. [Introduce them to] people who have suffered, people who have succeeded. You have to make it more socially acceptable to be a nationalist and a Zionist.”

It may also take some tinkering with ZOA to accomplish this, he says. “ZOA has to … become a truly national dynamic group like it was in the 40’s and 50’s.”

For now, “Jews in the U.S. don’t even have Israel on their radar screens.”

Why not? Do we have some neurosis? “Apparently,” says this neurologist.

Mazurek quotes Rabbi Meir Kahane: “‘Jews need a national couch.’”

Elaborating, Mazurek observes that most Jews “feel guilty about defending ourselves.” Yet another project for this healer.
ACTION: Center for Law and Justice

CLJ’s Efforts Spark U.S. Probe of Anti-Semitism

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights is investigating allegations of harassment, intimidation and discrimination against Jewish students at the University of California at Irvine (UCI).

The investigation began after ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice director Susan Tuchman filed a comprehensive 11-page civil rights complaint against UCI last October.

The complaint alleged that Jewish students at UCI have been subjected to a pattern of bias and intimidation, and that they have repeatedly notified the university administrators, who have failed to address it.

ZOA contends that the university violated Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, which requires UCI, as a recipient of federal funds, to provide an educational environment free from harassment, intimidation and discrimination on the basis of, among other things, religion and ethnicity.

After reviewing the complaint’s allegations, the OCR decided that an investigation was warranted. Current and former Jewish students at UCI have come forward to describe to authorities the hatred and hostility routinely expressed toward Jews and toward Israel on campus, causing them to feel intimidated and afraid. Students say they have been threatened and physically attacked. Some are afraid even to wear anything that would identify them as Jewish, or have been reluctant to affiliate with Jewish or pro-Israel groups on campus. Our legal effort will hopefully force UCI to stop remaining silent when Jews, Zionism and the State of Israel are vilified on campus and send a message to other schools that such practices are unacceptable.

CLJ Challenging Divestment/Boycott Bids

The ZOA-CLJ is also continuing to take on the nationwide divestment/boycott campaign against Israel. We are working with legislators to force a federal probe of the campaign, which we allege is being conducted in violation of the federal anti-boycott laws.

We are also working to change the position taken by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) last summer, which called for the Church to divest from holdings in corporations that do business with Israel, compared Israel to the apartheid regime in South Africa, and endorsed a claimed right of so-called Arab “refugees” to settle in Israel. These destructive actions should be rescinded since they not only hurt the State of Israel, but also promote anti-Semitism and anti-Israel

ZOA Campus Activism Network

Tomorrow’s Jewish leaders are students at America’s university campuses today. The ZOA is dedicated to making sure they are exposed to pro-Israel information and viewpoints. Here is a digest of some of our recent activities under the direction of Julie Sager, Campus Activism Network director, and Dror Elner, associate director:

Columbia University
ZOA and Netzach Yisrael (the student Israel club at Columbia University) hosted a panel presentation at Columbia on the Gaza withdrawal/evacuation plan. Students viewed a presentation by IDF Col. Shmulik Moyal on the details of the plan and heard ZOA’s Howard Schaerf discuss the legal aspects of the Jewish presence in Gaza. Dror Elner screened a video about Gaza, and Ken Sachs, who served in the Israeli Defense Forces and was wounded in Gaza, told students about his experiences and why keeping Gaza is critical. The well-attended presentation was followed by a discussion period. Many students reported that they did not understand the dangers of the Gaza withdrawal plan until hearing this discussion.

University of Maryland
Dror Elner spent a Shabbat with hundreds of Jewish students at the University of Maryland’s College Park campus promoting the love of Israel and Jewish identity, while exposing the dangers Israel faces. That weekend, Hillel hosted Birthright alumni for Shabbat dinner, and Dror met with students who recently had their first Israel experience. The students were introduced to the ZOA by Dror and invited to join the active ZOA chapter on campus. Dror also led a group discussion on Natan Sharansky’s book The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to overcome Tyranny and Terror.

On February 1, the ZOA chapter at the University of Maryland hosted a discussion, lead by Ken Sachs, an Israeli soldier who immigrated to Israel from the U.S. Ken was wounded at his base by Palestinian-Arab terrorists who dressed as Israeli soldiers to gain access to the base. Over 40 students attended.

Also at Maryland, the ZOA chapter there, in conjunction with Maryland Hillel, is doing a fundraiser for the Koby Mandel Foundation, which helps terror victims and their families. Thanks to Harris Cohen, President of the University of Maryland ZOA, for organizing this great fundraiser.

Queens College
On February 10, Dror Elner began his series of lectures about human rights in Israel vs. the human rights abuses in the Arab world, focusing on women’s rights. He addressed college students from several campuses at a private home in Queens. The program was organized by ZOA student leader Ruthie Israeli, who provided dinner for the students from campuses including Barnard College, Yeshiva University Einstein Medical School, Queens College, Stern College, and Touro College. After Dror’s presentation, students engaged in a group discussion on the rights of women living under the Palestinian Authority.

Pace University
ZOA arranged for Ken Sachs, a member of the IDF, to speak to Jewish students through the Hillel at Pace University.

University of Chicago
ZOA speakers Diana Campuzano, a victim of Arab terrorism, and Dr. Malvina Halberstam, Professor of International Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, spoke on a panel titled: “Terrorism: Legal, Moral and Personal Perspectives.”

University of North Carolina
Dror Elner debated a refusenik soldier at the Chapel Hill campus. Separately, Dror lectured on Israel’s record on protecting human rights.
ZOA Helps Initiate and Facilitate Major Conference at Columbia University on ‘Middle East and Academic Integrity’

The Zionist Organization of America helped initiate and facilitate a landmark academic conference at Columbia University entitled “The Middle East and Academic Integrity on the American Campus.”

The ZOA worked with the Columbia University Chapter of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME) on the conference. Nearly 1,000 attended the conference, while others had to be turned away due to space limitations.

The conference served to galvanize those opposed to anti-Israel activity at Columbia and to speak out against Israel-bashing and in favor of balance, fairness, truth and diversity in courses on the Arab-Israeli conflict. In addition, this conference wanted to send a message that the intimidation of pro-Israel students on campus must stop.

Among the distinguished speakers who took part were Israeli Minister of Diaspora Affairs Natan Sharansky, Harvard University Professor Alan Dershowitz, King’s College Professor Ephraim Karsh, Martin Kramer of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, journalist Nat Hentoff, David Project founder Dr. Charles Jacobs, Rachel Ehrenfeld of the American Center for Democracy and columnist Debbie Schlussel, Cong. Anthony Wiener (D-NY) and several New York City Council members.

The motivating force for the New York chapter of ZOA to call for a mobilization of ZOA members and others to put together a conference was the mounting evidence that Columbia and other universities tolerate anti-Israel distortions, omissions and outright falsehoods by faculty members who teach about the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In addition, students who challenge such biased faculty are regularly demeaned, intimidated, or dismissed as pro-Israel extremists. This has created an atmosphere at Columbia and on other campuses that creates fear and confusion among students. It also promotes anti-Jewish sentiment and delegitimizes Zionism as the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, and the concomitant delegitimization of the existence of the sovereign Jewish State of Israel.

“Allowing Middle East professors to lie about Israel is the same as allowing a physics professor to teach that E=MC3. Neither should be tolerated.”

The group from the New York chapter of the ZOA who helped conceive and worked on this project included: Dr. Marvin Belsky, Liora Brosh, Jeff Daube, Robert Friedman, Janet Lehr, Rodger Parsons, Barbara Sommers and Jeanette Morrison.

The Columbia University faculty leaders of this conference included: professors Awi Federgruen of the Business School and Dr. Judith Jacobson of the School of Public Health.

ZOA president Morton A. Klein noted: “We applaud the ZOA activists and the SPME for working tirelessly to put this symposium together. We applaud SPME for calling for a fair and balanced presentation of the Mideast issues. The teaching of this important and emotional issue must be free of bigotry, extreme bias and certainly outright falsehoods.

“Any professor who promotes falsehoods about his/her field should not be allowed to hide behind the banner of ‘academic freedom.’”

Come Visit Israel With the ZOA

The Zionist Organization of America and Americans For a Safe Israel are co-sponsoring a joint Chizuk Mission to Israel from May 29 through June 7.

We hope to begin our trip with a two-day stay in Gush Katif/Gaza in order to show our strong opposition to the expulsion plan. We will also visit the northern Shomron communities slated for withdrawal, the holy city of Hebron and its surrounding communities, as well as Gush Etzion.

In Jerusalem, where we will enjoy a beautiful Shabbat, we will concentrate on the growing Jewish communities in Jewish eastern Jerusalem.

As always, a host of distinguished speakers will be included in the program.

The cost of the trip, including flight and hotels, all breakfasts, most dinners and some lunches, will be under $2000 per person, double occupancy, plus airport taxes (about $80) depending on El-Al’s air fares.

For more information, call Helen Freedman at 212-828-2424.
Koby Mandell Act Becomes Law

(Continued from page 1)

Samaria, and injured some 70 others. All told, 107 Americans have been killed and hundreds more injured by Palestinian-Arabs since 1968. Yet the State Department’s efforts to bring any of these killers to justice has been weak at best.

Meanwhile, the State Department has vigorously sought the capture of non-Palestinian-Arab killers of Americans via well-funded publicity programs and by offering rewards for their capture. This new mandated Justice Department office will take over the Rewards for Justice Program and its website, which has been controlled by the State Department.

It will also provide other related services including sending U.S. officials to funerals of American victims of terrorism overseas; determine if terrorists who have harmed American citizens overseas are serving in their local police or security forces, and if so, alert U.S. agencies involved in providing assistance to those forces, and request that all such assistance be halted; and assess the pattern of American indictments and prosecution of terrorists who have harmed American citizens overseas, in order to determine the reasons for the absence of indictments of terrorists residing in some regions, such as the territories controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

In addition, the new office will monitor whether foreign governments honor murderers of Americans through actions such as naming schools, streets or public institutions in honor of the killers.

Until now, Palestinian-Arabs who murdered Americans were not as fervently pursued as other foreign nationals who murdered Americans overseas, despite the fact that the whereabouts of many of these suspects was known. Some, in fact, were openly shielded by the Palestinian Authority and have served in the P.A. police force.

The Zionist Organization of America was determined to end this imbalance.

“We wish to express our strong appreciation to the House and the Senate sponsors of this legislation for passing a critical anti-terrorism bill providing an important boost in the efforts to capture all foreign nationals who have murdered or harmed Americans overseas, including Palestinian Arabs,” said ZOA President Morton A. Klein.

Klein noted, “The ZOA led a three-year effort on behalf of this bill which included full page ads in The New York Times and in newspapers around the country, organizing House and Senate press conferences on Capitol Hill, publishing op-eds and letters in newspapers, delivering speeches around the country, discussing the bill on both TV and radio and distributing a powerful booklet entitled ‘The Forgotten Victims: American Citizens Murdered by Palestinian Arab Terrorists.’ The booklet includes biographical entries on Americans murdered by Palestinian Arab terrorists and a ‘Killers at Large’ section revealing the names – and, in some cases, the photos – of Palestinian Arab killers of Americans who are being sheltered by the P.A.”

The bill was named in memory of American-born Koby Mandell, 13. He and his friend Yosef Ishran, were killed May 8, 2001, by Palestinian-Arabs while hiking in a cave in Tekoa, Israel.

Sherry Mandell, Koby’s mother, said, “We want to thank the Zionist Organization of America and Congress for initiating this fight for justice. We feel that this helps in the healing process for us. We now know that people care and that Koby and the other Americans killed by Palestinian-Arabs won’t be forgotten. Even as a young boy, Koby really cared about justice - he would have deeply appreciated this fight for justice by the ZOA and the U.S. Congress.”

Stephen Flotow, father of Alisa Flotow – another victim of Palestinian-Arab murderers – said, “We want to thank the Zionist Organization of America for being the only organization to have made this bill and this fight a priority and being relentless in their pursuit of justice. We also want to thank the House and Senate for their great work in this important step against anti-American terrorism.”

Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR) was the lead sponsor of the measure in the Senate. Other key co-sponsors included Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA).


Did You Know …

Did you know that the Zionist Organization of America helped sponsor and arrange for Bus #19, which was hit by a suicide bomber and is now a charred shell, to be brought to the United States from Israel?

Bus #19 was the centerpiece for pro-Israel rallies organized recently by Jewish and Christian Zionists in three California cities.

Bus #19 implies a Jerusalem route. On January 29, 2004, it was attacked by a Palestinian-Arab policeman. The blast killed 11 Israeli civilians and wounded over 50 others.
The ZOA, in cooperation with the United States Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, sponsored a Capitol Hill lecture and Q&A with author and internationally renowned Islamic specialist Bat Ye’or on February 28. The event took place in the Rayburn House Office Building.

Bat Ye’or (a nom de plume) spoke to congressional staff from the House Committee on International Relations and others on the concepts and consequences of what she has termed “Eurabia,” her word for the Arabization of Europe in both culture and politics, and the effect this will have on U.S.-European relations.

Eurabia: The Euro-Arab Axis is the name of Bat Ye’or’s latest book. In addition to explaining the transformation of Europe into an Arab-centric and Islamic-leaning continent, it also reveals the 30-year conspiracy between nations of the European Union and the Arab League to advance the cause of Palestinian-Arabs and undercut Israel, threatening the Jewish state’s very existence.

“The Europeans have done this,” Bat Ye’or writes, “to ensure their continued oil supply and to undermine the United States.”

In her remarks, Bat Ye’or detailed the long history of European blindness to the true jihadist agenda.

“Europe is now unwilling to see jihadists as an enemy or even a destructive force in the world,” she noted.

“Much of the European population sees the Palestinian jihad not as terrorism or the murder of innocents, but as a heroic “struggle for liberty,”” said Bat Ye’or. “Zionism or America is seen as the evil force, not Islamism or even terrorism. Europe is unwilling or unable to see jihadists as an enemy or even a destructive force in the world.”

Second, substantial Muslim immigration has provided a mechanism for the growth of radical Islam in Europe. According to Bat Ye’or, radical ideologies have found fertile ground among the 20 million Muslims now living among the nations of Europe.

“The Muslim populations of Europe are not assimilating or adapting to Western ideals of democracy and religious plurality,” said Bat Ye’or. “Such concepts are largely rejected. Moreover, European students are not taught the real history of the Islamic world or its historic oppression of Christians and Jews. Muslim students protest such lessons and the courses are altered to avoid negative pictures of Islam or Islamic history.”

Lastly, as a major contributing factor to the growth of the Muslim influence, Bat Ye’or cites the European penchant for appeasement.

Her new book is a must-read for those who seek to understand Europe’s prevailing anti-Israel and pro-Arab positions both in the government and the media.

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ZOA would be pleased to educate you regarding this simple process. For further information, please call Sheldon Fliegelman, Vice President of Planning & Development, at (212) 481-1509.

Thank you kindly for keeping ZOA in mind along with your legacy for the future.
This issue of ZOA Report is dedicated in honor of

Robert Guzzardi, Esq.

A ZOA officer, distinguished businessman, relentless advocate for Israel, clear-thinking and tireless leader in the Jewish community.

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Is the ZOA in your will?

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

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