



In the Spirit of Balfour

ZIONISM FORWARD

Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.



In partnership with the Department for Diaspora Activities of the World Zionist Organization (WZO)
and the Balfour Initiative of The Israel Forever Foundation (IFF)

ZIONISMFORWARD.ORG



AMERICAN ZIONIST MOVEMENT WASHINGTON NATIONAL CONFERENCE November 15-17, 2017

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration
and the 70th anniversary of the UN Partition Resolution

Conference Co-Chairs

Rabbi Paul Golomb

Vice President, American Zionist Movement

Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman

Chair, World Zionist Organization's Department for Diaspora Activities

Heidi Krizer Daroff

North America Director, Israel Forever Foundation

#ZionismForward

#SpiritofBalfour

#Balfour100

#BeLikeBalfour



In partnership with the Department for Diaspora Activities of the World Zionist Organization (WZO)
and the Balfour Initiative of The Israel Forever Foundation (IFF)

For further information, please contact Alicia Post, AZM Program Director, apost@azm.org | 212.318.6100 x6947



ראש הממשלה
PRIME MINISTER

November 12, 2017

Dear Friends,

I send warm greetings to the American Zionist Movement Washington National Conference.

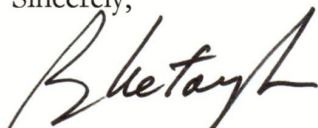
This year you join us in marking two seminal events in the history of modern Zionism – the centenary of the Balfour Declaration and the 70th anniversary of the UN Partition Resolution. The Balfour Declaration was the first time a major world power articulated support for the re-establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in the Land of Israel. Thirty long and tragic years later, the UN Partition Plan sought to turn the international support for Herzl's dream into reality.

In the seven decades since, we have built a vibrant and modern democracy, becoming a world leader in agriculture, hi-tech, medicine, science and cybersecurity. We are proud of all we have accomplished, and we are grateful to our brothers and sisters in Jewish communities around the world who have stood with us from even before day one.

I commend AZM for strengthening the connection between the American people and the people of Israel and for your commitment to the unbreakable alliance between our countries.

I wish you a productive and enjoyable conference.

Sincerely,


Benjamin Netanyahu

Jerusalem, Israel

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Dear Friends,

We gather in Washington, DC to commemorate 120 years of Zionism, 100 years since issuance of the Balfour Declaration, 70 years since the adoption of the UN Partition Resolution and the approaching 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.


One can only imagine the joy that each of these celebrations would occasion for any ancient community, were it not for the rejectionists, the anti-Semites and the anti-Zionists who thrive on anti-Israel rhetoric. The Jewish people are thousands of years old and indeed the oldest of the world's modern religions.

We gather, in a sense, to remind the world – and ourselves – of the rich contribution which Israel and the Jewish people have made to democracy, freedom, the arts, sciences, technology, culture and humanity itself.

On behalf of the 25 member/affiliate/Zionist youth organizations which comprise the American Zionist Movement and as a part of the World Zionist Organization, we welcome each of you to Washington as we join together in moving Zionism Forward – in the Spirit of Balfour.

Thank you for your leadership and support,

Richard D. Heideman



President, The American Zionist Movement

Dear Friends,

The American Zionist Movement is pleased that you have joined us in the United States capital city during this November "Zionism Anniversaries Month", as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration and the 70th anniversary of the UN Partition Resolution.

As we have convened in Washington, together with our partners from the World Zionist Organization in Jerusalem, the conference will both reaffirm the everlasting connection between the Jewish people in the Diaspora and in Israel, as well as the strong bonds of friendship and partnership between America and Israel

Our gathering during this 120th year of modern Zionism (since Theodor Herzl convened the first Zionist Congress in Basel, ultimately leading to the creation of the State of Israel) will also reaffirm our commitment to Zionism and its contemporary relevance.

This conference is an important event in what AZM has called the 2017-18 "Year of Zionist Anniversaries" which we began in May - by marking the historic Biltmore conference, where 75 years ago American Zionist gathered in NYC amidst the Holocaust in Europe to make a final push for statehood in Israel; and the 50 years since the reunification of Jerusalem, our holiest City, following the Six Day War - and will culminate next year with celebrating 70 years since the founding of the State of Israel in May 1948.

Since the time AZM and its predecessor organizations were founded almost 80 years ago, we have brought together American Zionists of all perspectives, backgrounds and ideologies to unite in support for our beloved homeland in the State Israel. We hope that you will join our ongoing efforts to unite as we move Zionism Forward.

Herbert Block



Executive Director, The American Zionist Movement

Dear Friends,

The month of November features a long list of formative historical events in the history of our people. This November we mark the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Partition Plan, and the date of David Ben-Gurion's, first Israeli Prime Minister Yortzeit - with the celebrations for the State of Israel's 70th anniversary on the horizon.

One of the highlights of this month events is this AZM-WZO Department for Diaspora Activities joint conference that invites you to discuss the Jewish-Israeli-Zionist triangle in the light of the Balfour declaration and to bring up tough and important questions, learn new facts, have fun and make new friends.


The Department for Diaspora Activities in the World Zionist Organization aims to strengthen the Zionist identity and the commitment for Israel among diaspora Jews through variety, creative programs. You are invited to celebrate this month through the Daf Yomi (Daily Zionist pages) on website www.beit-haam.com and to share with us your special moment in Israel through our unique website www.mapofmoments.com. Join us!

I would like to thank the AZM- our partners, especially Richard Heideman, President of the AZM and his team, for creating this platform enabling discourse and exploration of these important topics.

I invite you all to be part of shaping the Zionism of tomorrow and moving Zionism forward.

Yours,

Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman



Head of the Department, WZO Department for Diaspora Activities

Dear Friends,

One hundred years ago, the Jewish world welcomed with celebration the wonderful news of Britain's recognition and support of the Zionist dream.

Five years ago, as The Israel Forever Foundation was taking shape as a primary content and resource Israel engagement organization, it became abundantly clear that the increasing efforts to negate the rights of Israel, the Jewish People and Jewish history would undermine the very legitimacy of Jewish nationalism that the Balfour Declaration affirmed.

While this letter was but a single step toward the re-establishment of Jewish sovereignty in our ancestral homeland, the elation felt by the Jewish world at that time demonstrates just how much it meant to achieve international recognition of our rights, our nationhood, our hope, our vision. As we celebrate this centenary commemoration, we are reminded of the leadership, activism, and passion that made the declaration and the subsequent rebirth of our Jewish State of Israel possible.


It is an honor to join together with the American Zionist Movement National Conference, in partnership with the World Zionist Organization, with Zionist leaders who continue the work of carrying on that legacy.

In the spirit of Balfour, we have the ability to utilize our strength for a united cause by declaring that, regardless of our individual political or religious opinions or practices, we will not stand idly by and let the truth be negated or denied. In the spirit of Balfour, may we continue to inspire the next generation to recognize, understand and support the vision of Herzl, Balfour, Weizmann, Sokolow and others whose efforts will forever be a part of Israel, just as Israel is forever a part of Jewish life and identity.

May our collective commitment ensure that the recognition and appreciation of our indigenous rights and connection remain strong for 100 years and beyond.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elana Heideman



Executive Director, The Israel Forever Foundation

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 – VISION

- 11:00am

REGISTRATION OPENS AT LIAISON CAPITOL HILL HOTEL

415 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001

 - Networking in the Zionism Shuk
 - "Year of Zionism" Program Showcase of AZM organizations and WZO Departments
 - "Tachles Café" - Buffet Lunch **Kosher Dietary Laws Observed*
- 1:00pm

CONFERENCE BEGINS

 - **Welcome and Introductions:** Richard D. Heideman, President, American Zionist Movement
 - **Zionism: Vision, Dream and Reality:** Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman, Chair, World Zionist Organization's Department for Diaspora Activities
 - **Zionism Forward:** Contemporary Challenges: Rabbi Paul Golomb, Vice President, American Zionist Movement
 - **Greetings In the Spirit of Balfour:** Heidi Krizer Daroff, North America Director, Israel Forever Foundation

STRATEGIC, DIPLOMATIC AND GLOBAL ISSUES FACING ISRAEL

 - **The Strategic Threats Facing Israel:** Brig.-Gen (ret.) Yossi Kuperwasser, Former Director General, Israel Ministry of Strategic Affairs
 - **The Role of the US in Seeking Long Term Solutions to the Arab-Israeli Conflict:** Aaron David Miller, Vice President, Woodrow Wilson Center
 - **The Terror Threats Facing Israel:** Dr. Matthew Levitt, Director, Counterterrorism program at The Washington Institute for Near Policy, and a former Treasury and FBI official

ZIONISM ACROSS THE AISLE – THE WASHINGTON DEBATE

 - Chairman: Herbert Block, Executive Director, American Zionist Movement
 - Shoshana Bryen, Senior Director, The Jewish Policy Center
 - Ann F. Lewis, President, JAC Education Foundation
 - Sarah Stern, President, Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)
 - Former US Congressman Robert Wexler, President, Center for Middle East Peace

ZIONISM ACROSS THE RELIGIOUS SPECTRUM - A DISCUSSION

 - Chairman: Rabbi Vernon Kurtz, Rabbi, North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Past President, American Zionist Movement & MERCAZ USA
 - Rabbi Josh Weinberg, President ARZA
 - Ms. Sarrae Crane, Executive Director, MERCAZ-USA

- Rabbi Gideon Shloush, Former Executive Vice President, RZA
 - Rabbi Mendel Bluming, Executive Director, Chabad of Potomac
- CHALLENGES IN SECURING PEACE WITH THE PALESTINIANS**
- Chairman: Mindy Stein, Honorary National President and Chairman of The Board, Emunah of America
 - Moderator: Gregg Roman, Director, The Middle East Forum
 - Daniel Pipes, President, The Middle East Forum
 - Ben-Dror Yemini, Journalist and Author of "Industry of Lies"
- ISRAEL, ZIONISM AND JEWISH IDENTITY IN THE FACE OF RISING ANTISEMITISM**
- Daniel S. Mariaschin, CEO & Executive Vice President, B'nai B'rith International
 - Dr. Elana Heideman, Executive Director, Israel Forever Foundation
 - Ashley Perry, President, Reconectar

- 5:30pm

PROGRAMMING ENDS
- 6:15pm

BEGIN BOARDING BUSES AT CAPITOL LIAISON HOTEL FOR BALFOUR GALA
- 6:30pm

BUSES DEPART HOTEL FOR EMBASSY OF ISRAEL

3514 International Dr., NW, Washington, DC 20008

***Please bring photo ID for security check-in*
- 7:30pm

THE BALFOUR GALA AT THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL

3514 International Dr., NW, Washington, DC 20008

**Kosher Dietary Laws Observed*

Under the Auspices of Ambassador Ron Dermer at the Embassy of Israel

Honored Guests:

 - Eli Cohen, Israel's Minister of Economy
 - Yariv Levin, Israel's Minister of Tourism
 - Baroness Ruth Deech, UK House of Lords
 - Avraham Neguise, Member of Knesset
 - Oded Forer, Member of Knesset
 - Haili and Agurnesh Mengistu, parents of Abera (Avraham) Mengistu, held by Hamas since September 2014
- 10:00pm

BUSES DEPART EMBASSY TO RETURN LIAISON CAPITOL HILL HOTEL

Optional Late-Night Monument Tour

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 - LEADERSHIP

7:00am	AZM NATIONAL BOARD MEETING <i>For AZM Board Members Only at Liaison Hotel</i>
8:30am	DAY ON CAPITOL HILL BREAKFAST OPENS AT CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER <i>First St, NE, Washington, DC 20515 (13 minute walk – see map & directions)</i> <i>*Kosher Dietary Laws Observed</i> Room: HVC 201AB - Arranged by Congressman Lee Zeldin (R, NY) LAW, JUSTICE AND THE RIGHTS OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video Remarks: Alan M. Dershowitz, Lawyer and Author• Brooke Goldstein, Founder and President, The Lawfare Project• Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., ZOA Director, Center for Law and Justice• David Dormont, Former Treasurer, Partners for a Progressive Israel THE BALFOUR DECLARATION: BOLD DIPLOMACY AND HISTORICAL RELEVANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction: on behalf of The Balfour Initiative, Dr. Elana Heideman, Executive Director, Israel Forever Foundation• Baroness Ruth Deech, UK House of Lords• Col. Richard Kemp, Commander British Forces (ret.)• Edwin Black, Author• Dr. Mitchell Bard, Executive Director, American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) REFLECTIONS: THE BALFOUR DECLARATION AND AMERICAN VALUES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections On Justice Brandeis: Frederick M. Lawrence, Secretary & CEO, Phi Beta Kappa and Former President, Brandeis University• Reflections on US Policy From 1917 to 2017: Dr. Robert B. Satloff, Executive Director, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy• Reflections on Zionism, Balfour and American Interests: Herbert London, President, London Center for Research
12:30pm	IN THE SPIRIT OF BALFOUR: CONGRESSIONAL AND DIPLOMATIC LUNCHEON <i>*Kosher Dietary Laws Observed</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairman: Richard D. Heideman, President, American Zionist Movement• Invocation and Blessings: Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt, Founding (& Senior) Rabbi, Congregation B'nai Tzedek, President of the Rabbinic Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America• Remarks by Members of Congress• Presentation of Congressional Resolution by Members of Congress• Remarks by Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman and CEO, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

	PRESENTATION OF AZM DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD TO AMBASSADOR RON DERMER KEYNOTE REMARKS by Ron Dermer, Israel's Ambassador to the US
2:30PM	US DIPLOMACY IN DEFENDING VALUES AND RIGHTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairman: Stephen Trachtenberg, President Emeritus, George Washington University• Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, US Ambassador (ret.) to the European Union• Ambassador Keith Harper, US Ambassador (ret.) and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva• Ambassador David Saperstein, US Ambassador (ret.) for Religious Freedom and Director Emeritus, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and Senior Advisor to the URJ for Policy and Strategy• Hon. Lesley Weiss, Member and Former Chair, US Commission on the Preservation of Heritage Abroad IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HERZL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zionism: The Land of Israel: Russell Robinson, CEO, Jewish National Fund• Zionism and Advocacy: Morton A. Klein, President, Zionist Organization of America• Zionism and the Russian Jewish Community: Dmitry Shiglik and Dr. Igor Branovan, American Forum for Israel• Defining Zionism: Perception vs Reality: Ellen Hershkin, President, Hadassah Zachary Schaffer, Associate, Community Strategy, Israel Action Network SUMMARY AND STEPS FOR THE FUTURE
6:15pm	BEGIN BOARDING SHUTTLES AT CAPITOL LIAISON HOTEL FOR MOVIE NIGHT
6:30pm	SHUTTLES DEPART HOTEL FOR LANDMARK E STREET CINEMA <i>555 11th St NW, Washington, DC 20004</i>
7:00pm	DINNER AND OPENING OF THE WZO SYMPOSIUM ON DIASPORA AFFAIRS <i>*Kosher Dietary Laws Observed</i> <i>An Evening Salute to Young Professionals and Leadership for the Future</i> Remarks by Daniel Flesch, Executive Director, ZOA's, Fuel for Truth - DC
8:00pm	SCREENING OF THE FILM: "BEN-GURION: EPILOGUE" <i>Landmark E Street Cinema: 555 11th St NW, Washington, DC 20004</i>

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17 – UNITY: THE WZO SYMPOSIUM ON DIASPORA AFFAIRS

7:30am

WZO NETWORKING BREAKFAST

**Kosher Dietary Laws Observed*

BEIT HAAM WORKSHOPS

- **Zionism?! What is it in the 21st century:** Eyal Ben Zeev, Media Consultant, World Zionist Organization's Department for Diaspora Activities
- **Walking A Tightrope: The Israeli Supreme Court - A Model For Democratic Activism:** Rotem Malach, Central Emissary, World Zionist Organization's Department for Diaspora Activities

ZIONISM, COMMUNITY, UNITY

- **Facing the Challenge on the College Campus:** Jacob Baime, Executive Director, Israel on Campus Coalition
- **US Public Opinion on Israel and Public Opinion:** Mark Mellman, President & CEO, The Mellman Group

CLOSING SESSION: ZIONISM IN ACTION

- Closing Address by William C. Daroff, Senior Vice President for Public Policy & Director of the Washington Office of The Jewish Federations of North America

CLOSING REMARKS

- Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman, Chair, World Zionist Organization's Department for Diaspora Activities
- Dr. Esther Serok, Representative of the World Zionist Organization Executive in North America

11:00am

ADJOURNMENT OF THE CONFERENCE – SHABBAT SHALOM!



About AZM

The mission of the American Zionist Movement (AZM) is to bring the American Jewish community closer to Zionism.

The AZM is composed of organizations representing a broad array of Zionist perspectives and engaging in a variety of philanthropic, educational and advocacy activities on behalf of Israel. In this capacity, the AZM carries out activities and programs on behalf of the World Zionist Organization and represents American Zionists within the National Institutions of Israel. In addition, the AZM strives to provide services and programming for member organizations, as well as serve as a catalyst for new Zionist ideas, a convener of Zionist discussions, and an incubator of new initiatives.



About WZO-DDA

The Department for Diaspora Activities in the World Zionist Organization aims to strengthen the Zionist identity and the commitment for Israel among diaspora Jews. The department's staff in Jerusalem, together with our colleagues and Shlichim in 5 continents, works tirelessly to hold a big range of activities, seminars and events, all of them try to bring the values of Zionism to the broader audiences, especially the younger generation. In a 21st century language, an advanced technology and with an inclusive and pluralistic perception of Judaism and Zionism, we encourage an ongoing dialogue to be held between the Israeli Jewry and the world Jewry.



About IFF

The Israel Forever Foundation develops and promotes experiential learning resources and initiatives to celebrate and strengthen the personal connection to Israel as an integral part of Jewish life and identity. Our content and programming aim to engage and inspire Diaspora Jews as Virtual Citizens of Israel to foster understanding, respect, involvement and pride in our ancestral connection with our heritage, history and homeland.



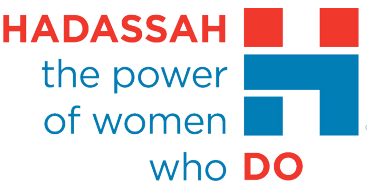
About Balfour Initiative

The Balfour Initiative aims to highlight the history that led to the monumental international recognition of Jewish rights and one of many steps toward the re-establishment of Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel. Content, resources and programs serve to engage learners of all ages in an exploration of the events leading up to and following the declaration, as well as its relevance today as a global recognition of the historic and indigenous rights of the Jewish People.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

ZIONIST YOUTH MOVEMENTS



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JACOB BAIME
Executive Director, Israel on Campus Coalition

An experienced public affair professional and campus organizer, Jacob Baime is an expert on pro-Israel campus affairs. As former National Field Director with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), he supervised a team of professional campus organizers, oversaw strategic campus initiatives, and managed AIPAC's national training platforms for college and high school students. Baime most recently served as Area Director in AIPAC's New England Region, where he was responsible for political, development and grassroots efforts in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Baime previously served as a political aide and as Campus Coalition Director to the Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts.



DR. MITCHELL G. BARD
Executive Director, American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE)

Mitchell Bard is the Executive Director of the nonprofit American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) and an authority on U.S. Middle East policy. Dr. Bard is also the director of the Jewish Virtual Library, the world's most popular and comprehensive online encyclopedia of Jewish history and culture. Dr. Bard currently co-chairs the task force on BDS & Delegitimization for the Global Forum on Combatting Anti-Semitism created by the Israeli Foreign Ministry and is a member of a similar task force established by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. For three years he was the editor of the Near East Report, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's (AIPAC) weekly newsletter on U.S. Middle East policy. He also served as a polling analyst in the 1988 presidential campaign. In 2013, Dr. Bard was named one of the "top 100 people positively influencing Jewish life" by the Algemeiner newspaper. Bard holds a Ph.D. in political science from UCLA and a master's degree in public policy from Berkeley. He received his B.A. in economics from UC Santa Barbara.



EYAL BEN ZEEV
Media Consultant, World Zionist Organization's Department for Diaspora Activities

Eyal Ben Zeev is responsible for media, marketing and educational initiatives in the World Zionist Organization's Department for Diaspora Activities. Prior to that, he served as the Jewish Agency Israel Fellow for Hillel in Chicago. Eyal holds a BA in Middle Eastern History from Tel Aviv University. In his military service, he served as a military journalist in the IDF's radio station, Galei-Tzahal. Eyal worked as a teacher in several high schools and these days, in his current position, he is combining his passion for education and media with his love for the Jewish people and Israel.



EDWIN BLACK
Author

Edwin Black is the award-winning, New York Times bestselling international investigative author of 140 award-winning editions in 17 languages in 65 countries, as well as scores of newspaper and magazine articles in the leading publications of the United States, Europe and Israel. With more than a million books in print, his work focuses on human rights, genocide and hate, corporate criminality and corruption, governmental misconduct, academic fraud, philanthropy abuse, oil addiction, alternative energy and historical investigation. Editors have submitted Black's work eleven times for Pulitzer Prize nomination, and in recent years he has been the recipient of a series of top editorial awards.



HERBERT BLOCK
Executive Director, American Zionist Movement

Herbert Block has been Executive Director of the American Zionist Movement since March 2017. Since 2011 he has also been a Presidential Appointee as a Member of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. From 1999 until 2015 Mr. Block was an Assistant Executive Vice-President of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Previously, he served as Assistant Director for Intergovernmental and Public Affairs for the New York City Independent Budget Office from 1996 to 1999, and was Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Relations at the Corporation for National and Community Service from 1994 to 1995. Mr. Block was Assistant to the Mayor of the City of New York from 1990 to 1993 and a Special Assistant to the Manhattan Borough President from 1986 to 1989. He is the NYC Mayor's appointee to the Board of Directors of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Mr. Block serves on the board of several other non-profit organizations in NYC and on Holocaust-era property restitution bodies in Poland and Lithuania. Mr. Block received a B.A. from Columbia University and a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School.



RABBI MENACHEM BLUMING
Rabbi & Executive Director, Chabad Shul of Potomac

Rabbi Mendel Bluming is the Chabad representative in Potomac Maryland and serves as the rabbi of the Chabad Shul of Potomac. He received Rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Hillel Pewzner of Paris France, a leader in France's rabbinate, kashrut and Jewish educational system and was ordained as a Jewish judge, a Dayan, by the late Rabbi Pinchas Hirshprung the Chief Rabbi of Montreal, considered one of the foremost Torah scholars of our generation. His wife and partner Sara is looked up to for her soulful community outreach and insightful community wide teaching. They are blessed with 8 children.



DR. IGOR BRANOVAN
President, American Forum for Israel

Dr. Branovan is one of the founders of the American Forum of Russian-speaking Jews (RAJI), a member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the World Zionist Organization (WCO), Vice President of the World Forum of Russian-speaking Jews, President of the American Forum of Russian-speaking Jews, and President of the Chernobyl Project.



SHOSHANA BRYEN
Senior Director Director, The Jewish Policy Center

Shoshana Bryen is Senior Director of the Jewish Policy Center in Washington, DC. A leading specialist in U.S. defense policy and Middle East affairs, she was previously Executive Director and Senior Director for Security Policy at JINSA, where she was author of the widely republished JINSA Reports. She has worked with the Strategic Studies Institute of the U.S. Army War College and the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, and lectured at the National Defense University in Washington. Mrs. Bryen coordinated programs in the Middle East for military professionals that allowed more than 450 American military officers to engage in professional discussions of issues that both unite and divide the United States, Israel and Jordan. She also created a program to take the cadets and midshipmen of America's service academies to Israel for a three-week work/study program that has permitted hundreds of future officers to have a positive, in-depth experience in Israel. She has also taken Turkish and Israeli military officers to speak at the service academies and has lectured in the academies as well. Her work has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, the New York Sun and Defense News, among other print outlets, and in Forbes.com, American Thinker and Gatestone Institute online. She is a Member of the Advisory Board of the Aleethia Foundation that provides opportunities for wounded veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and is a Member of the Board of the Naval Academy Jewish Chapel Foundation.



MINISTER ELI COHEN
Minister of Economy and Industry

Eli (Eliyahu) Cohen is the Minister of Economy and Industry of the State of Israel, and a member of the Twentieth Knesset representing the 'Kulanu' party. Prior to his appointment as Minister of Economy and Industry, Mr. Cohen chaired the Reform Committee of the parliament. As chairman of this committee, Cohen led the parliamentary work related to several major reforms inter alia the banking system in Israel, technical standards, capital market, pension, housing and real-estate. Before joining politics, Mr. Cohen held various positions in major Israeli Financial Companies. Cohen headed the Economic sector of the accounting and consulting firm- BDO Ziv Haft, then he moved to the credit rating company "Maalot S&P" where he headed its Corporate division. Cohen's last position in the private sector was Senior Vice President of the Israeli Insurance Company ILDC (The Israel Land Development Company). Mr. Cohen, CPA, holds an MBA degree majoring in accounting and finance from the Tel Aviv University, and has a BA degree in Accounting from the Tel Aviv University and also a BA degree in Management and Economics from the Open University of Israel. Mr. Cohen completed his military service in the Air Force and was discharged with the rank of Major. Born in 1972, in the city of Holon, Mr. Cohen is married and has four children.



SARRAE CRANE
Executive Director, MERCAZ USA

Sarrae G. Crane is the Director of MERCAZ USA. Previously, Sarrae coordinated the Zionist Congress elections for the American Zionism Federation (now AZM) and worked as Executive Director of the Labor Zionist Alliance. At the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, she was the Director of Social Action & Public Policy, Israel Affairs & Biennial Convention. Most recently, she served as the Executive Director of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Sarrae is a graduate of Barnard College, with master's degrees from both Columbia and Brandeis Universities. She is married to Rabbi Jonathan Waxman, who serves Temple Beth Sholom of Smithtown.



HEIDI KRIZER DAROFF
Conference Co-Chair
North America Director, Israel Forever Foundation

Heidi Krizer Daroff earned her Master's Degree in Humanities and Social Thought at New York University. As part of that program, she spent two summers studying Jewish History and the Holocaust in Krakow, Poland, where she earned a certificate from Jagellonian University. Heidi serves as North American Director of the Israel Forever Foundation, which she joined in 2011 as Social Media Director. Over the past six years Heidi has enjoyed working with the Israel Forever team to connect people around the world to their love of the Jewish homeland. Before joining Israel Forever, Heidi taught young students for over a decade about Jewish history, the Holocaust, and the rebirth of Israel. Heidi lives in suburban Washington, DC, with her husband William, whom she met while studying Jewish history and the Holocaust in Poland, and their two teenage daughters.



WILLIAM C. DAROFF
Senior Vice President for Public Policy & Director of the Washington Office of The Jewish Federations of North America

As the Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Director of the Washington Office of The Jewish Federations of North America, William Daroff is the chief lobbyist and principal spokesperson on public policy and international affairs for the 148 Jewish Federations and more than 300 independent communities represented by JFNA, Daroff ensures that the voice of Jewish Federations is a prominent force in the Nation's Capital. He was named by the Forward newspaper as one of the fifty most influential Jews in America and the JTA news service named him the most influential person on "Jewish Twitter" (Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu followed in the second slot). Follow him @Daroff.

He received his Bachelor's Degree (summa cum laude) in Political Science & History, Master's Degree in Political Science, and Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. He lives in suburban Washington, DC, with his wife, Heidi Krizer Daroff, and their two children. The couple met in Krakow, Poland, while studying at Jagiellonian University, from which they both received certificates in the history of Eastern European Jewry and the Holocaust.



BARONESS RUTH DEECH
UK House of Lords

Former Principal of St Anne's College Oxford University, Chair of the UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, BBC Governor, Rhodes Scholarships Trustee, Gresham Professor of Law, the first Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education for England and Wales, and Chair of the Bar Standards Board. A lawyer graduate of Oxford and Brandeis, she holds an honorary degree from Ben Gurion University, is a patron of the Community Security Trust, a trustee of the Tel Aviv University Roth Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, a member of UK Lawyers for Israel and the Parliamentary All Party Britain-Israel Group. She is a Bencher of the Inner Temple and was appointed Honorary Queen's Counsel 2013. She was created a life peer in 2005 and sits in the House of Lords as an independent legislator.



AMBASSADOR RON DERMER

Israel's Ambassador to the United States

Ron Dermer was born and raised in Miami Beach, Florida. He earned a degree in Finance and Management from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from Oxford University. For three years, he was a columnist for the Jerusalem Post. In 2004, Ron co-authored with Natan Sharansky the best-selling book, The Case For Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror, which has been translated into ten languages. From 2005-2008, Ron served as Israel's Minister of Economic Affairs in the United States. From 2009-2013, he served as Senior Advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



PROFESSOR ALAN M. DERSHOWITZ

Lawyer & Author

Alan Morton Dershowitz is an American lawyer and author. He is a scholar of United States constitutional law and criminal law, and a leading defender of civil liberties. He spent most of his career at Harvard Law School where in 1967, at the age of 28, he became the youngest full professor of law in its history. He held the Felix Frankfurter professorship there from 1993[4] until his retirement in December 2013.[5] He is now a regular CNN and Fox News contributor and political analyst.



DAVID DORMONT

Former Treasurer, Partners for Progressive Israel

David Dormont has been active with Jewish and Zionist causes for more than 40 years. A graduate of the Institute for Youth Leaders from Abroad in Jerusalem, he worked as professional in the Jewish Community for three years. A 1992 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, magna cum laude, he served on the boards of many Jewish organizations, including being the Vice President of American ORT, the Treasurer of Partners for Progressive Israel and Chairperson of Friends of Camp Shomria. David is also a member of the Vaad Hapoel of the World Zionist Organization. He is currently a partner at Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



AVRAHAM DUVDEVANI

Chair, World Zionist Organization

Mr. Avraham Duvdevani is Chair of the World Zionist Organization (WZO). He chairs The Jewish Agency's Holocaust Restitution Committee. In the past, Mr. Duvdevani served as Co-Chair of JNF and was Head of the Settlement Division at the World Zionist Organization. Before joining the WZO in 1991, he served as Secretary General of World Bnei Akiva and headed the Department of Informal Education at Orot Israel College. He also spent a decade at The Jewish Agency, directing various educational programs and spent three years in Europe on behalf of The Jewish Agency. He has been a member of the Board of Governors since 1991.



AMBASSADOR STUART EIZENSTAT

US Ambassador (ret.) to the European Union

Ambassador Eizenstat heads the firm's international practice. His work at Covington focuses on resolving international trade problems and business disputes with the US and foreign governments, and international business transactions and regulations on behalf of US companies and others around the world. During a decade and a half of public service in three US administrations, Ambassador Eizenstat has held a number of key senior positions, including chief White House domestic policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981); U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton Administration (1993-2001).



DANIEL FLESCH

Founder & Executive Director, ZOA's Fuel for Truth – DC

Daniel Flesch teaches young professionals about Israel and effective advocacy to combat anti-Israel and anti-Zionism bias. A veteran of the 202nd Tzanchanim (Paratrooper) Battalion of the Israel Defense Forces, Daniel has spoken about his service as a lone soldier at various venues, including the Israel Embassy. Daniel published an article in Commentary Magazine entitled "Slandering Americans Who Fight for Israel", and during his service, wrote a much-viewed blog, "From the USA to the IDF", which was picked up by The Jerusalem Post. Daniel has also been interviewed lived on CNN regarding Operation Protective Edge, and CNBC regarding Israel's burgeoning defense ties with India. He previously worked as a Senior Analyst at Avascent, a leading aerospace and defense consulting firm, where he developed business with leading Israel defense companies. Daniel received his M.A. in Strategic Studies and International Economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and his B.A. in Political Science and History from the University of Illinois.



MK ODED FORER

Member of Knesset

Oded Forer enlisted in the Navy, completed naval officers course, and served in a variety of command positions. He was discharged at the rank of captain and was promoted to major during the course of reserve duty. In 2005, Forer founded a strategic consulting firm that focused on ventures, particularly BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) and PFI (Private Finance Initiative), including a national training center for the Israel Police and the IDF training-base complex (Ir HaBahadim). In 2011, Forer joined Yisrael Beitenu. He initiated and established the party's youth division –Tzeiri Beitenu – which he headed until 2013. That year, Forer was appointed Director General of the Ministry of Immigration and Absorption, under Minister Sofa Landver. Forer is an attorney, with an LL.B. and a B.A. in Government from the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, and a M.A. in Political Media from Tel Aviv University.



BROOKE GOLDSTEIN

Attorney at Law
Director, The Lawfare Project

Brooke Goldstein is New York City-based human rights attorney, author, and award-winning filmmaker. She is a Director of The Lawfare Project; also, the founder and director of the Children's Rights Institute. She is the author of Lawfare: The War Against Free Speech: A First Amendment Guide For Reporting in an Age of Islamist Lawfare, which provides practical guidance to journalists and advocates who want to speak truthfully about the national security threats faced by liberal democracies. Her award-winning documentary film, The Making of a Martyr, uncovered the illegal, barbaric, but state-sponsored indoctrination and recruitment of children for suicide/homicide attacks. She has lectured across North America and Europe. The current ISIS Crisis underscores the urgency of these concerns.



RABBI PAUL GOLOMB

Conference Co-Chair
Vice President, American Zionist Movement

Rabbi Paul Golomb is the Senior Scholar and Rabbi Emeritus of The Vassar Temple in Poughkeepsie, NY, after serving as their rabbi for fifteen years. A graduate of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, he has been a Director of Hillel Foundations, the URJ Regional Director for Canada, as well as a congregational rabbi. Rabbi Golomb has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in philosophy, classical and modern Jewish thought. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the CCAR Journal: A Reform Jewish Quarterly, and has published articles on biblical studies, modern Jewish thought, interfaith relations and Reform Zionism. He represents ARZA on the Board and the Cabinet of the American Zionist Movement, and is on the North American Board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. During his time in Poughkeepsie, Rabbi Golomb served as President of the Dutchess County Interfaith Council, has been a member of the County's Human Rights Commission, and the founder and convener of Scriptural Reasonings, a Jewish, Christian and Muslim text study symposium. Rabbi Golomb and Deborah, a retired attorney and mediator, have been married over forty years. They have two children and two grandchildren.



AMBASSADOR (RET.) KEITH M. HARPER

US Ambassador (ret.) and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva

Keith M. Harper is an American attorney and diplomat who was the first Native American to ever receive the rank of a U.S. ambassador.



DR. ELANA HEIDEMAN

Executive Director, The Israel Forever Foundation

Dr. Elana Heideman is the Executive Director of The Israel Forever Foundation where she has transformed the face of the personal Israel connection providing endless opportunities for engagement, activism and celebration. A passionate Holocaust educator, independent lecturer and educational consultant, Elana works to advance understanding of and respect for the history and rights of the Jewish People. Through her involvement with numerous programs, projects and lectures, Elana continually seeks to facilitate dialogue and build bridges between the past, present and future. Elana earned her PhD under the mentorship of Elie Wiesel, served as the International Chair of the Young Leadership Action Network of B'nai B'rith, is a delegate on the World Zionist Council for nearly 20 years, and was awarded the Herzl Prize in 2004. Elana made Aliyah in 2005 to Jerusalem, now living in Nes Harim with her tour guide husband, Jano Gleizer, and her 3 children, Eytam, Noam and Ayelet.



RICHARD D. HEIDEMAN

President, American Zionist Movement

Richard D. Heideman is Senior Counsel of Heideman Nudelman & Kalik, PC and represents victims of terrorism whose rights have been violated. On their behalf, actions have been brought against Libya, Syria, Islamic Republic of Iran and banking institutions accused of funding or sponsoring heinous acts of terror.

Heideman was named the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by George Washington University (2015) and Trial Lawyer of the Year by Public Justice (2016). He has also received the Distinguished Merito de Mayo decoration by President Duhalde of Argentina, the Heritage Award from Israel Bonds, the Joseph Papp Racial Harmony Award from the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding and numerous other recognitions.

Currently Heideman serves as President of the American Zionist Movement, Chair of The Israel Forever Foundation and recently completed a five year term as Chair of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Lawyers Committee in Washington, DC and three years as the Chair of the Institute for Law and Policy at the Hebrew University Faculty of Law. He served a two-year term as President of the George Washington University Law School Alumni Association and four years as the Chair of The Herzliya Conference International Advisory Board.

He is the author of "The Hague Odyssey: Israel's Struggle for Security on the Front Lines of Terrorism and Her Battle for Justice at the United Nations".



ELLEN HERSHKIN

National President, Hadassah
AZM NLC

Ellen Hershkin is president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. She is a former board member of the Jewish National Fund and the United Israel Appeal Board. Hershkin studied speech and education at Hofstra University and Jewish studies through a program of the Melton School of Jewish Education/Hebrew University. She was a travel consultant for 20 years and specialized in Israel travel.



MALCOLM HOENLEIN
Executive Vice Chairman, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

In June 1986, Malcolm Hoenlein was elected Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the coordinating body on international and national concerns for 52 national Jewish organizations. Previously, he served as the founding Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New York, the central coordinating agency for Jewish organizations in the metropolitan New York area. Prior to that, he was the founding Executive Director of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. Mr. Hoenlein has traveled throughout the world meeting with world leaders and Jewish communities. He has written and lectured across the US and abroad on international relations, Israel and Middle East affairs, Soviet and World Jewry, terrorism, the American Jewish community, and intergroup relations. Mr. Hoenlein serves as an advisor to many public officials and is frequently consulted on public policy issues. He appears regularly in the media.



COLONEL RICHARD JUSTIN KEMP
Commander British Forces (CBE) (ret.)

Colonel Richard Justin Kemp CBE is a retired British Army officer who served from 1977 to 2006. He was Commander of British Forces Afghanistan, an infantry battalion Commanding Officer, worked for the Joint Intelligence Committee and COBR and completed 14 operational tours of duty around the globe.



MORTON A. KLEIN
President, Zionist Organization of America

Morton A. Klein is National President of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), the oldest pro-Israel group in the U.S., founded in 1897. He is a member of the National Council of AIPAC. Mr. Klein is widely regarded as one of the leading Jewish activists in the United States. He is a child of Holocaust survivors, born in a displaced persons camp in Gunzberg, Germany. The national Jewish weekly, "The Forward" named him one of the top five Jewish leaders in the US today, stating "It's impossible to deny that Klein has been extraordinarily effective." The US Department of State has awarded Klein a "Certificate of Appreciation" "in recognition of outstanding contributions to national and international affairs," after he delivered a major address there. He is a member of the International Board of Governors of the College of Judea and Samaria in Ariel, Israel. He launched a campaign to correct dozens of anti-Israel errors in D.C. Heath's "The Enduring Vision," the most widely used American high school and college history textbook. Other campaigns by Klein dramatically reduced the number of anti-Israel lectures at Villanova University and at the largest church in the Philadelphia area. Mr. Klein is married to Rita, has a married daughter Rachael, and four grandchildren.



BRIGADIER GENERAL (RES.) YOSHI KUPERWASSER
Former Director General, Israel's Ministry of Strategic Affairs

Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser is an Israeli intelligence and security expert. Formerly, Kuperwasser served as the head of the research division in the Israel Defense Force (IDF) Military Intelligence division and Director General of the Israel Ministry of Strategic Affairs.



RABBI VERNON KURTZ
*Rabbi, North Suburban Synagogue Beth El
Past President, American Zionist Movement & MERCAZ USA*

Rabbi Vernon Kurtz is the Rabbi of North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, Illinois. He was born in Toronto, Canada, received his B.A. from York University (1971), his M.A. and Rabbinic Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary (1976) and his Doctor of Ministry degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary (1981). He also received a Doctor of Divinity degree (Honoris Causa) from the Jewish Theological Seminary (2003). Rabbi Kurtz has recently concluded two terms as president of the American Zionist Movement. He is an associate member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency, has been elected to its executive, and serves as deputy chairman of its Russian Speaking Jewry committee. He is past President of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international association of Conservative Rabbis, and was a member for many years of the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards. He served for 10 years as a member of the Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism. Rabbi Kurtz is a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. He has been President of MERCAZ USA, President of MERCAZ Olami, the world-wide Zionist organization of the Conservative Movement, President of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal Rabbinic Cabinet and President of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago. Rabbi Kurtz and his wife, Bryna, are the parents of two daughters, Hadassa (Haim) who lives in Israel and Shira (Avi) who lives in Boston. He is the proud saba of Shmuel Binyamin, Meytal Dvora, Anael Rina, Shirel Batsheva and Samuel Ryder.



FREDERICK M. LAWRENCE
Secretary & CEO, Phi Beta Kappa and Former President, Brandeis University

Frederick M. Lawrence is the 10th Secretary and CEO of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, America's first and most prestigious honor society, founded in 1776. Lawrence is a Distinguished Lecturer at the Georgetown Law Center, and has previously served as president of Brandeis University, Dean of the George Washington University Law School, and Visiting Professor and Senior Research Scholar at Yale Law School. An accomplished scholar, teacher and attorney, Lawrence is one of the nation's leading experts on civil rights, free expression and bias crimes. Lawrence received a bachelor's degree in 1977 from Williams College magna cum laude where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a law degree in 1980 from Yale Law School where he was an editor of the Yale Law Journal.



MINISTER YARIV LEVIN
Israel's Minister of Tourism

Yariv Levin (born 22 June 1969) is an Israeli politician who currently serves as Minister of Tourism, Liaising Minister between the Government and the Knesset and is a lawyer by profession. Levin was born in Jerusalem to Gail and Aryeh Levin, an Israel Prize laureate for general linguistics. Levin studied at Boyar High School in Jerusalem. During his national service he joined the IDF Intelligence Corps as an Arabic translator and later served as commander of an Arabic translation course. Levin gained an LLB from the Hebrew University and worked as a lawyer in the field of civil-commercial law. He married Yifat, daughter of former Knesset Member Ya'akov Shamai. They have three children and live in Modi'in.



DR. MATTHEW LEVITT

Director, Counterterrorism program at The Washington Institute for Near Policy, former Treasury and FBI official

Dr. Matthew Levitt is the Fromer-Wexler Fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy where he directs the Institute's Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence. Previously, Levitt served in the senior executive service as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and before that as an FBI counterterrorism analyst, including work on the Millennial and September 11th plots. He also served as a State Department counterterrorism advisor to Gen James L. Jones, the special envoy for Middle East regional security (SEMERS). Levitt is an adjunct professor in the security studies program at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. Previously, he taught at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and currently sits on the advisory boards of think tanks in Washington DC, Singapore, and Israel.



ANN F. LEWIS

President, JAC Education Foundation

Ann F. Lewis is President of the JAC Education Foundation. She served as White House Director of Communications for President Bill Clinton from 1997-2000; and as Senior Advisor to the campaigns of Hilary Rodham Clinton for Senate in 2000, and for President in 2008. In 2016, she was Co-Chair of Jewish Women for Hillary. From 1994 to 1995, Ann Lewis was Vice President for Public Policy at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She previously served as Chief of Staff to then Congresswoman, later Senator, Barbara Mikulski of Maryland ; and as Political Director of the Democratic National Committee.



HERB LONDON

President, London Center for Research

Herbert I. London is president of the London Center for Policy Research and senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute. He is the former president of the Hudson Institute. Dr. London is professor emeritus and the former John M. Olin Professor of Humanities at New York University. And he was responsible for creating the Gallatin School of Individualized Study in 1972 and was its dean until 1992. In 1989, Dr. London was one of the Republican candidates for Mayor of New York City. In 1990 he was the Conservative Party Candidate for Governor of New York garnering more votes than any third party candidate in the state's history. In 1994 he was the Republican Party candidate for New York State Comptroller losing in a close election. London is a graduate of Columbia University, 1960 and the recipient of a Ph.D. from New York University, 1966.



ROTEM MALACH

Central Emissary, World Zionist Organization's Department for Diaspora Activities

Rotem Malach is the Central Emissary (Shaliach) of the Department for Diaspora Activities to the World Zionist Organization in North America. A licensed attorney and a high school teacher and educator, Rotem was the Founder and Board Member of LSD, Let's Start Davening, an alternative grass roots community in Berlin, Germany. He has served as an educational consultant at "Tlalim" group, co-developed an alternative evaluation plan for the national Civics Exam in Israel, and authored "The Democratic Citizen", a civics textbook used in Israeli schools. A pioneer and mentor at "Teach for Israel", an educational project whose goal is to encourage talented youth and have them integrated as teachers in the Israeli school system, Rotem was honored as the recipient of the "Teacher of the State of Israel" award and continues to inspire the next generation through his work with the Zionist Movement.



DANIEL S. MARIASCHIN

CEO & Executive Vice President, B'nai B'rith International

As the organization's top executive officer, Mr. Mariaschin directs and supervises B'nai B'rith programs, activities and staff around the world. He also serves as director of B'nai B'rith's International Center for Human Rights and Public Policy. In this dual capacity, he presents B'nai B'rith's views and analysis to world leaders, international forums and conferences, the U.S. Congress and the media and coordinates B'nai B'rith's programs and policies on issues of concern to the Jewish community. He speaks and writes frequently on the demonization and delegitimization of Israel and has represented the organization on numerous influential global delegations and panels.



MARK MELLMAN

President & CEO, The Mellman Group

Mark Mellman is one of the nation's leading public opinion researchers and communication strategists, is President of the American Association of Political Consultants and CEO of The Mellman Group, a poll- ing and consulting firm whose clients include leading political figures, Fortune 500 companies, and some of the nation's most important public interest groups. Even Doonesbury has gotten into the act, labeling Mellman a "Prince of Polling." Mellman also serves as consultant to many of the nations most important public interest organizations ranging from The National Education Association, to The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. Government agencies, including the Department of Jus- tice, the World Bank and the State Department have also sought Mellman's guidance. Mellman's corpo- rate clients include Intuit (the makers of Quicken), Coca Cola, and MGM Resorts.



AARON DAVID MILLER

Vice President, Woodrow Wilson Center

Aaron David Miller is currently Vice- President for New Initiatives and a Distinguished Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. For two decades he served in the Department of State as an analyst, negotiator and adviser on Middle Eastern issues to Republican and Democratic Secretaries of State. Between 2003 and 2006, he also served as president of Seeds of Peace, an internationally recognized program in conflict resolution and coexistence.



MK AVRAHAM NEGUISE

Member of Knesset

Avraham Neguise is an Israeli politician and activist for the Falash Mura minority community. Born in Ethiopia, where he worked as a shepherd, Neguise immigrated to Israel in 1985. He gained a BA and MA in social work at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, an LLB from Sha'arei Mishpat College, an MA in initiatives and renewal from the Swinburne University of Technology and a PhD in education from the University of Sussex. Neguise founded and served as director-general of South Wing to Zion, an organisation representing Ethiopian immigrants, and is known for his role in leading the struggle to bring the rest of Ethiopian Jewry to Israel. Prior to the 2015 Knesset elections he was placed 27th on the Likud list. Neguise became the only Israeli of Ethiopian origin to be elected to the 20th Knesset. Neguise is married with two children, and lives in the Pisgat Ze'ev settlement in East Jerusalem.



ASHLEY PERRY
Former Advisor, President, Reconectar

Ashley Perry (Perez) was adviser to Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs from April 2009 until May 2015. He has also worked with the Ministers of Defense, Tourism, National Infrastructure and Water, Agriculture, Internal Security, Immigrant Absorption and the Deputy Ministers of the Interior and Foreign Affairs, as well as with the Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. I have also worked in the Prime Minister's Office. Perry has served as Deputy Director-General for Communications for a political party and served as a senior strategic adviser for international, national and municipal elections. Having gained many years of experience at the highest levels of the public sector, he is now working as a strategic consultant, content manager and creator and public relations adviser to international leaders, governments, parliamentarians, individuals, companies and organizations in a variety of fields and areas. He is President of Reconectar, an organization which seeks to help reconnect the 100 million descendants of Spanish and Portuguese Jewish communities with the Jewish world, and also a Director General of two Knesset caucuses. He was named one of the 10 top international non-Christian Hispanic leaders and in the top 100 British Olim who helped shape the State of Israel. He holds a BA Honors in History from University College London (UK) and an MA in Government from the IDC Herzliya (Israel).



DANIEL PIPES
President, The Middle East Forum

Daniel Pipes, a historian, is the president of the Middle East Forum. A former official in the U.S. departments of State and Defense, he has taught at the University of Chicago, Harvard, Pepperdine, and at the U.S. Naval War College. Both presidents Bush appointed Mr. Pipes to U.S. federal government positions. Al-Qaeda invited him to convert to Islam, Senator Edward M. Kennedy borked him, and Edward Said called him his most horrible name – an "Orientalist."



RUSSELL ROBINSON
CEO, Jewish National Fund

Over the course of nearly two decades as Chief Executive Officer, Russell Robinson has succeeded in making Jewish National Fund one of the top-rated charities in the United States, and the leading organization for the land and people of Israel. For this work, he was ranked 26th on the Jerusalem Post's list of the world's 50 most influential Jews and highlighted in the best-selling book, "The 24-Hour Turnaround: How Amazing Entrepreneurs Succeed in Tough Times". Mr. Robinson continues to travel to Israel monthly to ensure that the organization's mission is more relevant today than ever before, as he oversees Jewish National Fund's precedent-setting \$1 billion campaign.



GREGG ROMAN
Director, The Middle East Forum

Gregg Roman is director and chief operations officer of the Middle East Forum, a research center in Philadelphia. He also is a regular contributor to The Hill and i24news. Gregg formerly served advisory positions in the Israeli Ministry of Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Knesset. He also is the former executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Pittsburgh. He was named one of the 10 most inspiring Jewish global leaders in 2014 by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He has been interviewed by FOX News, CNN, Al Jazeera, and CCTV and he has been published in the Los Angeles Times, Miami Herald, the Forward, the Orlando Sun Sentinel and many other publications.



Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
Global Religious Leader, Philosopher and Author

An international religious leader, philosopher, award-winning author and respected moral voice, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks is the winner of the 2016 Templeton Prize in recognition of his "exceptional contributions to affirming life's spiritual dimension." Described by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales as "a light unto this nation" and by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair as "an intellectual giant", Rabbi Sacks is a frequent and sought after contributor to radio, television and the press both in Britain and around the world. Since stepping down as the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth – a position he served for 22 years between 1991 and 2013 – Rabbi Sacks has held a number of professorships at several academic institutions including Yeshiva University and King's College London. He currently serves as the Ingeborg and Ira Rennert Global Distinguished Professor at New York University. Rabbi Sacks has been awarded 17 honorary doctorates including a Doctor of Divinity conferred to mark his first ten years in office as Chief Rabbi, by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey.



RABBI DAVID N. SAPERSTEIN
*Director Emeritus, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
Senior Advisor to the URJ for Policy and Strategy*

David N. Saperstein is an American rabbi, lawyer, Jewish community leader and former United States Ambassador. He served as the director and chief legal counsel at the Union for Reform Judaism's Religious Action Center for more than 30 years.



DR. ROBERT B. SATLOFF
Executive Director, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

Robert Satloff has served since 1993 as executive director of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, our nation's leading research organization on U.S. policy and Middle East politics. An expert on Arab and Islamic politics and U.S. Middle East policy and author of numerous works on modern Middle East history, he has also been — for the past twelve years -- host of the weekly public affairs show "Dakhil Washington" (Inside Washington) on the U.S. government's Arabic satellite channel.



ZACHARY SCHAFFER

Associate, Community Strategy, Israel Action Network

Zachary Schaffer is the Community Strategy Associate of the Israel Action Network, a project of the Jewish Federations of North America. IAN works to build a broad base of support for Israel and counter delegitimization in the context of two states for two peoples. In his role, Zachary mobilizes Jewish professionals across North America to challenge the BDS movement and to engage in proactive relationship-building with diverse constituencies. He is dedicated to reaffirming and reclaiming Zionism as a progressive cause.



DR. ESTHER SEROK

Representative of the World Zionist Organization Executive in North America

Esther Serok EdD, is the incoming Representative of the WZO Executive in North America and has over 40 years of experience in education, family education, teacher training, and staff and curriculum development in multi-cultural settings. Esther teaches at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and is a senior researcher at the NCJW Research Institute at HU. A Hebrew University graduate and certified high school teacher. She holds a doctorate in Jewish Education from JTS.



DMITRY SHIGLIK

President, American Forum for Israel

Dr. Dmitry Shiglik is president of the American Forum of Russian Speaking Jewry and a delegate on behalf of the World Yisrael Beytenu Movement to the 37th World Zionist Congress. He lives in New York.



RABBI GIDEON SHLOUSH

President, NY Board of Rabbis and Former Executive Director, RZA

Rabbi Shloush is a young charismatic leader who has been an important part of the remarkable resurgence at Congregation Adereth El. Located in the heart of New York City, this Synagogue is New York's oldest Congregation on the same site. Rabbi Shloush studied at Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh in Israel during the Gulf War in 1990-1991. He went on to study at Yeshiva College where he graduated with a degree in Economics in 1993. Three years later, he received Smicha from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and an MBA from Baruch College. Upon graduation, he joined the leadership team at Congregation Adereth El and was appointed Assistant Rabbi to Rabbi Sidney Kleiman. In 1999, Rabbi Kleiman and the Congregation invited him to take over as their next Rabbi. In 2002 Rabbi Shloush was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Rabbinical Council of America. The following year he was appointed as the Director of Rabbinic Learning and Enrichment. Rabbi Gideon and Bonnie Shloush are the proud parents of Yair, Micha'el, Ariella, & Avigayil



DR. FRANCINE STEIN

Chair of the National Board, American Zionist Movement, Past National President, AMIT

Dr. Francine S. Stein has served as the chair of programming and sits on the Cabinet and Board of the AZM. Francine is also a Past National President of AMIT. She also represents AMIT/World Mizrahi as a committee member of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors. Dr. Stein is a pediatrician specializing in behavior/developmental pediatrics currently in private practice in Englewood. She attended New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York, where she received her M.D. degree. Francine is married to Dr. Aaron Stein, a cardiologist. They are the parents of three children. Beth, Michael, and Gary.



MINDY STEIN

Honorary National President and Chairman of The Board, Emunah of America

Mindy Stein was born in Toronto, Canada. She is the Former National President and Chairman of the Board of Emunah of America, which supports 250 social service and educational institutions in Israel. And she is the founder of BeCounted4Israel- a grass roots initiative encouraging advocacy on behalf of Israel. Currently she works as a Speech Pathologist and Audiologist at Montefiore and Misericordia Hospitals. Mindy used to own and run a Children's clothing Business. She has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto and a Masters in Speech Pathology and Audiology New York University.



SARAH STERN

President, Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)

Sarah Stern is the Founder and President of the Endowment for Middle East Truth, (EMET), an unabashedly pro-Israel and pro-America think tank and policy shop in Washington DC. Sarah has more than 30 years of experience on Capitol Hill, and has helped to draft and pass many pieces of legislation, speeches and congressional resolutions including the Koby Mandell Act which resulted in the opening of an office in the Department of Justice (DOJ) entitled the Office for Justice of Victims of Overseas Terrorism (OVT); the Syria Accountability Act; and a Resolution in support of Israel's right to build a security fence and defend her citizens the way they deem appropriate. She is married to her husband, Buddy, and is the mother of three sons and four grandchildren. Prior to founding EMET, Sarah was the Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs of the American Jewish Congress. Prior to that, she was the National Policy Coordinator of the Zionist Organization of America. Sarah has a Master's Degree from Columbia University, and a BA magna cum laude from Boston University.



STEVEN TRACHTENBERG

President Emeritus, George Washington University

Stephen Joel Trachtenberg is President Emeritus and University Professor of Public Service at The George Washington University. He served as GW's 15th president for nearly two decades, from 1988 to 2007. Trachtenberg came to GW from the University of Hartford, where he had been president for 11 years. He also held positions as vice president and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Boston University, and served as the special assistant to the U.S. Education Commissioner, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He is a consultant to Korn/Ferry International and Rimon Law. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University, Juris Doctor from Yale University, and Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University. Trachtenberg and his wife, Francine Zorn Trachtenberg, have two sons and four grandchildren.



SUSAN B. TUCHMAN, ESQ.
Director, Zionist Organization of America Center for Law and Justice

Susan Tuchman is the director of the Zionist Organization of America's Center for Law and Justice, which uses the law to advocate for Israel and the Jewish people. The ZOA's Center for Law and Justice fights the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions campaigns on campus, in churches and other venues. We champion the legal rights of American victims of terrorism, to ensure that sponsors and abettors of terrorism are held accountable for their actions. We file amicus briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court and other courts, in legal cases important to the Jewish people, including on anti-Jewish religious discrimination, Palestinian Arab terrorism, and the rights of Jerusalem-born American citizens to list "Israel" as their birthplace on their passports.

Under Susan's leadership, the ZOA led the fight to secure legal protection for Jewish students from anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, rallying other national Jewish organizations and bipartisan support from members of Congress. The Jewish Forward newspaper named Susan one of the "50 most influential members of the Jewish community" based on her legal work on behalf of Jewish students.

Before joining the ZOA, Susan was a litigation partner at Hinckley, Allen & Snyder, in the law firm's Boston office. She is a graduate of Brandeis University and the Boston University School of Law.



RABBI JOSHUA WEINBERG
President of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America

Rabbi Josh Weinberg has been President of ARZA since 2013. After receiving his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, engaging in the NFTY-EIE program, and studying at the Hebrew University Rabbi Weinberg came to Israel on Aliyah in 2003. He began teaching as a Jewish History faculty member on the EIE program. He subsequently served in the IDF Spokesperson's unit and studied for an M.A. at the Hebrew University in Jewish Education. He was ordained from the HUC-JIR Israeli Rabbinic Program in Jerusalem and is currently living in New York. Rabbi Weinberg previously served as the Director of the Israel program for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He currently serves as a mentor for the iCenter's iFellows mentoring program. Josh is also a reserve officer in the IDF spokesperson's unit, and has hiked the Israel-trail. He is married to Mara Sheftel Getz, and they have three daughters: Noa, Ella and Mia.



RABBI STUART WEINBLATT
Founding (& Senior) Rabbi, Congregation B'nai Tzedek, President of the Rabbinic Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America

Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt is the founding rabbi of Congregation B'nai Tzedek in Potomac, Maryland, a vibrant Conservative synagogue of approximately 650 families he founded in 1988 with just a handful of families. As President of the Rabbinic Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America and former Director of Israel Policy and Advocacy for the Rabbinical Assembly from 2009 – 2014, Rabbi Weinblatt is recognized for consistently being a passionate and strong advocate on behalf of Israel. Chosen as one of the Forward's "Most Inspiring Rabbis," he has chaired Rabbinical Assembly Conference in Washington and Jerusalem as well as the Israel Bonds Ambassador's Ball.



LESLEY WEISS
Member and Former Chair, U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad

Lesley Weiss was appointed as a Member to the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad in April 2011 by President Barack Obama and served as Chair of the Commission from January 2013 until October 2017. Under her chairmanship in 2016, Ms. Weiss signed a historic bilateral agreement on the preservation of cultural properties with the Government of the Republic of Belarus. She is also Deputy Director of the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry (NCSEJ). A daughter of a Holocaust survivor, Ms. Weiss accompanied her mother in Poland at the 70th commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz in January 2015, and in Germany, where her mother was a co-plaintiff in the recent trials of former SS Sergeants Oskar Groening and Reinhold Hanning.



ROBERT WEXLER
President, Center for Middle East Peace

Robert Wexler is the President of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace in Washington, DC. He served as a Democratic Member of Congress from 1997 to 2010, representing Florida's 19th district in the House of Representatives. In Congress, he served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe, senior Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and member of the Middle East Subcommittee. He was named one of the "50 Most Effective Legislators in Congress" by Congressional Quarterly and was named to the "Forward 50" as one of the most influential leaders in the American Jewish community.



GUSTI YEHOSHUA-BRAVERMAN
Chair, World Zionist Organization's Department for Diaspora Activities

Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman is Head of the Department for Diaspora Activities in World Zionist Organization's (WZO). Previously, she served as the Associate Director of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ). Ms. Yehoshua-Braverman has a B.A. in Social Work and M.A. in Communications, both from the Hebrew University, and a certificate in Organizational Consulting from Tel Aviv University. She is a member of the WZO Executive and Jewish Agency Board of Governors, board member of the National Council To Commemorate Herzl, and board member of Ladaat – Choose Well, the organization for the promotion of sexual health. She is married to Yoram, they are parents of three children.



BEN-DROR YEMINI
Journalist and Author of "Industry of Lies"

Ben-Dror Yemini is a researcher and senior journalist with the Hebrew daily Yediot Achronot who conducted much research about anti-Israeli propaganda. His latest best-seller, "The Industry of Lies" (Hebrew), was published in Nov. 2014, and is about to be published in English and French. Yemini gives lectures at a lot of leading universities and parliaments. His articles are published in many leading newspapers around the world.

Yemini was a peace activist for many years, he supports the two state solution, he opposes the settlements' expansion and argues that the anti-Israeli propaganda, as opposed to legitimate criticism, is becoming a real threat to the free thought and to the freedom of speech, and one of the biggest obstacles to reconciliation and peace.

LIAISON CAPITOL HILL HOTEL TO CAPITOL VISITORS CENTER HVC201AB

Walk 1 mi, 13 minutes

A 415 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001, USA

- Head south toward New Jersey Ave NW (95 ft)
- Turn left onto New Jersey Ave NW (1,211 ft)
- Turn left onto Constitution Ave NW (1,152 ft)
- Turn right onto First St NE
- Destination will be on the right (797 ft)

B First St NE, Washington, DC 20515, USA

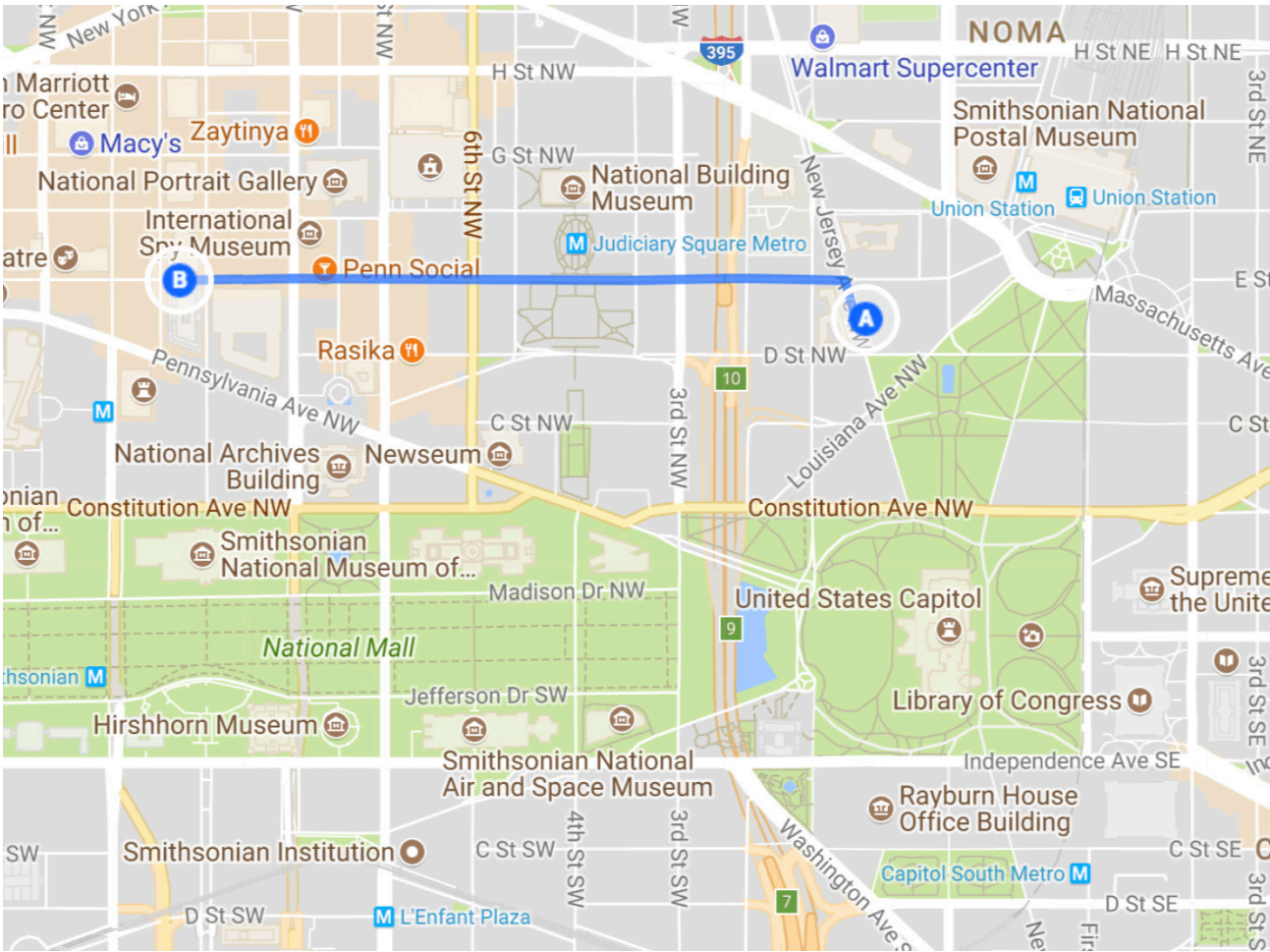
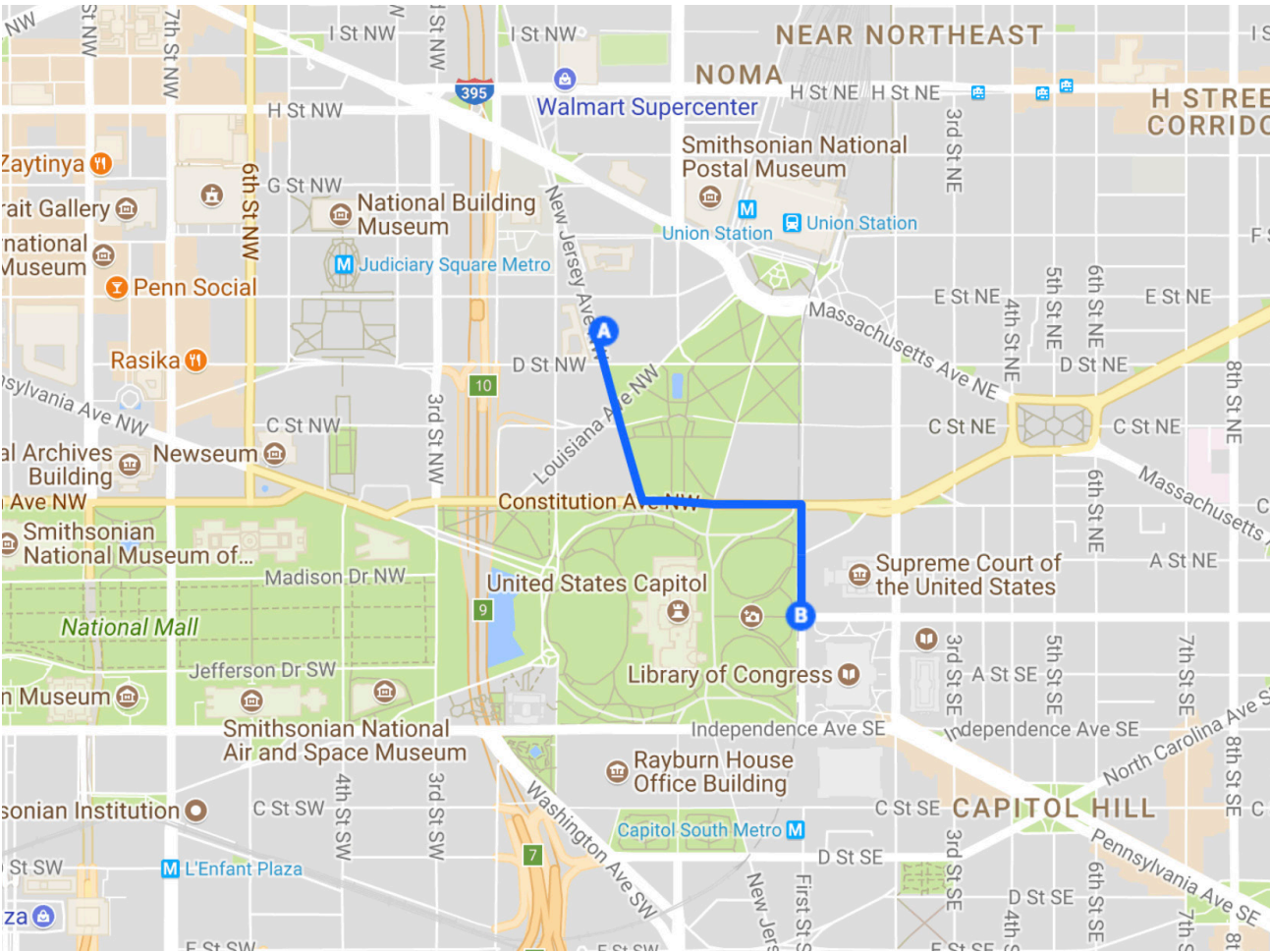
LIAISON CAPITOL HILL HOTEL TO LANDMARK E STREET CINEMA

Walk 1 mi, 18 minutes

A 415 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001, USA

- Head north toward New Jersey Ave NW (98 ft)
- Turn right onto New Jersey Ave NW (236 ft)
- Turn left onto E St NW
- Destination will be on the right (0.814 mi)

B 1047-1099 E St NW, Washington, DC 20004, USA



כל עוד בלבב פְּנִימָה
נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה
וּלְפָנֵינוּ מִזְרַח קְדִימָה
עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה
Kol od ba'le'vav p'nima,
Nefesh yehudi ho'miyah.
U'lefa-atei mizrach kadimah,
Ayin le'Tziyyon tzofiyah.

עוד לא אבדה תְּקוּוֹתֵנוּ
הַתְּקוּוָה בֵּת שְׁנוֹת אֲלֵפִים
לְהִיּוֹת עִם חֻפְשֵׁי בְּאֶרְצֵנוּ
אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם
Od lo avda tikva-teinu,
Ha'tikvah bat sh'not al-payim
Lih-yot am chofshi b'ar-tzeinu
Eretz Tziyyon v'Yerushalayim.

As long as within our hearts
The Jewish soul sings,
As long as forward to the East
To Zion, looks the eye –

Our hope is not yet lost,
It is two thousand years old,
To be a free people in our land
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.



