



ZIONISM FORWARD™

2019

BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY

March 10-11, 2019

3-4 Adar II 5779

*Unity and Community:
Bringing Together
the Many Voices
of Zionism*

Conference Program



AMERICAN ZIONIST MOVEMENT BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

March 10 & 11, 2019 / 3-4 Adar II 5779

Unity and Community:
Bringing Together the Many Voices of Zionism

Conference Co-Chairs

Jan Gurvitch
Na'amat USA

Mindy Stein
Emunah of America

Conference Committee

Dr. Francine Stein
Chair, National Board, American Zionist Movement

Rabbi Paul Golomb
Vice President, American Zionist Movement



Held in cooperation with the member organizations of AZM and the World Zionist Organization





STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF ZIONISM

AS ADOPTED BY THE AZM NATIONAL BOARD JUNE 4, 2018

The American Zionist Movement (AZM), comprising 28 national Jewish Zionist organizations, links the diverse American Jewish community in support of Israel, Zionism and the Jewish People. The AZM and its constituent organizations represent American Zionists within the National Institutions of Israel, including the World Zionist Organization (WZO). The AZM and its constituent organizations fully support and endorse The Jerusalem Program of the WZO, the global statement of the beliefs of the Zionist movement.¹

The American Zionist Movement (AZM), through action and deed, supports these principles:

- The sovereign state of Israel’s unconditional right to exist as the Jewish democratic homeland;
- The right of the people of Israel to live in peace and security;
- Pride in the common history, culture, destiny and religious heritage of the Jewish people;
- Pride in Israel’s rich contributions to the world and its aspirational role to be an exemplary society for all of humanity; and
- Israel’s centrality to Jewish identity and life.

Zionism Forward is the AZM’s campaign to:

- Strengthen support for Israel, the Jewish people and Zionism.
- Celebrate the ideology and cause of Zionism.
- Help strengthen Israel’s position in the global family of nations.
- Improve the dialogue on Zionism in America and participate in a new effort to guide the American Jewish people to speak in a unified and informed voice in support of Zionism's core principles.
- Provide the forum that fosters our diverse constituent Zionist organizations’ respectful coalescence around our commonality.

¹ The JERUSALEM PROGRAM is the official platform of the WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION and the global Zionist movement, having been most recently amended and adopted in June 2004, as the successor statement to the “Basel Program” of 1897 adopted at the First Zionist Congress convened by Theodor Herzl. The Jerusalem Program states that:

Zionism, the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, brought about the establishment of the State of Israel, and views a Jewish, Zionist, democratic and secure State of Israel to be the expression of the common responsibility of the Jewish people for its continuity and future. The foundations of Zionism are:

- *The unity of the Jewish people, its bond to its historic homeland Eretz Yisrael, and the centrality of the State of Israel and Jerusalem, its capital, in the life of the nation;*
- *Aliyah to Israel from all countries and the effective integration of all immigrants into Israeli society.*
- *Strengthening Israel as a Jewish, Zionist and democratic state and shaping it as an exemplary society with a unique moral and spiritual character, marked by mutual respect for the multi-faceted Jewish people, rooted in the vision of the prophets, striving for peace and contributing to the betterment of the world.*
- *Ensuring the future and the distinctiveness of the Jewish people by furthering Jewish, Hebrew and Zionist education, fostering spiritual and cultural values and teaching Hebrew as the national language;*
- *Nurturing mutual Jewish responsibility, defending the rights of Jews as individuals and as a nation, representing the national Zionist interests of the Jewish people, and struggling against all manifestations of anti-Semitism;*
- *Settling the country as an expression of practical Zionism.*

American Zionist Movement | 40 Wall Street, Suite 706 | New York, NY 10005 | 212.318.6100 | azm.org

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THANK YOU

to those who have purchased a
Herzl Memorial Board Plaque in Jerusalem
through the American Zionist Movement!

Phyllis and Richard Heideman
Sue and James Schiller
Carl Klorman

For more information and to purchase your memorial plaque,
please visit azm.org/mount-herzl-memorial-board



**ESTABLISH A PERSONAL COMMEMORATION
IN JERUSALEM**
on the National Memorial Mountain – Mount Herzl


Mount Herzl is the national memorial site of the Jewish People and the State of Israel. Interred on the mountain in Jerusalem are Theodor Herzl – the Visionary of Zionism, other founders of Israel, Prime Ministers and Presidents of the State of Israel, as well as Israel's fallen soldiers.

At the heart of the mountain lies the Herzl Museum, dedicated to imparting the legacy of Herzl and Zionism to future generations. The World Zionist Organization (WZO), which is the guardian of Mount Herzl, has inaugurated a personal Memorial Board next to the Herzl Museum, providing an opportunity for people to commemorate their loved ones.

Personal commemoration on the Memorial Board connects the personal memory to the national memory of our community and land. It is a poignant way to commemorate loved ones for generations to come – to connect their personal heritage with the Zionist vision and Herzl's heritage.

Each memorial plaque is available for a charitable donation of a minimum of \$5,000 to the American Zionist Movement (AZM), the Zionist Federation in the United States affiliated with the WZO. Your dedicated plaque contribution to AZM will support Zionist programs in America and worldwide.

For information about commemorating your loved ones on the Mount Herzl Memorial Board please go to www.azm.org/Mount-Herzl-Memorial-Board
or contact 212-318-6100 ext. 6947 or azm@azm.org



SUNDAY, MARCH 10

10:00AM	REGISTRATION OPENS AT PARK EAST <i>164 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065</i> Coffee and Networking
11:00AM	OPENING PLENARY Opening Remarks: Dr. Francine Stein, AZM National Board Chair Featuring “FeminIsrael” on the occasion of Women's History Month Biennial Overview: Jan Gurvitch and Mindy Stein, Co-Chairs Greetings • Galit Peleg, Consul for Public Diplomacy, Consulate General of Israel in New York • Avraham Duvdevani, Chairman, World Zionist Organization Executive video message presented by Dr. Esther Serok, WZO Representative in North America Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Ellen Hershkin, President, Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS: The Future of Zionism In America Professor Gil Troy, Historian and Author AZM Participates in the Global “HATE STOPS HERE” Global Rallies Against Antisemitism Connection from Israel: • Yaakov Hagoel, Vice Chairman, World Zionist Organization • Dr. Elana Yael Heideman, Executive Director, The Israel Forever Foundation
12:45PM	LUNCHEON Introduction: Rabbi Paul Golomb, AZM Vice President for Programming Zionist Beit Midrash: Discussion followed by table conversations Rabbi Josh Weinberg, Rabbi Vernon Kurtz and Rabbi David Israel
2:30PM	AFTERNOON SESSIONS WORKSHOP SESSIONS - 1 Promoting Zionism and Israel Engagement on Campus <i>ROOM 514</i> <i>Moderator, David Dormont, Partners for Progressive Israel</i> • Dr. Leonard Saxe, Director, Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University • Andrew Getraer, Executive Director, Rutgers Hillel • Yoni Nirenberg, Israel Engagement Chair, Long Island University

	Zionism Around the Globe: Perspectives from Zionist Federations <i>Bernard & Carole Goldberg Ballroom</i> <i>Moderator: Karma Feinstein, Executive Director, World Herut</i> • Max Meyer, President, Danish Zionist Federation • Noa Bloch, Chair of Public Affairs, Zionist Federation of Australia • Yaniv Nachmias, Executive Director, Department for Diaspora Activities, WZO • Herbert Block, Executive Director, AZM
	Zionism from the Outside: Christian Understanding of the Jewish State <i>ROOM 512</i> <i>Moderator: Rabbi Paul Golomb, AZM VP for Programming</i> • Prof. Adam Gregerman, Assistant Director, Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations at Saint Joseph's University
	Zionism in Film: Beit Ha'am Presentation by WZO Department for Diaspora Activities <i>Wool Lecture Hall</i> • Lior Sagi, Educational Program Director to Canada, WZO Department for Diaspora Activities & Canadian Zionist Federation • Roey Yamin, Head of the North America Delegation, WZO Department for Diaspora Activities • Or Adi, East Coast Director, WZO Department for Diaspora Activities
3:45PM	BREAK
4:00PM	WORKSHOP SESSIONS - 2 Hiking, Swimming and Israel: Zionism at Jewish Summer Camps <i>Bernard & Carole Goldberg Ballroom</i> • Ariel Goodman, National Ramah Commission • Rachael Brill, Associate Director of Camping, Union for Reform Judaism • Lior Ben-Zvi, Educational Coordinator, Camp Shomria - Hashomer Hatzair USA & Rutgers University Introduction To New Zionist Groups And Initiatives <i>ROOM 512</i> <i>Introduction: Herbert Block, Executive Director, AZM</i> • Amitai Fraiman, Director, Zionism 3.0 • Meredith Berkman, Founder, Zionista Project Zionism From The Sky <i>Wool Lecture Hall</i> <i>Introduction: Cheryl Bier, CEO, Bnai Zion Foundation</i> • El Al Ambassadors presentation on contemporary Jewish life in Israel, coordinated with WZO Department for Diaspora Activities Zionism From The Inside: Listening Through The Noise, The Diversity Of The Community <i>ROOM 514</i> <i>Introduction: Rabbi Paul Golomb, AZM VP for Programming</i> • Rabbi Uri Regev, CEO, Hiddush

TRIBUTE EVENING:
CELEBRATING AZM & A QUARTER CENTURY OF LEADERSHIP

6:00PM DINNER RECEPTION

7:00PM PROGRAM

Introduction: Richard D. Heideman, AZM President

Welcome: Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Park East Synagogue and Day School & former leader of Midstream Magazine & the Theodor Herzl Foundation

Remarks: Ambassador Dani Dayan, Consul General of Israel in New York

Recognition: Ambassadors to the United Nations who participated in the Diplomatic Missions to Poland and Israel sponsored by AZM and the International March of the Living

Keynote: Honorable Elan S. Carr, United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism

HONORING

AZM Past Presidents	AZM Past National Board Chairs
<i>Seymour D. Reich 1993-1997</i>	<i>Ruth B. Hurwitz 1993-1997</i>
<i>Melvin Salberg (z"l) 1997-2002</i>	<i>W. James Schiller 1997-1999</i>
<i>W. James Schiller 2002-2007</i>	<i>Norman Schwartz (z"l) 1999-2002</i>
<i>William D. Hess 2007-2012</i>	<i>Robert B. Levine 2002-2007</i>
<i>Rabbi Vernon Kurtz 2012-2017</i>	<i>Marlene E. Post 2007-2012</i>
	<i>Kenneth Bob 2012-2017</i>

Master of Ceremonies AZM Executive Director Emerita, Karen J. Rubinstein

Awards & Presentations to AZM Leadership

8:30PM DESSERT RECEPTION

MONDAY, MARCH 11

8:00AM AZM COMMITTEE TABLE DISCUSSIONS
Constitution, Fundraising Development, Membership, Strategic Planning, Youth Development Initiatives

8:30AM BREAKFAST

9:00AM MORNING PLENARY

AZM Youth Development Initiative: Alicia Post, AZM Program Director; Simon Klarfeld, Youth Development Initiatives Coordinating Chair

Hagiga Ivrit: Promoting the Hebrew language in the Zionist context
Presented by the WZO Department for Education and the Council for Hebrew Language in North America

- Dr. Esther Serok, Representative of the WZO Executive in North America
- Rabbi Andrew Ergas, Chair, Council for Hebrew Language and Culture in North America
- Rabbi David Gedzelman, President & CEO, Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life

Zionist Vision
Introduction: Nomi Colton-Max, Chair of the Executive Board, Ameinu

- Alon Ben-Gurion, Former IDF Paratrooper and Grandson of Israel's First Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion z"l

10:45AM BREAK

11:00AM Why a World Zionist Congress: Preparing for the 2020 WZC Elections in the US

- Herbert Block, AZM Executive Director
- Judge Abraham Gafni, Chair, US Area Elections Committee
- Sarrae Crane, Executive Director, MERCAZ-USA
- Eugene Lekah, Executive Director, American Forum for Israel
- Karen J. Rubinstein, AZM Executive Director Emerita
- Alan Silberman, AZM Vice President for WZO Relations

AZM BIENNIAL OFFICIAL BUSINESS SESSION & BOARD MEETING

- Credentials Report – Shelley Sherman, AZM Secretary
- Resolutions – Richard D. Heideman, President and Dr. Francine Stein, Board Chair
- Conflict of Interest Statement – Herbert Block, AZM Executive Director
- Consideration of New Member Organization Applications – Marilyn Wind, AZM VP
- Constitutional Amendments – Alan Silberman, AZM VP
- Treasurer's Report – Jim Schiller, AZM Treasurer
- Strategic Plan Update – Moishe Smith, Sondra Sokal, Michael Laufer
- Nominating Committee Report – Rabbi Vernon Kurtz, Chairman, AZM Past President
- Election of Officers – Seymour D. Reich, Founding President, AZM

12:30PM CLOSING LUNCHEON

In Memoriam

AZM Helyn B. Reich Scholarship Fund – 20th Anniversary Presentation

Introduction: Mark Levenson, Chairman, Zionist Organization of America

- **Video presentations** by current HBR Scholars
- **Remarks:** Abigail Ingber, University of Michigan Student activist & HBR recipient studying in Tel Aviv

Installation of Officers – Marlene E. Post, AZM VP & Past National Board Chair;
Seymour D. Reich, AZM Founding President

Remarks

- Richard D. Heideman, President AZM

Keynote Presentation: Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman & CEO,
Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

HATIKVAH

2:30PM ADJOURNMENT



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.



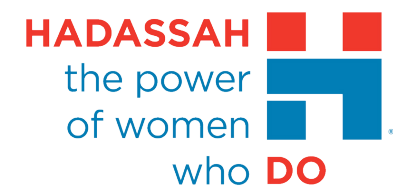
About WZO

The World Zionist Organization is committed to promoting the Zionist idea and the Zionist enterprise as vital and positive elements of contemporary Jewish life, in accordance with the principles articulated in the Jerusalem Program. This manifesto is dedicated to instilling the centrality of Israel and Jerusalem its capital deep within Jewish consciousness, encouraging the return to Zion, fashioning an exemplary society in the Jewish state, expanding Zionist education including Hebrew language instruction, settling the land, and combating anti-Semitism.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



BNAI ZION FOUNDATION



HERUT NORTH AMERICA
חרות צפון אמריקה



AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS



Your Voice in Israel

ZIONIST YOUTH MOVEMENTS



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OR ADI

East Coast Director, WZO Department For Diaspora Activities

Or Adi is the new East Coast Director of the Department for Diaspora Activities (DDA) of the World Zionist Organization. She is 29 years old and has a BA in International Relations and Middle Eastern Studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and speaks Hebrew, English, Spanish and Arabic. The DDA works primarily to introduce Jews in the Diaspora to different aspects of Israeli culture, politics, and society through quality educational content and programming. Or's main goals within her work is to encourage young Jews all over the East Coast to continue and strengthen the relevance and importance of Zionism in their everyday lives.



ALON BEN-GURION

Former IDF Paratrooper and Grandson of Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion

Alon Ben-Gurion was born in Israel in 1951. He grew up in Tel Aviv and Haifa, where he attended high school and participated in the youth movement. At the age of 18, he joined the IDF and became a paratrooper. Alon was severely wounded in the Yom Kippur war and spent the next several months hospitalized, and then in rehabilitation. After a long recovery, Alon attended Tel Aviv University and received his BA degree, followed by a Master's Degree from Cornell University in the area of Hospitality Management. For the last 40 years Alon has worked in the hotel management field in various countries that include Israel, England, Belgium and the United States. He had the privilege of working at very prestigious hotels such as the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem Hiltons, the Park Lane Hilton in London, the Capital Hilton in Washington, and managed the famous Waldorf Astoria, New York.

In addition to his work, Alon was traveling on behalf of various organizations, speaking about the legacy of his grandfather, David Ben-Gurion. Alon was also involved with organizations such as The Friends of the Disabled Veterans of the IDF, JNF USA, Israel Bond, Jewish Federation and Ben Gurion University. Currently Alon is assisting American disabled veterans via the Heroes to Heroes organization.

He is married to Anastasia, a fashion designer and Associate Professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology. They have two daughters, Alexandra and Daphne. Alon is the son of Amos and Mary Ben-Gurion and the grandson of the late Prime Minister, David Ben - Gurion.



LIOR BEN-ZVI

Educational Coordinator, Hashomer Hatzair

Lior Ben-Zvi has been a staff member at Camp Shomria (af. Hashomer Hatzair USA) for six years, and in that time has worked everything from bunk counselor to maintenance crew. Additionally, she has led the oldest age group (CITs) in a month long intensive learning trip to Israel, and most recently served as Educational Coordinator, who oversees educational programming by all the counselors. After high school, Lior did a shnat sherut in Israel through Hashomer Hatzair, volunteering in a regional kibbutz school and organizing after school programming for some kibbutzim. She is currently a student at Rutgers University majoring in French and Middle Eastern Studies.



MEREDITH BERKMAN

Founder, The Zionista Project

Meredith Berkman is the founder of The Zionista Project, a philanthropic effort that seeks to "rebrand" Zionism and make it cool for the next generation. Donating trademarked "Zionista" swag (including tees, totes, and baseball caps) to Israel-supporting groups at colleges and universities around the country, the Zionista Project promotes a nonpolitical way to publicly express a love of Israel, asking in return that students post photos and tag the project on social media. She is also a co-founder of Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes, a grassroots advocacy group dedicated to protecting kids from flavored e-cigarettes like JUUL. A former journalist, she is a graduate of Brown University, where she is a longtime Hillel board member, and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She blogs weekly about Torah at shabbatmom.com. She and her husband have four kids and live in Manhattan.



NOA BLOCH

Chair of Public Affairs, Zionist Federation of Australia

Noa Bloch is the Chair of Public Affairs for the Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA). A recent graduate of a double degree in Law and Econometrics from Monash University, Noa is currently interning at the World Jewish Congress in New York before commencing work as a consultant at Boston Consulting Group. Noa previously worked for politicians in both Australia and the US and before joining the ZFA, was involved in Jewish community advocacy at the student-level.



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.



RACHAEL BRILL

Associate Director of Camping, Union for Reform Judaism

Rachael Brill is the Associate Director of Camping for the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), overseeing the ongoing operations of the URJ's 17 summer camps that serve over 10,000 children across North America a year. Rachael has been at the URJ for over six years, previously as a senior program manager spearheading two fellowships focused on global Reform Jewish leadership, and as a human resources associate. Prior to coming to the URJ, Rachael was the U.S. Manager of Marketing and Community Outreach at the Nesiya Institute, a six-week Jewish teen summer program in Israel aimed at fostering a deeper and more meaningful connection to the land and people of Israel. Rachael grew up in Massachusetts and received her BA in Political Science from Tufts University. She currently lives in Brooklyn, New York and is an avid sailor, rock climber, and dog lover.



HONORABLE ELAN S. CARR

US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism

Elan S. Carr serves as the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. As Special Envoy, he advises the Secretary of State and is responsible for directing U.S. policies and projects aimed at countering anti-Semitism throughout the world.

Prior to his appointment, Special Envoy Carr served as a Deputy District Attorney for Los Angeles County, where he prosecuted violent crimes for more than a decade, including murders, rapes, hate crimes, and crimes involving some of the most notorious criminal street gangs in Southern California.

Special Envoy Carr is an officer in the United States Army Reserve, and he has received multiple awards and commendations for his nearly two decades of military service. In 2003-04, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he led an anti-terrorism team in life-saving missions throughout the country and prosecuted terrorists who attacked U.S. troops. He also assisted efforts to establish an independent Iraqi judiciary and trained Iraqi judges and lawyers on constitutional law and criminal defense.

As the son of Iraqi Jewish refugees who fled persecution in Iraq, Special Envoy Carr speaks Hebrew and the Iraqi dialect of Arabic. While in Iraq, he met with remnants of the Jewish community there and led Jewish services in the former presidential palace of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad.

Special Envoy Carr was the international president of the Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi, he served on the National Council of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), he was a voting member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and he was a board member of Operation Gratitude. In the course of his work in the Jewish community, he has been a recognized leader in the fight against anti-Semitism on U.S. college campuses and around the world.



AMBASSADOR DANI DAYAN

Consul General of Israel in New York

As Consul General of Israel in New York Consul General, Dani Dayan represents the State of Israel to communities from throughout New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Delaware. Nominated to this post by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Amb. Dayan enjoys wide support and appreciation from all sides of the Israeli political spectrum. He has a long time reputation as an Israeli public figure, lecturer and entrepreneur. Dayan was Chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea and Samaria from July 2007 until January 2013. He was instrumental in pushing through multiple reforms and policy changes to strengthen the image of the organization and advocate on behalf of its 400,000 citizens. After serving in the elite MAMRAM computerized data processing center of the Israel Defense Forces, Dani Dayan began his professional career as a businessman, at the young age of 26, founding Elad Systems which specializes in sophisticated information systems, outsourcing, and facility management. In 2005, when Dayan sold his interests in the firm, it employed 500 IT professionals. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1955, Dayan immigrated to Israel in 1971. He holds a B.Sc. in Economics and Computer Sciences from Bar Ilan University and M.Sc. in Finance from Tel Aviv University. He resides with his wife and daughter in the community of Maale Shomron in central Samaria.



AVRAHAM 'DUVDEV' 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.



RABBI ANDREW ERGAS

Chair, Council for Hebrew Language and Culture in North America

Bringing over twenty-five years of involvement in Jewish education and organizational leadership, Rabbi Andrew Ergas is the Executive Director of the Harold and Elaine Shames JCC on the Hudson, previously serving in a similar role at the Jewish Community Project Downtown (JCP), a new model of Jewish community based in Tribeca that integrates a school, non-denominational congregation and communal center. Prior to JCP, Andrew spent seven years as Head of School at Beit Rabban Day School on Manhattan's Upper West Side. In the past, his roles included Executive Director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA), a Director of the Union for Reform Judaism's Youth Division, a resident and day camp director for both Young Judaea and for JCC's, and as an organizational management consultant. Andrew was ordained in Jerusalem by the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion and holds master's degrees in nonprofit management and in Hebrew literature. A graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Education certificate program, Andrew is also a doctoral candidate in education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, with a research focus on Hebrew, identity and pedagogy. A frequent lecturer and writer on Israel and Diaspora relations, Jewish history and effective change management within organizational life, Rabbi Ergas is recognized as a leading speaker and educator in the Jewish community and beyond. A founding member of the Hebrew Council, Rabbi Ergas was elected to the position of Chair in November of 2016.



AMITAI FRAIMAN

Director, Zionism 3.0

Amitai Fraiman is the Director of Z3, OF JCC's annual Zionism conference. In this role, he oversees the conceptualization and execution of the local conference as well as supports the expansion of the Z3 model to other JCC's around the country and developing other avenues for Z3 activities and partnerships. Amitai is the founder of /Interwoven, an educational start-up aimed at bridging the growing gap between Israel and American Jewry. Amitai received rabbinic ordination from YCT Rabbinical School as well as a dual MPA-MA from NYU. Born and raised in Israel, Amitai currently lives with his family in NY.



RABBI DAVID GEDZELMAN

President & CEO, Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life

Rabbi David Gedzelman is President & CEO of The Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life, which is dedicated to revitalizing Jewish identity through educational and cultural initiatives as well as to advocating for and supporting Hebrew and Jewish literacy among the general population. David has been actively involved in the Foundation's programs since 1995, when he was recruited to conceive and develop Makor in New York City. As the Founding Creative and Rabbinic Director of Makor, David created and led a cutting-edge venue for New Yorkers in their 20s and 30s, providing innovative arts, cultural and educational programming aimed at engaging an under-involved population in possibilities of Jewish life and meaning.

Rabbi Gedzelman was the lead professional at the Foundation working on the conceptualization, design, and implementation of Hebrew language public charter schools, which the Foundation has played a founding role in supporting since 2007. Rabbi Gedzelman's passion for the Hebrew language and his deep commitment to inter-group understanding as well as supporting integrated and diverse public schools suited him well for this project which now encompasses a network of twelve schools nationwide overseen by Hebrew Public: Charter Schools for Global Citizens, a grantee of the Foundation. David has been a champion of Hebrew fluency and literacy in North America and is a founding member of the World Zionist Organizations Council on Hebrew Language and Culture in North America.

Rabbi Gedzelman holds a B.A. from Hamilton College, an M.A. from Duke University in Comparative Religion, and Rabbinical Ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He has studied in Israel at the Hebrew University and at the Pardes Institute. He serves on the Boards of The American Pardes Foundation, One Table: Shabbat Together, The Harlem Minyan, and 70 Faces Media. Rabbi Gedzelman lives in Harlem, New York City, with his wife Judith Turner and their three children, Nomi, Anina and Ziv.



ANDREW GETRAER

Executive Director, Rutgers Hillel

Andrew Getraer has been executive director of Rutgers Hillel since 2001. Rutgers serves the largest Jewish undergraduate population in the nation, with an estimated 6,4000 Jewish undergraduates. Under Andrew's leadership, Rutgers Hillel recently opened the largest Hillel facility in the country, the 40,000 square foot Eva and Arie Halpern Hillel House on the Wilf Family Campus, and established the Rutgers Hillel Center for Israel Engagement, driven by a core belief that a positive relationship to Israel is essential for a healthy Jewish identity.

Andrew graduated from Dartmouth College with a BA in Government and History and received his M.Sc. in History from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He has had a varied career, working for NBC News and for a privately held international renewable energy company, before finding his true passion in the Jewish community. He met his wife Jean in college and they have 5 children: a son is an IDF veteran and lives in Israel with his wife and (soon to be G-d willing!) 2 children; two sons who are seniors in college; a daughter who is currently on a gap year in Israel and a daughter in high school.



RABBI PAUL GOLOMB

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. In 2018 he completed service as 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.



ARIEL GOODMAN

Program Associate, National Ramah Commission

Ariel Goodman is the Program Associate at the National Ramah Commission. In this role, she coordinates the Ramah Camping Movement's year-round national alumni engagement, including programming across 17 North American campuses and for post-college young adults in seven cities across North America and Israel. Ariel graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and Creative Writing. Before joining the National Ramah Commission, she completed the AVODAH Jewish Service Corps in Washington, DC, where she worked in homeless and mental health services. Ariel also spent a year teaching middle school English and History in New York. She is thrilled to be a part of the ongoing conversation about Israel education at Jewish summer camps.



DR. ADAM GREGERMAN

Assistant Director, Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations at Saint Joseph's University

Dr. Adam Gregerman is Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Assistant Director of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA. He is a graduate of Amherst College (B.A.), Harvard Divinity School (M.T.S.), and Columbia University (Ph.D. in Religion), and has studied and taught at both Jewish and Christian seminaries. He researches the complex relationship between Judaism and Christianity from antiquity to the present, with a focus on biblical interpretation, religious polemics, and theodicy. His book *Building on the Ruins of the Temple: Apologetics and Polemics in Early Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism* was published by Mohr Siebeck in 2016. He is especially interested in contemporary Christian theologies of the land and state of Israel and has written a series of articles on this topic (published in *Kirche und Israel*, *Israel Affairs*, *Modern Theology*, *Cross Currents*, and *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*). He has been a Coolidge Scholar at the Association for Religion and Intellectual Life and a Fellow at the American Academy of Religion/Luce Foundation Seminars on Theologies of Religious Pluralism. Adam is involved in a variety of Jewish-Christian dialogue projects. An advisor to national Jewish organizations, he serves as academic consultant to the National Council of Synagogues and as Jewish Studies consultant to the Christian Scholars Group on Christian-Jewish Relations. He is also a member of the Committee on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.



JAN GURVITCH

*Biennial Co-Chair, American Zionist Movement
Co-Vice President Fundraising, NA'AMAT*

Jan Gurvitch has been actively involved in the Jewish community for over 30 years. In Brooklyn she was an active member of her EMJC sisterhood and a very involved parent at her sons' Schechter Day School. Jan also served on the Advisory Council to the Brooklyn DA's office and was the Chairman of the Bensonhurst Council of Jewish Organizations. She was a charter member of her NA'AMAT chapter and was selected to be part of a NA'AMAT Israeli leadership seminar. Since then she has held positions on the NA'AMAT USA board including Eastern Area Coordinator and presently she serves as its NA'AMAT Fundraising Vice President. Jan has served on the AZM board, the WZO elections committee and the Helyn B Reich Memorial Scholarship committee. In her professional career as a financial adviser for the past 17 years, Jan has worked with individual, corporations and non-profits.



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".

YEHUDA HEINOWITZ

El Al Ambassador

Yehuda Heinowitz was born in Jerusalem and raised in a religious Zionist family. His upbringing combined the values of the Torah with being a proud Zionist. Yehuda served in a combat unit of the IDF. For the past 11 years Yehuda has worked for EL AL. He is privileged to use his platform as an El Al Ambassador to advocate for Israel.



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.



ABIGAIL INGBER

University of Michigan Student Activist & HBR Recipient

Abigail Ingber is a Junior at the University of Michigan and is spending the Spring '19 semester studying at Tel Aviv University. Abigail has been active within Israel advocacy and engagement during her time on campus. She interned at the Jewish National Fund and felt extremely proud to strengthen her connection to her own Jewish heritage and Zionism through the experience.

Her name and story garnered attention recently, when a professor at the University of Michigan, refused to write for her a letter of recommendation on the basis that she was studying in Israel and he had "pledged an academic boycott against Israel in support of Palestinians living in Palestine. This boycott includes writing letters of recommendation for students planning to study there."



RABBI DAVID ISRAEL

Executive Vice President, Religious Zionists of America (RZA)

Rabbi David Israel is Executive Vice President of Religious Zionists of America (RZA) – Mizrahi and serves as its chief executive in the United States. Rabbi Israel joined RZA-Mizrahi in 2018 after many years of service in the Jewish Community in administrative, educational and rabbinic capacities.

He served as Rabbinic Dean of the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy in Stamford, Connecticut for 10 years. Prior to that, he was Director of the Max Stern Division of Communal Services at Yeshiva University where he oversaw Yeshiva University's professional rabbinics training, outreach programs, placement of rabbis in pulpits and schools, and a day school association. He also served as rabbi of the Young Israel of Stamford. Rabbi Israel received Semicha from RIETS, Yeshiva University.

While on sabbatical in 2006-2007, he was a fellow at the Senior Educators Program, Melton Center for Jewish Education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Rabbi Israel was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He continues to live - now as a congregant - in Stamford, Connecticut with his wife, Dr. Shara Israel, and their four children.



SIMON KLARFELD

Executive Director, Young Judaea

Simon is Executive Director of Young Judaea, the premier Zionist youth movement of America. An expert in the fields of experiential Jewish learning and informal Israel education, Simon has formerly served as executive director of Hillel at Columbia University and Barnard College, vice president of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, and as founding director of the Genesis program at Brandeis University. Early in his career, he was director of both the British and California-based Soviet Jewry movements, including serving "hard time" in the Soviet Union. Simon has consulted with a wide range of Jewish communal organizations around the world, and with communities ranging from Australia to Ukraine on best practices in youth engagement, informal education, Jewish peoplehood, and leadership. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Keele in England and his Master's degree in Jewish Communal Service from Brandeis University. Simon and his wife, Dara, have four children - Harry, Isaac, Sophie and Charlie.



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, 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. 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, Samuel Ryder and Mia Faye.



MAX MEYERS

President, The Danish Zionist Federation

Max Abraham Meyer is a first generation Dane, born of Jewish parents who came to Denmark as refugees and survivors from Nazism. For the past 15 years Max has served as President of the Danish Zionist Federation. Max has served as a board member of several international Union organizations, and served for the past 14 years as President of the 10,000 plumbers and pipefitters in Denmark.



YANIV NACHMIAS

Executive Director, WZO Department for Diaspora Activities

Yaniv Nachmias is currently serving as the executive director of the department for diaspora activities in the World Zionist Organization (WZO). Prior to this position Yaniv served as the Jewish agency Shaliach to Cape Town, south Africa for three year (2011-2014). Yaniv holds a Master degree in early childhood education from the Hebrew university and a BA in business administration and education.



YONI NIRENBERG

Student Israel Engagement Chair, Long Island University

Yoni Nirenberg, a student at Long Island University, hails from Brooklyn, NY. When his older brother was serving in the Israeli Defense Forces, Yoni helped raise \$70,000 for fleece outwear to keep his brother's unit warm. His activism led him to work with various organizations including StandWithUs, AIPAC, and Minister Ofir Akunis, Israel's Minister of Science and Technology. Today, Yoni continues to educate fellow student activists and community members around the world as a StandWithUs Emerson Fellow and as the Israel Engagement Chair on his campus.



GALIT PELEG

Consul for Public Diplomacy, Consulate General of Israel in New York

Galit Peleg was born in Haifa, Israel. Galit graduated from Leo Back high school, majoring in Islam and Middle East studies. She served as an officer in the IDF, and then studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem where she graduated with degrees in Islam & Middle East Studies and International Relations. During her studies Galit worked with teenagers in several projects, institutions and boarding schools in Haifa and Jerusalem. In 1998 she joined the Israeli Foreign Service as a cadet. In 1999-2000 served as deputy ambassador to Morocco. In 2001 to 2005 she was appointed as deputy ambassador to Serbia, where she focused on re-establishing the mutual relations between Israel and Serbia during the dismantling process of Yugoslavia. In 2007 -2011 Galit was the head of the liaison office to the European Parliament at the Israeli mission to the European Union in Brussels. After returning to Jerusalem she lead special projects in the field of "branding Israel", and worked with leading PR firms in Europe, at the Media and Public Affairs division at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Jerusalem. She initiated a campaign called "Start Tel Aviv," to promote Israel as Start Up nation, in cooperation with the city of Tel Aviv. "Start Tel Aviv", which brings non Jewish entrepreneurs to Israel and turn them into "ambassadors for Israel", is running this 6th year, in more than 50 countries around the world. Galit is currently the head of the department for Public Diplomacy and Academic Affairs, at the Israeli General Consulate in New York. Covering NY, NJ, PN, OH, DL. She speaks fluent Hebrew, English, French, and limited Arabic and Serbian.



ALICIA POST

Program Director, American Zionist Movement

Alicia Post is a Jewish community builder and non-profit professional who has been working on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people for more than 2 decades. Alicia dedicates much of her time to enhancing Jewish life by helping to create meaningful connections to Israel and building Jewish identities for individuals and organizations throughout the US, with a specific focus on the young professional community.

Israeli News Source Ynet (Yedioth Ahronoth) referred to Alicia as a 'Jewlebrity', and Ejewishphilanthropy declared her a "Connector".

Alicia has been at the forefront of Israel advocacy for over a decade and has recruited and organized student leaders on college campus across the country to host and promote a variety of events and educational programs. She started her career at Taglit-Birthright Israel, following which she served as Chief of Staff to the Executive Director of the Jewish National Fund. She has been a founding member of various Israel advocacy organizations, has served in leadership positions with a number of national organizations such as Hadassah and American-Israel Friendship League. In 2009 she was a ROI Global Summit participant. She has participated in fellowships, held various board positions and recently was invited to join the COP Young Professionals Division.

As the the Program Director of the AZM lead Coordinator for the American Zionist Youth Council), Alicia is proud to continue to play a role in enhancing relationships between American Jews and Israel.

EFRAT RAELEBROOK

El Al Ambassador

Efrat Raelbrook is In-Flight Service Manager with El Al Israel Airline's flight crew and Director of El Al's Ambassador Program. Efrat has worked for El Al for over 22 years in a variety of roles, including Flight Attendant Trainer and a committee representative of the employee workforce. Efrat also serves on the Board of Directors for Schneider Children's Medical Center in Petah, Tikva and is the Founder of 'The Shabbat Program' in Israel. Born and raised in the City of Raanana, Efrat holds a Master's Degree from Tel Aviv University and is married to an American Oleh Hadash and above all a mother to four young children.



RABBI URI REGEV

CEO, Hiddush

Rabbi Uri Regev is an internationally renowned leader and advocate of religious liberty and the liberal movements of Judaism in his native Israel and around the world. Rabbi Regev serves as the President and CEO of "Freedom Of Religion for Israel" and of its Israeli counterpart, "Hiddush – For Religious Freedom and Equality", which he founded in 2009. Previously he served as president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, a global umbrella organization of the Progressive, Reform, Liberal and Reconstructionist movements. Prior to assuming leadership of the World Union, Rabbi Regev served as founding chair, and later as executive director and legal counsel, of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), the public and advocacy arm of the Reform movement in Israel. Rabbi Regev has also served on the boards of many other major Jewish organizations, including the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency, Rabbis for Human Rights, the Overseers of the Jerusalem School of the Hebrew Union College, the Institute for Progressive Halacha, the Central Archives of the Jewish People, the Center for the Research of Democracy at the University of Haifa, the Re'ut School and Institute for Pluralistic Training, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, the Israel Amuta of the San Francisco Jewish Federation and others. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife, Garri. Their son, Yonatan and daughter in law, Lara, are rabbis serving congregations.



KAREN J. RUBINSTEIN

Executive Director Emerita, American Zionist Movement

Karen began her tenure at American Zionist Movement (formerly the American Zionist Federation) in 1977 as National Program Director. She was promoted to Executive Director in 1981. Under her stewardship Karen introduced a number of innovative programs to the Zionist Movement. Throughout the years her goal has been to find relevant ways to engage the American public with Israel, particularly in ways that supersede the political and ideological divides that often dominate the Israeli conversation. These programs include her organization of a nationwide video conference with then Prime Minister Shimon Peres, which gave leaders in 60 communities the opportunities to dialogue with the Prime Minister through a private television broadcast. In addition, she brought in radical changes in the democratic electoral system of the Zionist Movement to include expansion of the electorate and the introduction of online voting.

Karen graduated from Bennington College in 1972 with a BA in the dual areas of Politics and Russian language studies. She received her MA and MPhil from the Department of Political Science at Columbia University specializing in area studies of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Karen retired in 2017 after nearly 40 years in service of the Zionist movement, 36 of which were as Executive Director.



LIOR SAGI

Educational Program Director to Canada, WZO Department for Diaspora Activities, & Canadian Zionist Federation

Lior Sagi has over a decade's experience as an educator and filmmaker, most recently as Director of the Multimedia Department at the Kibbutzim College of Education in Tel Aviv. Lior is a recent transplant to Toronto from Tel Aviv, although he spent most of his formative years in kibbutz Ein Gedi. His approach to education and life are rooted in the promotion of humanism, pluralism, an open dialogue and equal opportunities. He passionately believes in the contribution of every stream to the greater inclusive identity of our people and to the inherent role of Israel in it. Lior holds a BFA in Film and Television from Tel Aviv University and a MA in Education from the Kibbutzim College of Education, both Graduated with Great Honor.



DR. LEN SAXE

Director, Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University

Professor Saxe is a social psychologist, as well as a methodologist, and is concerned with the application of social science to social policy issues. His present focus is on religious and ethnic identity and specifically addresses issues relevant to the Jewish community. Professor Saxe's current research on the Jewish community involves socio-demographic studies of American Jewry and a program of research on Jewish education and its relationship to the Jewish engagement. He is the principal investigator of a longitudinal study of Birthright Israel, a large-scale educational program. At the Steinhardt Institute, he is leading a program that is investigating the size and characteristics of the American Jewish population. Among his recent publications, he is co-author of a 2008 book, Ten Days of Birthright Israel: A Journey in Young Adult Identity, the story of Birthright Israel, an intensive ten-day educational program designed to connect Jewish young adults to their heritage. Professor Saxe is an author and/or editor of nearly 250 publications. He has been a Science Fellow for the United States Congress and was a Fulbright Professor at Haifa University, Israel. In 1989, he was awarded the American Psychological Association's prize for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest, Early Career.



RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER

Park East Synagogue and Day School & former leader of Midstream Magazine & the Theodor Herzl Foundation

Rabbi Arthur Schneier is internationally known for his leadership on behalf of religious freedom, human rights and tolerance, whose activities have spanned the globe for more than four decades. He has played a major role in addressing issues in the former Soviet Union and Russia, China, Central Europe, Latin America and the Balkans.

As founder and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation (1965) and a spiritual leader of New York's Park East Synagogue (1962), he was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal for "his service as an international envoy for four administrations" and "as a Holocaust survivor, devoting a lifetime to overcoming forces of hatred and intolerance."

Recipient of U.S. Department of State Special Recognition Award for "...his ecumenical work in favor of mutual understanding, tolerance and peace..."

Since 1962, Rabbi Arthur Schneier has been the Senior Rabbi of the 125-year old Park East Synagogue, one of New York City's historic landmark houses of worship and home to one of the leading modern Orthodox congregations in the U.S. and founder of the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Day School. He has received many world leaders at Park East, including two Secretaries General of the U.N. In 2008, he was host to Pope Benedict XVI, the first ever Papal visit to a synagogue in the U.S. and in 2009 welcomed the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I.

ANAT SCHWARTZ

El Al Ambassador

Anat Schwartz, a mother of 3 boys, has been working as an El Al flight attendant for 15 years. Anat is an accomplished actor who was nominated for best actress at the 2001 Israeli Oscars. She had a starring role in the Israeli film "6 million Pieces", and is the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors. Anat is also an accomplished artist and singer songwriter and starred in an El Al commercial.



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.



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 behavioral/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

*Biennial Co-Chair, American Zionist Movement
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.



PROFESSOR GIL TROY

Historian and Author

A Distinguished Scholar in North American History at McGill University currently living in Jerusalem, Gil Troy is an award-winning American presidential historian and a leading Zionist activist. In the Foreword to Troy's latest book, The Zionist Ideas: Visions for the Jewish Homeland – Then, Now, Tomorrow, Natan Sharansky writes: "This magnificent work is the perfect follow-up to Arthur Hertzberg's classic The Zionist Idea. Combining, like Hertzberg, a scholar's eye and an activist's ear, Gil Troy demonstrates that we now live in a world of Zionist Ideas, with many different ways to help Israel flourish as a democratic Jewish state."

Recently designated an Algemeiner J-100, one of the top 100 people "positively influencing Jewish life," Troy wrote The Age of Clinton: America in the 1990s, and ten other books on the American presidency. One leading historian called Age of Clinton "the best book on the man and his times." Troy edited and updated another classic, the multi-volume History of American Presidential Campaigns, originally edited by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. and Fred Israel. He is now writing new essays on the 2012 and 2016 elections.

Troy's book Moynihan's Moment: America's Fight against Zionism as Racism, describes the fall of the UN, the rise of Reagan and the spread of Anti-Zionism. Jewish Ideas Daily designated it one of 2012's "best books."

He appeared as a featured commentator on CNN's popular multipart documentaries, The Eighties, The Nineties, and The 2000s. He has been interviewed on most major North American TV and Radio networks. Troy has published essays in the American, Canadian, and Israeli media, including writing essays for the New York Times' "Campaign Stops" in 2012 and 2016. He wrote a weekly column for the Daily Beast, "Secret Lives," putting current events in historical perspective, and writes a weekly column for the Jerusalem Post.



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 four daughters: Noa, Ella, Mia, and Alma.



ROEY YAMINS

Head of the North America Delegation, WZO Department for Diaspora Activities

Roey Yamin is Head of the DDA-WZO Delegation to North America. He believes in the great contribution of the social sector to Israeli society. Roey was a proud part of the executive leadership of the Nalaga'at Cultural Center of artists with disabilities and a senior member of IGY-the LGBT youth movement. His passion for innovative platforms for social dialogue led him to co-found several initiatives such as: Israel's first art festival of deaf and blind artists and dialogue for youths from diverse backgrounds.

Roey's first encounter with the Jewish diaspora took place as a Shaliach to Stanford University, and in his current position he wishes to connect Jews to Israel by introducing them to its innovative and rebellious society. He earned a B.A. in communication & Political Science from Tel Aviv University a Journalist Certificate from Koteret School for Media and a M.B.A in the prestigious Mandel Society Leadership Program at Ben Gurion University.

SEYMOUR D. REICH

1993-1997



Seymour D. Reich, a long-time activist and leader in world Jewish affairs, is an attorney with a passion for justice that extends far beyond the letter of the law. A senior partner in the firm of Gallet, Dreyer & Berkey, he has held several of the highest positions in American Jewish life, serving two terms as President of B'nai B'rith International, two terms as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, two terms as President of the American Zionist Movement, and two terms as President of the Israel Policy Forum. He is also a past chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC).

Mr. Reich has been a fervent supporter of Middle East peace as well as a strong advocate of human rights causes. In his capacity as chairman of the COP, he served as chief spokesman of the world's largest Jewish community in its relations with the White House, the United Nations, the State of Israel and other governments around the world. After concluding his tenure, Mr. Reich was named chairman of the National Task Force on Syrian Jewry, where he was deeply involved in the rescue of 4,000 Syrian Jews.

In his recent position as chairman of the IJCIC, he urged the Vatican to open the World War II archives. Subsequently, he served as a coordinator of the International Catholic-Jewish Historical Commission, a panel of scholars from both faiths created by the Vatican and major Jewish organizations to study the role of the Vatican during the Holocaust period. Mr. Reich was also in the forefront of the campaign to secure freedom of emigration for Soviet Jews.

Mr. Reich has met with U.S. Presidents, with Prime Ministers of Israel and with key Cabinet members and leaders of opposition parties in the Jewish State, as well as with the top leaders of foreign governments. In 1987, he was one of nine world Jewish leaders involved to the Vatican for an unprecedented meeting with Pope John Paul II on Catholic-Jewish relations. In 1990 he led a delegation of Jewish leaders to Rome for a historic meeting with the Pope, and has more recently met with Pope Benedict XVI.

Reich was one of the first Jewish leaders to publicly support the release of Jonathan Pollard on humanitarian ground. In 1993, together with Elie Wiesel, he visited Jonathan when he was in solitary confinement in the Marion penitentiary.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Reich received his law degree from Harvard. He was awarded an honorary degree by Tel Aviv University. He lives in Manhattan. Mr. Reich has three grown children, Leslie, Jamie and Keith.

MELVIN SALBERG (Z"L)

1997-2002



Melvin Salberg was a leader in American Jewish organizations, serving as national chairman the Anti Defamation League from 1990 to 1994 and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations from 1997 through 1999. In these roles, he was closely involved in Middle East peace negotiations at the request of President Bush and President Clinton. In his professional career, Mr. Salberg served as management's chief spokesman and strategy advisor in union-management collective bargaining in numerous industries, including paper and pulp, cement, electronics, publishing, communications, garment and other manufacturing and service industries, as well as not-for-profit institutions. He assisted employers in the full spectrum of labor issues, such as plant opening and closing, relocation, reduction in force and introduction of technical change. He had particular experience in counseling management in planning and implementing participative labor-management cooperation programs. Mr. Salberg served with United States Maritime Service during World War II from 1943 to 1945. He earned a B.A. at New York University in 1949 and a J.D. at NYU School of Law in 1951. He married Rita Cecile Kahn in 1948, who passed away in 1985. He is survived by his second wife, Anita Marie Gessler, whom he married in 1987, and by his children, Michael, Robert, Barbara, and Lawrence.



W. JAMES SCHILLER

2002-2007

Jim has devoted his life to the Zionist movement. He is the Chairman of the Board of the Baltimore Zionist District and serves on the Cabinet of the American Zionist Movement. He also is a Vice President of World Confederation of United Zionists. Jim was elected National President of the American Zionist Movement in March, 2002 a post he held for six years. The American Zionist Movement is the American arm of the World Zionist Organization as well as the umbrella organization for Zionist organizations in the United States. He previously served as Chairman of the Board of the American Zionist Movement as well as its Treasurer. Prior to that, he was National President of the Zionist Organization of America. Jim also was a National Vice-President, National Treasurer and National Associate Treasurer for the Jewish National Fund. He currently serves on its Board of Directors. Jim was an elected delegate to the 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th and 37th World Zionist Congresses. He has served on the Presidium of the Congress and is currently a member of the Expanded Executive and the General Zionist Council of the World Zionist Organization. He also is currently a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel.



WILLIAM D. HESS

2007-2012

William D. Hess, Past President of AZM, is a board member of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) and a former board member of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). Hess has served on the AZM Board and Cabinet for the past four years. He is Past Treasurer of ARZENU, the international Zionist umbrella organization of the Reform movement. His experience with the WZO and Jewish Agency includes his membership in the Va'ad HaPoel, the JAFINA Council, and the JAFI Assembly. He is former president of the Union for Reform Judaism's Southwest Council and former chair of its Israel Education Department, and is a member of Zionist Organization of America board. Hess and his wife, Susan, live in New Orleans, Louisiana. They have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.



RABBI VERNON KURTZ

2012-2017

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, 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. 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, Samuel Ryder and Mia Faye.



RUTH B. HURWITZ

1993-1997

Ruth B Hurwitz, of Baltimore, Maryland, is the past National Treasurer of Hadassah and Hadassah Magazine, and has been involved with Hadassah in numerous capacities for over 30 years.

Ruth's philanthropic work extends to numerous other organizations, including the Jewish National Fund, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Baltimore Jewish Council, the Baltimore Holocaust Memorial, as well as the Zionist General Council of the World Zionist Organization.

Ruth had a long career in Maryland politics, including two four year terms in elective office, following an earlier professional career in radio and public relations. Since childhood she has been associated with amateur theater groups in Baltimore and currently produces for the commercial theater.

Ruth and her late husband, Alfred, have two children and three granddaughters.



W. JAMES SCHILLER

1997-1999

Jim has devoted his life to the Zionist movement. He is the Chairman of the Board of the Baltimore Zionist District and serves on the Cabinet of the American Zionist Movement. He also is a Vice President of World Confederation of United Zionists. Jim was elected National President of the American Zionist Movement in March, 2002 a post he held for six years. The American Zionist Movement is the American arm of the World Zionist Organization as well as the umbrella organization for Zionist organizations in the United States. He previously served as Chairman of the Board of the American Zionist Movement as well as its Treasurer. Prior to that, he was National President of the Zionist Organization of America. Jim also was a National Vice-President, National Treasurer and National Associate Treasurer for the Jewish National Fund. He currently serves on its Board of Directors. Jim was an elected delegate to the 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th and 37th World Zionist Congresses. He has served on the Presidium of the Congress and is currently a member of the Expanded Executive and the General Zionist Council of the World Zionist Organization. He also is currently a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel.



NORMAN SCHWARTZ (Z"L)

1999-2002

Norman Schwartz was AZM National Board Chair from 1999-2002. President of Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) from 1989-1993. He was passionate about the future of Reform Judaism in Israel and the importance of a Reform Zionist commitment. Norman passed away in January 2016.



ROBERT B. LEVINE

2002-2007

Robert B. Levine (Teaneck, NJ) is a senior partner at the New York City accounting firm Levine Schaeffer Fink & Moss, P.C., and has a personal law practice as well. Bob has served as President of Congregation Beth Shalom, as Chairman of the Board of the American Zionist Movement, and Treasurer of Mercaz USA, the Conservative movement's Zionist organization and held numerous positions with JNF since 1968. Bob was the recipient of JNF's 2010 Gould Legacy Society Heritage Award and is a Negev Society and World Chairman's Council member. As a mission leader, he has brought over 650 individuals to Israel.



MARLENE E. POST

2007-2012

Marlene E. Post served as the 21st National President of Hadassah and past President of Hadassah International. Marlene serves on the Board of the American Zionist Movement, the Board of Directors for the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and chairs the Jewish Agency Assembly Meeting. She is a member of the Executive Board of Directors of Birthright Israel North America. Additionally, Marlene was Chairman of the AZM National Board from 2008 – 2012, a Co-Chair of the Confederation of United Zionists and honorary Co-Chair of the National Coalition for Literacy. She has served on the Executive Board of the World Zionist Organization, as well as on the boards of the State of Israel Bonds, the Advisory Council of the New York Board of Rabbis, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, and the UJA Federation of New York.



KENNETH BOB

2012-2007

Kenneth Bob serves as the national President of Ameinu, the Chair of Project Rozana USA, and as Treasurer of the J Street Board of Directors. He serves in a variety of additional roles in the Jewish community, including as a member of the Jewish Agency for Israel Board of Governors Executive Committee. He speaks and writes widely on topics of interest regarding Israel and the Jewish community.

In his business life, Ken is a management consultant and previously served as CEO and in other senior executive positions at technology companies in areas such as airline software, supply chain management systems and Internet security.

The Helyn B. Reich Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1995 in memory of Helyn B. Reich, wife of founding AZM President Seymour D. Reich. The initial gift in Helyn's memory was given by Mrs. Sarah Fischer and her son Dr. Stuart Fischer.

Reich scholarships are awarded each fall and spring to a limited number of American students who choose to study at one of several designated Israeli universities or attend post-college long-term programs. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage young American Jews to become more involved with and knowledgeable about Israel. It was intended to award those who have already demonstrated Zionist involvement and activity, or, alternatively, to help those seeking to learn more about their connection to Israel and who express an intent toward greater involvement in the Jewish community.

1999 Recipients	• Ira Frydman • Sharon Kaps • Sari Levy
2000 Recipients	• Ronit Kornblum • Jonathan Robins • Mark Y. Rosenberg • Rachel Spitz
2003 Recipients	• Yasmine Axel • Elisheva Cohen • David Halperin • Elizabeth Lerner • Shira Stanton
2007 Recipients	• Zachary Bercu • Laura Finkelstein • Katherin Hallman • Danny Moss
2008 Recipients	• Ilana Arnowitz • Lee'at Bachar • Sarrah Bechor • Bill Glucroft • Adam Heldmeyer Molner • Melissa Keene • Sophia Krentzman • Nira Lois Lee • Avital Okrent • Justin Pollack • Aliyah Schneider • Marla Schuchman
2009 Recipients	• Harold Hershberg • Jaclyn Shapiro • Rachel Silton • Naomi Wischnia
2010 Recipients	• Livnat Blum • Allison Darrow • Talia Hassid • Steven Miller • Hallie Newman • Danielle Rosenkrantz • Brian Stein • Shoshana Tell
2011 Recipients	• Peter Adelman • Chelsea Kauffman • Jessica Leitner • Yoni Mann • Natalie Silverlieb • Simon Stratford • Alex Willick
2012 Recipients	• Marc Hendel • Avery Mendelson • Sarah Palmer • Daniel Romero • Sarah Warshawsky
2013 Recipients	• Amy Albertson • Stephanie Babcock • Pele IrgangLaden • Sarah Marasco • Seth Markin • Emily Oren
2014 Recipients	• Rose Bayer • Erica Bergstein • Samuel Crystal • Tamara Gavrilov • Jacob Kahana • Elise Kowan • Bailey Mezan • Avishai Schlesinger • Hannah Southworth • Naomi Weisz
2015 Recipients	• Monica Arkin • Fanny Briceno • Josh Grinberg • Kyle Savitch • Carly Zankman
2016 Recipients	• Daniella Berger • Ana Maria Greenberger • Sophia Lloyd-Thomas • Isabel Schneider • Jonah Simon • Ella Ozer
2017 Recipients	• Jonathan Atkins • Eden Elimelech • Aaron Friedman-Heiman • Nikki Golomb • Lynette Hacopian • Liat Kastner • Chelsea Manoff • Jesse Medina • Andrew Seligson • Sarene Shaked • Peter Young • Jessica Zimmerman

2018 RECIPIENTS



CORRINE AZIZIANN

Corrine Azizian is a Freshman student at Brandeis University who will be spending her Spring '19 semester studying in Israel. Originally from New York City, she attended Ramaz Upper School where she excelled academically. Throughout her studies, Corrine has consistently served as a strong advocate for Israel. She is excited to spend a semester living in Israel and learning more about the country firsthand while immersing herself into Israel's vibrant and dynamic society and culture.



ABIGAIL INGBER

Abigail Ingber is a Junior at the University of Michigan and will be spending Spring '19 semester studying at Tel Aviv University. Abigail has been active within Israel advocacy and engagement during her time on campus. She interned at the Jewish National Fund and felt extremely proud to strengthen her connection to her own Jewish heritage and Zionism through the experience. Abigail proudly states that "being a Zionist entails supporting the state of Israel and its future as the Jewish homeland".



JESSICA MATZ

Jessica Matz is also a Junior at the University of Michigan and will similarly be spending her Spring '19 semester at Tel Aviv University. Jessica has been involved with various Jewish and Zionist organizations as a teen, such as her local JCC, Young Judea, WIZO, and Maccabi Tzair. She states that "For Zionism to not just survive, but rather flourish in today's world, we must educate others about its philosophy. We should teach Jews and non-Jews alike about Zionism while also promoting Israel in a positive light, since many often have misconceptions about the Jewish state. This will generate more knowledge and awareness about Israel and turn bystanders into supporters, inviting more individuals to the conversation to advocate for Zionism and the right to a Jewish homeland."



RACHEL DUSHEY

Rachel Dushey graduated in 2014 Cum Laude from Boston University and studied abroad at the University of Haifa in 2013. She will be interning in Tel Aviv for five months within the Destination Israel Program. Rachel has been involved with various Jewish organizations in New York City including: JCC, Moishe House, Meor, as well as the American Sephardi Association. She says she is "very excited to return to Israel, a place where [she] truly feel at home, to continue to learn, share, and contribute to Israel's future. [She] can't wait to strengthen connections and build new ones between Israel and the rest of the world."

**All those who contributed to the conference:
Thank you for all your excellent work!**

Biennial Co-Chairs

Alicia Post

Ariana Heideman Tipograph

Yael Lubofsky

Toby Einsidler

Pop Printing

Zami Caterers

כָּל עוֹד בְּלִבֵּב פְּנִימָה
נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה
וּלְפָאֲתֵי מִזְרַח קַדִּימָה
עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה

Kol od ba'le'vav p'nima,
Nefesh yehudi ho'miyah.
U'lefa-atei mizrach kadimah,
Ayin le'Tziyyon tzofiyah.

עוֹד לֹא אָבְדָה תִּקְוַתֵּנוּ
הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שְׁנוֹת אֲלָפִים
לִהְיוֹת עִם חֻפְשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ
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.



