5th National Conference
March 21-24, 2015
Washington, DC
J Street is the political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans fighting for the future of Israel as the democratic homeland of the Jewish people. We believe that Israel’s Jewish and democratic character depends on a two-state solution, resulting in a Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace and security.

J Street Education Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It aims to educate targeted communities about the need for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to raise the visibility of a mainstream pro-Israel, pro-peace presence within the American Jewish community, as well as to promote open, dynamic and spirited conversation about how to best advance the interests and future of a democratic, Jewish Israel.
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As of March 12, 2015
WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS:

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As of March 12, 2015
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THE CHAPTER HUB
You can make a difference!

SALON ABC

Meet with J Street leaders from across the country taking action to build local support for an Israel that is both democratic and a homeland for the Jewish people, and for a two-state solution. Sign up for a chapter and learn about opportunities to bring our pro-Israel, pro-peace message to your Members of Congress and community.
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Washington Jewish Week
Vote for American representation at the World Zionist Congress!

These elections can impact policy and funding decisions, including those related to the occupation and settlements over the Green Line.

Visit the WZC voting booth in the exhibitor hall and make your voice heard!

J STREET STORE

Visit the J Street Store in Salon ABC

Don’t leave the J Street Conference empty-handed! Pick up a souvenir or gift at the J Street store. Let your friends and family know you’re pro-Israel, pro-peace.
SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Registration Opens
4:30 pm • Salon ABC

Doors Open
7:15 pm • Ballroom AB

Plenary Session
8 pm • Ballroom AB

A Clear Choice for a Better Future
This evening, we hear from courageous Israeli, Palestinian and American community leaders who have made a clear choice: not to give up in the fight for a better future.

Welcoming Remarks:
Morton H. Halperin, Chair, J Street Board of Directors

Roll Call:
J Street Leaders

Moment of Silence:
Bassam Aramin, Palestinian Spokesperson and Director of International Relations, The Parents Circle
Robi Damelin, Israeli Spokesperson and Director of International Relations, The Parents Circle

Remarks:
Jeremy Ben-Ami, President, J Street

Keynote Address:
Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union for Reform Judaism

Featured Speakers:
Roni Keidar, Activist, Other Voice; Resident of Netiv Ha'asara
Maha Mehanna, Gaza Office Coordinator and Senior Arabic/English Translator, Applied Information Management; Resident of Gaza

Dessert Reception
10 pm • South Pre-function
SUNDAY, MARCH 22

 aç  Breakfast aç

Chapter Leadership Breakfast
This session is closed to the press.
208AB
Come together with other J Street Chapter leaders for a special breakfast. This is an opportunity for J Street to show its appreciation for the people who are building successful chapters across the country. It will also be a chance for leaders to network, share successes and discuss challenges with one another.

 aç  Concurrent Sessions aç

Israel as a Neighbor: A Progressive Approach to Israeli National Security and Foreign Policy
Presented by the New Israel Fund
207A
Do Israelis feel more secure today than they did 20 years ago? Has the dependence on military options brought more security? Can Israel find a productive relationship with its moderate neighbors? Join the New Israel Fund for a discussion with leading Israeli security and foreign policy experts bringing a diplomatic, progressive breath of fresh air to Israel’s security conversation.

Panelists:
Brig. Gen. (ret.) Shlomo Brom, Visiting Fellow, Center for American Progress
Nimrod Goren, Chairman, Mitvim—The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies
Heather Hurlburt, Director, New Models of Policy Change, New American Foundation

Moderator: Libby Lenkinski, Vice President for Strategy

What Happens From Here? A Look at the Israeli Elections
202AB
With the Israeli election now behind us, this panel will draw on the experience of political analysts and Israeli politicians to look ahead at what happens now that the voting is over. How will Israel’s next government get formed and who is likely to exert influence on that process? What forces and interests are likely to drive the next Knesset? What is the next government likely to prioritize? What will be the implications of these elections for the Israel-US relationship and Israel’s broader international standing?

Panelists:
Nabila Espanioly, Activist, Hadash Party; Founding Member and Former Chair, Mossawa Center
Yoel Hasson, Candidate for Knesset, Hatnua Party (Zionist Union)
Guy Ziv, Assistant Professor American University School of International Service

Moderator: Chemi Shalev, US Editor and Correspondent, Haaretz
Chair: Benjamin Samuels, J Street President’s Council
**Beyond the Green Line**

**Can the Obstacle of Settlements be Overcome?**  
*Presented with Americans for Peace Now*

Over the past several years, the number of settlers in the West Bank has skyrocketed. At the same time, opposition to settlements from both Israelis and the international community has grown. It is widely accepted that settlements are a significant obstacle to lasting peace; the financial and moral costs are high, as are the potential security risks. Yet, despite popular opposition to settlements, strong political forces have successfully deterred Israeli leaders from curtailing, if not ending, the settlement enterprise. What is the creeping impact of continued construction, both in the settlement blocs and in the “distant” settlements, on this political calculus? Join Americans for Peace Now for a discussion with leading settlement experts on the cost of settlements and the question of whether it can be reversed.

**Panelists:**
- **Huda Abuarquob**, Regional Director, Alliance for Middle East Peace  
- **Lior Amihai**, Deputy Director, Settlements Watch, Shalom Achshav (Peace Now)  
- **Avshalom Vilan**, Former Member of Knesset, Meretz Party; President, Israel Farmers’ Federation

**Moderator:** **Debra DeLee**, President and CEO, Americans for Peace Now  
**Chair:** **Jim Klutznick**, Chair, Americans for Peace Now

**Beyond the Usual Suspects: Broadening the Israeli Peace Camp**

A frequent critique of the Israeli “peace camp” — those who campaign actively for a two-state solution as an urgent policy priority — is that it’s primarily made up of Ashkenazi, secular elites. Yet to make real progress in changing the political calculus in Israel, voices of other constituencies are needed as well. Why are the voices of Mizrachi, Haredi, Russian and Arab Israelis not often heard in the ranks of the “peace camp”? What are emerging and seasoned community leaders doing to address this gulf? To what extent can broadening the Israeli constituency for peace help move the ball forward in the next Knesset?

**Panelists:**
- **Noam Shuster**, Program Director, Interpeace  
- **Ksenia Svetlova**, Journalist and Commentator; Candidate for Knesset, Hatnua Party (Zionist Union)

**Moderator:** **Orly Noy**, Editor and Blogger, Local Call  
**Chair:** **David Thorpe**, J Street Finance Committee
How to Deal With Conflict When Talking About the Conflict

This session is closed to the press.

204C

In Israel, debate and dissent are seen as legitimate expressions of care and engagement in Israel’s vibrant political conversation. Even though Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people, such discussions about it in the American Jewish community often result in hurtful judgment and high emotions. Shutting down the conversation about an issue as central to our identity as Israel is not an option. How can we have constructive conversation about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that don’t end in a shouting match?

In this interactive workshop, participants will learn a proven approach to navigating such sensitive conversations—including how to side-step pitfalls and how to facilitate a more constructive discussion.

Presenter:
Stanley Wulf, J Street National Leadership Circle

Plenary Session

10–11:30 am • Ballroom AB

The Choices Ahead: Views from Israel

Five days after the Israeli election, hear from candidates and newly-elected Knesset members from several different parties about what is likely to happen next. What will the next coalition look like? What policies will it pursue at home and abroad? Will it be stable? Will it pursue peace—or will this government devote itself to expanding the settlements and undermining the Palestinian Authority? What kind of relationship will it have with the United States and the international community? Can it rebuild bipartisan support for Israel or will it allow the gaps with the pro-peace majority of American Jews to widen?

Keynote Address:
Member of Knesset Yaakov Peri, Yesh Atid Party;
Former Director, Israeli Security Agency; Former Minister of Science, Technology and Space

Yoel Hasson, Candidate for Knesset, Hatnua Party (Zionist Union)
Member of Knesset Ofer Shelach, Yesh Atid Party
Ksenia Svetlova, Journalist and Commentator; Candidate for Knesset, Hatnua Party (Zionist Union)
Member of Knesset Tamar Zandberg, Meretz Party

Panelists:
Member of Knesset Hilik Bar, Secretary General, Labor Party; former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset
Nabila Espanioly, Activist, Hadash Party; Founding Member and Former Chair, Mossawa Center

Moderator:
Aluf Benn, Managing Editor, Haaretz
Parents Circle Mural Open House

In the wake of the 2014 Gaza war, in the heart of Tel Aviv, the Parents Circle-Families Forum established the Peace Square—a makeshift space where they held vigil for 70 nights, from the outbreak of the war to International Peace Day. There, both Israelis and Palestinians shared their stories, facilitated dialogue and provided an alternative to hatred and violence.

The Peace Square Mural, conceptualized by artist Max Frieder, who was inspired by the anti-war, anti-violence Peace Square, began when bereaved Palestinians painted a canvas mural in Beit Jalla in the West Bank. The mural was completed by bereaved Israelis at the Peace Square in Tel Aviv. The mural was then displayed in the Peace Square as a strong and vivacious message of reconciliation and anti-violence.

The mural will be showcased at the United Nations following the conference in order to promote messages of dialogue, mutual understanding, nonviolence and reconciliation.

Join Bassam Aramin, Palestinian Spokesperson and Director of International Relations of The Parents Circle, and Robi Damelin, Israeli Spokesperson and Director of International Relations of The Parents Circle, alongside artist Max Frieder for an open house to learn more about the mural.

Lunch and Supplementary Sessions

11:45 am–12:45 pm

Lunch will be available for purchase in Salon ABC and on the East Overlook. The food carts will remain open from 11:15 am-6:30 pm.

Stay Tuned: Israeli Women Up Front

This session is closed to the press.

202AB

The J Street Women’s Leadership Forum will provide an update on women’s political activism in Israel, including the new Haredi women’s party, the new women Members of the Knesset and the new grassroots, non-partisan movement, Women Wage Peace. Let’s talk about how we can support women’s activism in Israel and build momentum in our American Jewish communities for getting to two states.

Presenters:
J Street Women’s Leadership Forum

Chair: Nancy Bernstein, J Street Board of Directors
Moderator: Molly Freeman, J Street Board of Directors

Please join us at 2:30 pm for our related session, Beyond the Green Line: Eroding the Dream—The Cost of the Occupation to Israeli Society.

Advocacy Day State Captain and Team Leader Training

This session is closed to the press.

207A

All Advocacy Day State Captains and Team Leaders must attend either this training or the identical session for state captains and team leaders on Monday, March 23. These sessions are in addition to the General Advocacy Day Training for their regions on Monday, March 23 at 10:30 am.

Israeli Meet-Up

This session is closed to the press.

204C

Are you an Israeli living in the US? As an Israeli, do you bring a special perspective or standing to J Street? Israeli supporters of J Street are invited to join us for a lunch-time discussion focusing on the role Israelis can play in the diaspora to help forward J Street’s pro-Israel, pro-peace mission. The discussion will take place in Hebrew. A light lunch will be provided.
Artistic Freedom and Israeli History: A Book Discussion
201

David K. Shipler, best-selling author and one of America’s most trenchant social commentators, is taking on this American ideal in his new book, Freedom of Speech: Mightier Than the Sword (out in May 2015). Through selected accounts of First Amendment invocation and infringement, he maps a rapidly shifting topography of political and cultural norms. Among his various case studies, Shipler unpacks the tensions over portrayals of Israel’s history at Washington’s Theater J. Shipler spent several years behind the scenes there watching artistic director Ari Roth struggle against political constraints to bring Washington audiences soul-searching plays, readings and discussions on Israel’s most acute problems. Shipler will talk about the difficult nobility of introspection by a society in conflict, and the utility of theater in provoking people to listen to narratives they would rather ignore.

Presenter:
David K. Shipler, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of seven books, including Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land

Chair: Stephen Stern, Co-Chair, J Street DC Metro

J Street U Presents: A Conversation with the Next Generation of Anti-Occupation Activists
This session is closed to the press.
207B

Join J Street U for a lunch discussion with leading grassroots activists who are advocating for justice and democratic rights in Israel and the future state of Palestine. We’ll examine how young leaders are reshaping progressive movements in the region. How new voices—especially those of traditionally underrepresented groups—are impacting the traditional “peace camp.” What does the future of anti-occupation work look like and what role should young Americans play? Join J Street U for this timely and critical conversation.

Panelists:
Lior Amihai, Deputy Director, Settlements Watch, Shalom Achshav (Peace Now)
Nader Jayousi, Peace Activist; Founder, Pal Vision for Sport
Noam Shuster, Program Director, Interpeace

Moderators: Kalyani Grad-Kaimal, George Washington University Class of 2017, Southeast Regional Co-Chair, J Street U; Sara Abramson, Vassar College Class of 2016; President, J Street U Vassar

An Insider’s Look at a Unique Israeli-Palestinian Publication
Presented by Palestine-Israel Journal
204AB

How is it possible to maintain, edit and publish a joint Israeli-Palestinian publication in a period of pessimism and despair both the Israeli-Palestinian societies, and in East Jerusalem, with its growing cycle of violence? What motivates the Israeli and Palestinian co-editors to continue this venture, together with 16 Israeli and 16 Palestinian members of the editorial board? We’ll get an insider’s look at the dynamics involved in such a joint publication: what sensitivities have to be overcome? How is an equal relationship maintained in an unequal reality?

Panelists:
Ziad AbuZayyad, Founder and Co-Editor, Palestine-Israel Journal
Yudith Oppenheimer, Executive Director, Ir Amim; Member, Editorial Board, Palestine-Israel Journal
Hillel Schenker, Co-Editor, Palestine-Israel Journal

Moderator: Lilly Rivlin, Filmmaker; Member of the Board, Partners for Progressive Israel

J Street U: High School Meet-Up
This session is closed to the press.
208B

Join J Street U for a discussion on the role of high school students in creating a new conversation in our communities and schools about Israel, a future state of Palestine and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We’ll talk about the role of students in effecting political and communal change and meet with national J Street U college leaders from across the country.
J Street U: Hillel Professionals and Israel Fellows Meet-Up
This session is closed to the press.
208A

Join J Street U staff and campus professionals from around the country for lunch and conversation. We’ll discuss how the political issues of the moment impact the conversations about Israel on campus, as well as develop strategies and ideas for collaboration. Our shared goal is to create more opportunities for deeper Israel engagement on campus. This session is open to all campus professionals.

J Street U Parent Session
This session is closed to the press.
Balcony of Ballroom A

Are you the proud parent of a J Street U student? If so, please join us to learn more about J Street U’s goals on campus and in the community, and how you can support your son or daughter’s involvement. We will discuss J Street U’s strategy for engaging the American Jewish community on campus and in communities across the country. You will be able to meet other parents who are curious about the work their students are doing and are searching for a way to get involved in the larger J Street movement. Don’t worry about grabbing lunch, as we will go down after the session!

Concurrent Sessions

Democracy Not Deals: Fighting Israel’s Hidden Corruption
Presented by the New Israel Fund
207B

The politics of the 19th Knesset stymied many anti-democratic measures proposed by the extreme right, but corruption in Israel persists. Money continues to flow secretly to settlements and to the nationalist school system, American tycoons control newspapers and political parties manipulate their primary elections. Join the New Israel Fund and some of our allies who are intent on taking back the political system from the backroom deals, hidden alliances and outright corruption threatening a free and open society.

Panelists:
Batya Kahana-Dror, Executive Director and Advocacy Coordinator, Mavoi Satum (Dead End)
Boaz Rakocz, Director General, Knesset Social Guard
Noam Sheizaf, Journalist and CEO, +972 Magazine

Moderator: Naomi Paiss, Vice President of Public Affairs, New Israel Fund

Gaza: The Human and Political Costs of Deprivation and Disunity
204AB

Following another devastating war with Israel and continued control by Hamas, the Gaza Strip dramatically demonstrates the desperate human need to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But Gaza is also a complicating factor in peace negotiations. Join experts on the stark political, humanitarian and economic realities in Gaza in examining what the future may hold for its Palestinian residents and the complications—and opportunities—the territory lends to efforts to resolve the underlying conflict.

Panelists:
Brig. Gen. (ret.) Shlomo Brom, Visiting Fellow, Center for American Progress
Maha Mehanna, Gaza Office Coordinator and Senior Arabic/English Translator, Applied Information Management; Resident of Gaza
Howard J. Sumka, USAID, Senior Foreign Service (ret.)

Moderator: Matt Duss, President, Foundation for Middle East Peace
Chair: Elianna Boswell, Yale University Class of 2017; Mid-Atlantic Regional Co-Chair, J Street U
**CHOICES FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

**Israel at a Crossroads**

Following the collapse last year of US-led peace negotiations, Israel stands at a crossroads. It can either continue down the path of the outgoing government, building settlements, shunning serious negotiations, cementing the occupation and deepening the country’s diplomatic isolation, or it can change course to resolve its conflict with the Palestinians and the Arab world through a two-state solution. Looking ahead, what options does Israel have for moving down that second path in the coming years? Can Israel re-engage the Palestinians in bilateral negotiations? What if the Palestinians are no longer interested in or capable of pursuing such a path? Are alternative unilateral or regional approaches more realistic?

**Panelists:**
- Aluf Benn, Managing Editor, Haaretz
- Member of Knesset Ofer Shelach, Yesh Atid Party
- Member of Knesset Tamar Zandberg, Meretz Party

**Moderator:** Moav Vardi, Diplomatic Correspondent, Israel Channel 10 News

**Chair:** Malke Frank; Co-Chair, J Street Pittsburgh

**Beyond the Green Line** sessions delve into issues of settlements and occupation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

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**BEYOND THE GREEN LINE**

**What Can the US and International Community Do About Settlements?**

*Presented with Americans for Peace Now*

**202AB**

There were only a handful of Israeli settlers beyond the Green Line in 1968, when Lyndon Johnson became the first American president to express opposition to settlements in the West Bank. Now, despite protest from every subsequent administration, there are more than 350,000 Israelis living in the West Bank and 200,000 in East Jerusalem. President Johnson’s prediction that settlements would “prejudice a peace settlement” has come true, as the dramatic rise of the settler movement—in both numbers and political power—has complicated repeated efforts to achieve a two-state solution. This session will bring together experts on American and European policy to explore what steps can be taken to halt further settlement growth and entrenchment, and discuss the political and policy implications of American and European initiatives—from discouragement of Israeli settlement subsidies to the labeling or boycott of settlement goods.

**Panelists:**
- Michael Cohen, Fellow, Century Foundation; Columnist, Boston Globe
- Lara Friedman, Director of Policy and Government Relations, Americans for Peace Now
- Alon Sachar, Former Senior Advisor, US Department of State

**Moderator:** Steven Krubiner, Chief of Staff, J Street

**Beyond the Green Line** sessions delve into issues of settlements and occupation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

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**TRAINING WORKSHOP**

**Moving Others Through Stories**

*This session is closed to the press.*

**204C**

Stories are the building blocks of successful organizing. Stories convey why each of us is called to act and challenge others to take a risk. They create community, convey urgency and impart shared values. All effective public figures tell stories—of themselves, of others, of what we can achieve together. In this workshop participants will learn the basic structure of “public narrative,” the art of telling one’s story in order to invite others into our work on Israel and challenge them to act together, with us, to achieve a two-state resolution.

**Presenter:**
- Daniel May, Former Director, J Street U; Co-Founder, If Not Now
Palestinian Efforts from the Ground Up
207A

In their effort to end the occupation and achieve self-determination, many Palestinian activists believe that conventional diplomacy aimed at achieving a two-state solution through negotiations is no longer sufficient to achieve their goals. This panel will explore different non-violent strategies and tactics that Palestinian communal, business and civil society leaders are pursuing. These leaders will discuss their different approaches to pursuing their rights and achieving peace—including building the institutions of statehood, promoting citizen diplomacy and promoting Palestinian rights and representation within Israel—as well as their perspectives on the current state of Palestinian public and political opinion.

Panelists:
Bassam Aramin, Palestinian International Relations Director, The Parents Circle
Bashar Azzeh, Chief Executive Officer, Jerusalem Business Forum
Nabila Espanioly, Activist, Hadash Party; Founding Member and Former Chair, Mossawa Center

Moderator: Samer Makhoul, Executive Director, OneVoice Palestine
Chair: Aaron Rice, J Street National Leadership Circle

Concurrent Sessions

The Iranian Nuclear Negotiations: The Political Challenges Ahead
202AB

Six major world powers and Iran have been engaged for 18 months in a diplomatic process aimed at achieving an agreement limiting Iran’s nuclear program. A deal on the nuclear program has the potential to alter the strategic landscape of the Middle East. An Iran without the capacity to threaten its neighbors with nuclear weapons would not only improve Israel’s security, but also open up a host of policy options for the United States in the region as it deals with the rise of ISIS, the disintegration of Syria and instability in Iraq. This panel will focus on the political dynamics shaping these negotiations and discuss the power struggles in and between the United States, Israel, the Arab world and Iran that have encouraged, imperiled and delayed a comprehensive agreement.

Panelists:
Brig. Gen. (ret.) Shlomo Brom, Visiting Fellow, Center for American Progress
Suzanne DiMaggio, Senior Fellow, New America Foundation; Director, Iran Initiative
Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering, Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Policy, Brookings Institution
Moderator: Negar Mortazavi, Iranian-American Journalist
Chair: Peter Frey, Co-Chair, J Street NYC

What Just Happened? A Look at the Israeli Elections
207A

An intense and suspenseful Israeli election season has just come and gone. Looking back, what were the defining issues and trends of the campaign? Who rose, who fell and who surprised? What factors explain the outcome—and what can they teach us? A panel of politicians, campaign strategists and commentators will discuss.

Panelists:
Aluf Benn, Managing Editor, Haaretz
David Eichenbaum, Partner, Struble Eichenbaum Communications
Member of Knesset Tamar Zandberg, Meretz Party
Moderator: Lisa Goldman, Contributing Editor, +972 Magazine
Chair: Yuval Lion, J Street Finance Committee
BEYOND THE GREEN LINE

Eroding the Dream—The Cost of the Occupation to Israeli Society
207B

Since 1967, the occupation has had an insidious and damaging impact on Israeli society. This session will examine the dangers and the price Israelis pay for perpetuating the status quo. It will explore the economic consequences of the settlement enterprise and how these costs relate to reduced support for social services, education and healthcare. It will delve into the effects of persistent militarization, the assault on democratic principles, the social and psychological impact citizens experience on a daily basis and the complicated second-class status of Palestinian citizens of Israel. This discussion will add texture to your understanding of the occupation as the primary existential threat to Israel.

Panelists:
Huda Abuarquob, Regional Director, Alliance for Middle East Peace
Robi Damelin, Israeli Spokesperson and Director of International Relations, The Parents Circle
Noam Shuster, Program Director, Interpeace

Moderator: Anat Saragusti, Journalist, Blogger, Women Wage Peace
Chair: Joanna Goodwin Friedman, J Street Board of Directors

Beyond the Green Line sessions delve into issues of settlements and occupation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The Pro-Israel, Pro-Peace Movement: Looking Back, Looking Forward
204AB

The present state of diplomatic efforts to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict leaves many in the pro-Israel, pro-peace camp wondering what exactly can be done by American activists. We care deeply about Israelis and Palestinians, and we recognize that the occupation and rapidly expanding settlements are eroding the Jewish and democratic nature of the state of Israel. What are the next steps and strategies for American pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-democracy activists and the organizations that they work through? What has worked so far, and what new tactics and ideas should we pursue? In what ways have we failed or missed opportunities—and how can we improve? Leaders of some of the major organizations in the pro-Israel, pro-peace movement will share their thoughts and discuss the latest efforts to promote peace and justice for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

Panelists:
Jeremy Ben-Ami, President, J Street
Kenneth Bob, National President, Ameinu
Debra DeLee, President and CEO, Americans for Peace Now
Libby Lenkinski, Vice President for Strategy

Moderators: Maya Berkman, Wesleyan Class of 2016, J Street U Northeast Regional Co-Chair; Benjy Cannon, University of Maryland Class of 2015; J Street U President

TRAINING WORKSHOP

Responding to the Toughest Questions
This session is closed to the press.
204C

The reason we get so many tough questions is because we work on such a tough issue. When talking about Israel's future security and character, we run into deep emotions—both our own and others.’ How can we effectively answer tough questions without closing down conversation? Hint: you don’t need to be a Middle East expert to be able to speak about our issue.

In this workshop, participants will learn tools for answering some of the tougher questions they’ve been asked. They’ll come away feeling ready to invite others into our work.

Presenters:
Jessica Rosenblum, Director of Communications and Media Relations, J Street
Kate Press, New York Regional Director and Deputy National Field Director, J Street
Is There a Regional Peace Process on the “Diplomatic Horizon?”

After last summer’s conflict in Gaza, Prime Minister Netanyahu announced that “regional change” in the Middle East was creating a “diplomatic horizon,” echoing calls from across the Israeli political spectrum that a regional peace process with Arab partners might replace the traditional Israeli-Palestinian approach. Some, like Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, have urged Israel to embrace the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, which promises full Arab normalization with Israel if a two-state peace agreement is reached. Others have argued that common interests in confronting Iran and ISIS demand that formal Israeli-Arab cooperation precede any resolution of the Palestinian issue. Given recent instability across the Arab world, what opportunities exist for a regional process? Is it all talk, or could it provide the breakthrough that the peace camp has been waiting for?

Introductory Remarks:
Walid Salem, Director, Center for Democracy and Community Development

Panelists:
Saeb Erekat, Chief Negotiator, PLO
Member of Knesset Yaakov Peri, Yesh Atid Party; Former Director, Israeli Security Agency; Former Minister of Science, Technology, and Space

Moderator: Nadia Bilbassy-Charters, Chief Correspondent, Al Arabiya

Chair: Howard Dickstein, J Street Board of Directors

Does Liberal Zionism Have a Future?

This summer, an article in The New York Times Magazine declared the end of liberal Zionism. “Liberal Zionists,” it posited, “embrace Israel as the Jewish state. For it to remain so, they insist it must have a Jewish majority in perpetuity. Yet to achieve this inevitably implies policies of exclusion and discrimination.” It concluded that the only solution to the conflict is a joint Israeli-Palestinian movement to attain human, civil and political rights and the full equality they imply. In other words, Liberal Zionists embrace a two-state solution that is no longer compatible with liberal values, therefore Liberal Zionism is over.

Is Liberal Zionism over? Are liberal values compatible with a two-state solution? Should the issues of liberal Zionism and the issue of a two-state solution to the conflict be linked or are these separate questions entirely? Leaders and experts discuss.

Panelists:
Peter Beinart, Contributing Editor, The Atlantic and National Journal; Senior Fellow, New America Foundation
Marcia Freedman, Former Member of Knesset; Founding President, Brit Tzedek v’Shalom
Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah
Noam Sheizaf, Founder and Editor, +972 Magazine

Moderator:
Daniel Levy, Middle East Director, European Council on Foreign Relations

Plenary Session

4–5:30 pm • Ballroom AB
**Mincha**

Mechizta: 208AB  Egalitarian: 201

**J STREET U Student Plenary Session**

5:45–8:15 pm  • 202AB

The Student Session is required programming for all students attending the conference.

Meet the 1000 students at the National Conference and get to know J Street U and our student-led advocacy work. Across the country, students organizing with J Street U are fundamentally shifting the conversations about Israel on their campuses and impacting the political dynamics around Israel and the future state of Palestine. This session will delve into a discussion of our responsibility as students to engage our communities and hold our leaders accountable to our vision for diplomacy, security, human rights, and peace. Please see your student conference insert for more information.

**Featured Speakers:**

Bashar Azzeh, Chief Executive Officer, Jerusalem Business Forum

Member of Knesset Tamar Zandberg, Meretz Party

**Offsite Gatherings**

**T’ruah and J Street Rabbinic Cabinet Happy Hour**

5:45–7:30 pm  
Sixth and I Synagogue, 600 I St., NW

T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights and J Street’s Rabbinic Cabinet invite you to join us for a happy hour. Come meet rabbinic leaders from both organizations. Complimentary drinks and light food will be served. Conveniently located just around the block from the Convention Center. Open to all. Questions? Stop by T’ruah’s information booth at the in the exhibit hall, find J Street’s Rabbinic Director Rabbi Jonah Geffen or visit truah.org.

**Young Professionals Bar Night**

8 pm  
Sponsored by J Street and the New Israel Fund

Sixth Engine, 438 Massachusetts Ave., NW

Are you a young professional? Love Israel? Love peace? Join J Street’s young professionals and NIF’s New Gen for a bar night. Meet new friends and enjoy your first drink on us while they last.

**LGBT Meet-Up**

8:30 pm  
Co-sponsored by our friends from A Wider Bridge

Ping Pong Dim Sum, 900 7th St., NW

Are you a member of the LGBT community? Join us for some social time. Meet your peers from across the country who share our pro-Israel, pro-peace values. Light refreshments served and enjoy your first drink on us*.

*while drink tickets last
### J Street Delegation Meet-Ups

Conference participants from selected delegations are invited to regional social meet-ups at the conference. Come meet others from your hometown or region and learn about the work being done to advance J Street’s mission locally. Food and drinks will be available for purchase at each event.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>J Street Pacific Northwest Chapters Happy Hour</td>
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<td>J Street California Chapters Happy Hour</td>
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<td>J Street South Chapters Happy Hour</td>
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<td>City Tap House 901 9th St., NW</td>
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<td>J Street Midwest Chapters Happy Hour</td>
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<td>La Tasca 722 7th St., NW</td>
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<td>J Street Philadelphia and South Jersey Chapter Happy Hour</td>
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<td>Poste Brasserie 555 8th St., NW</td>
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<td>J Street DC Metro Chapter Happy Hour</td>
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<td>Busboys and Poets 1025 5th St., NW</td>
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<td>J Street Texas Chapters Happy Hour</td>
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<td>J Street New England Chapters Dinner</td>
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<td>J Street Pittsburgh Chapter Dinner</td>
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<td>Royal Thai Cuisine &amp; Bar 507 H St., NW</td>
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<td>J Street Baltimore Chapter Dinner</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Carmine’s 425 7th St., NW</td>
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This session is closed to the press.

All Advocacy Day State Captains and Team Leaders must attend either this training or the identical session for state captains and team leaders on Sunday, March 22nd. These sessions are in addition to the General Advocacy Day Training for their regions on Monday, March 23rd at 10:30 am.

** Concurrent Sessions **

** Text Study: How Do We Understand Jewish Values?**
*Presented by the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America*
208AB

When we speak about ethics, justice and values, what are we really talking about? Come delve deeper into the roots of Jewish values in this two-part series, and explore ways to apply those values to our work.

** Part I: Justice and Jewish Values in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

We often take for granted that we know what justice means from a Jewish, humanist, or moral point of view. This session will examine the different types of justice that are reflected in Jewish tradition, provide participants with an opportunity to think about how they translate into real-world situations, and push participants to reflect on their own assumptions about their definitions of justice.

**Presenter:**
Yehuda Kurtzer, President, Shalom Hartman Institute of North America

**Chair:** Noa Kushner, Founding Rabbi, The Kitchen; Member, J Street Rabbinic Cabinet

** J Street, Can We Hold it Together?**
207B

At J Street’s first national conference skeptics wondered aloud if a viable pro-Israel, pro-peace movement could be built and can hold together over time. They questioned whether a politically diverse coalition—combining those bringing primarily their concern for Israel’s security and those moved foremost by upset over the occupation—could work together with those in between to build the numbers necessary under a pro-Israel banner to change the politics on Israel in this country. Six years later—after three escalations in Gaza, two failed US-led peace initiatives and the continued rightward drift in Israel’s politics—we revisit the question: can J Street balance the demands of its left and right flanks and continue to build an ever more potent and coherent political force? What will it take to do so?

**Panelists:**
Lisa Goldman, Contributing Editor, +972 Magazine
Rachel A. Lerner, Senior Vice President for Community Relations, J Street
Daniel May, Former Director, J Street U; Co-Founder, If Not Now

**Moderator:** Ron Kampeas, Washington Bureau Chief, JTA

**Chair:** Mark Zivin, Chair, J Street Chicago
The Rise of European Anti-Semitism
204AB

The past 12 months have seen some terrifying acts of anti-Semitism in France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and elsewhere in Europe, which spiked during the military confrontation between Israel and Hamas and then culminated with the shocking murders of hostages in a kosher supermarket in Paris. Jewish leaders do not recall such levels of venom and hatred since the Holocaust. French President Francois Hollande said: “It is indeed an appalling anti-Semitic act that was committed.” This panel examines the roots of this phenomenon and asks: Is this a reemergence of deeply-ingrained historical hatred of Jews or is it something new? How much is driven by alienated young Muslim immigrants? Can European Jewish communities survive or are we seeing the slow death of Jewish life in Europe?

Panelists:
Ambassador Gérard Araud, Ambassador of France to the United States
David Cesarani, History Professor, Royal Holloway, University of London
Megan Doherty, Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund
Giorgio Gomel, Member of the Board, JCall Europe

Moderator: Alan Elsner, Vice President for Communications, J Street
Chair: Talia Benamy, Co-Chair, J Street NYC

Old Conflicts and New Developments on the Temple Mount
Presented by Ir Amim
207A

The Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif may be the most highly emotionally charged symbol of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is no coincidence that the second intifada began here. But why, after years since of relative quiet has the Mount again become a flashpoint for religious and nationalistic tensions? This panel will address the growing political influence of messianic groups, increasing support for their activities from within the Israeli political establishment, and the way they have integrated the language of equal rights into their messaging. What is the relationship of the Temple Mount to recent violence in Jerusalem? Is the conflict over the Mount a microcosm of the conflict at large? What issues does it raise about the Jewishness of the Jewish state and the growing challenge of managing national-religious tensions in Israel?

Panelists:
Ziad AbuZayyad, Founder and Co-Editor, Palestine-Israel Journal
Yudith Oppenheimer, Executive Director, Ir Amim
Ophir Pines Paz, Director, Institute for the Study of Local Government, Tel Aviv University

Moderator: Menachem Klein, Professor, Bar Ilan University; Visiting Fellow, King’s College London

Choices for a Better Future
What’s Next for Palestinian Leadership?
202AB

After last summer’s crisis in Gaza, the face of Palestinian leadership appears increasingly fractured—with Fatah and Hamas each struggling to find a message and a course of action that addresses the Palestinian people’s desire for self-determination and dignity. As the international community refuses to deal with Hamas and President Mahmoud Abbas enters the twilight of his career, what lies ahead for Palestinian leadership? Is seeking recognition from international forums a useful tool and what are its costs? What other strategies are in play? How solid is the Palestinian Authority and what might happen if it were to collapse?

Panelists:
Huda Abuarquob, Regional Director, Alliance for Middle East Peace
Bashar Azzeh, Chief Executive Officer, Jerusalem Business Forum
Khaled Elgindy, Fellow, Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings

Moderator: Muna Shikaki, Correspondent, Al-Arabiya
Chair: Elaine Reuben, J Street President’s Council

Choices for a Better Future sessions explore the crucial choices facing American, Israeli and Palestinian leaders.
BEYOND THE GREEN LINE

Follow the Money—American Philanthropic Dollars and the Future of a Two-State Solution
Presented by J Street U with Americans for Peace Now

Since before the founding of Israel, American philanthropic dollars have significantly influenced realities on the ground in the region. In March 2014, the Jewish Daily Forward released a report highlighting the hundreds of millions of dollars that the American Jewish community raises for Israel, as well as the sometimes opaque nature of where that money ends up. While major Jewish and non-Jewish financial contributions to projects beyond the Green Line are well-established, there remain many questions about the impact of these dollars. What are the policies of communal Jewish charity organizations like Federations towards funding programs across the Green Line? Is there transparency over the allocation of communal charity for Israel? What role do American contributions have on settlement projects and the future of a two-state solution? Join us to explore how American charitable giving is impacting the future of Israel and the Palestinian territory.

Panelists:
Kenneth Bob, National President, Ameinu
Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Executive Director, TRUAH: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Menachem Leibovic, Deputy Director, Jewish National Fund
Sarah Anne Minkin, Post-Doctoral Student, University of California-Berkeley

Moderators: Hannah Nayowith, Carleton College Class of 2016; Co-Chair, J Street U Carleton; Rachael Stryer, Stanford University Class of 2017; Northwest Regional Co-Chair, J Street U

Beyond the Green Line sessions delve into issues of settlements and occupation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

TRAINING WORKSHOP

Our Future, Our Choice: Get Engaged In Your Community
This session is closed to the press.

204C

You’ve made the choice. You are committing or recommitting to work to ensure that our country and our communities oppose a continuing occupation that erodes Israel’s security, democracy, morality and Jewish character. In this workshop, we will explore two new J Street initiatives: the Green Line Maps Project initiated by the Rabbinic Cabinet, and the Transparency Project spearheaded by J Street U. We will also discuss J Street’s local political lobbying efforts and how you can change the conversation in your own community. Whether you are a seasoned chapter leader or just thinking about getting involved, this workshop is for you.

Presenters:
Amos Buhai, Southwest Regional Director, J Street
Josh Friedes, Director of Regional Operations and Strategy, J Street
**Advocacy Day Training**

10:30 am–12 pm

Everything you need to know for Advocacy Day. Attendance is mandatory for all Advocacy Day participants. Please attend only the training for your region, below:

*These sessions are closed to the press.*

### Midwest, PA-Great Lakes and New York

201

**States:** Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin

### Northeast, Northwest and Southeast

204AB

**States:** Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington state and Northern California (CA 1–CA 20)

### Southwest, Mountain West and Capitol Region

202AB

**States:** Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming and Southern California (CA 21–CA 53)

**Supplementary Sessions**

12:15–1:15 pm

Lunch will be available for purchase in Salon ABC and on the East Overlook. The food carts will remain open from 10 am–2 pm.

### Community and Youth Group Meet-Ups

This session is closed to the press.

12–12:45 pm

*Bring your lunch and meet at the J Street U Chapter table in Salon ABC.*

Were you active in a youth group such as NFTY, USY, Young Judea, Habonim Dror or Hashomer Hatzair? Join conference participants of all ages for mini meet-ups with others involved in similar organizations. Meet for lunch and critical conversations led by J Street U student leaders about how to utilize our communal connections to drive forward pro-Israel, pro-peace work.

### Rabbinic Lunch: Who Speaks for the Jews?

208AB

Join J Street’s Rabbinic Cabinet for a lunch and learn with Yehuda Kurtzer, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America.

*This lunch is open to rabbis, cantors, rabbinical students and cantorial students only. Kosher sandwiches will be served.*
**Lives in Common—Arabs and Jews in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Hebron: A Book Discussion**

202AB

History shows that Jews and Arabs can live together in mixed cities. Menachem Klein’s new book, *Lives in Common*, examines this history, taking the reader on a fascinating journey through the streets of the ethnically mixed cities of Jerusalem, Jaffa and Hebron—revealing the untold stories of touching daily encounters between Jews and Arabs in the last 150 years. Despite these intertwined narratives, why do so many claim exclusivity in the land today? And, looking forward, how will the two-state solution translate past experiences into both the present and future of Israel and Palestine? Join us for a lively discussion of this book, which was ranked number four on the *Christian Science Monitor*’s list of best books in November 2014.

**Panelists:**
- Huda Abuarquob, Regional Director, Alliance for Middle East Peace
- Joel Braunold, US Director, Alliance for Middle East Peace
- Ned Lazarus, Visiting Assistant Professor of International Affairs

**Moderator:** Melanie Greenberg, President, Alliance for Peacebuilding

**People to People: Is It Just Nice or Also Necessary?**

*Presented by the Alliance for Middle East Peace and the Alliance for Peacebuilding*

204AB

In addition to diplomatic efforts to promote peace over the past two decades, dozens of civil society organizations have convened Israelis and Palestinians to pursue scores of joint projects to build a better future. With over 80 NGO’s, the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) is one of the main conveners for the people-to-people movement in Israel and Palestine, creating a sense of community among their members and a platform for cooperation and partnership. In the US, ALLMEP advocates on Capitol Hill for the movement and has successfully garnered over $70 million in funding. What is the point of all of this? Is the people-to-people movement just a feel-good band-aid while the conflict rages on? Or is the movement a necessary part of any solution?

**Panelists:**
- Kenneth Bob, Member, Radical Jewish Union; Former President, Habonim; President, Ameinu; Member, J Street Board of Directors
- Cherie Brown, Member, Radical Jewish Community; Training Director, Shalom Network; Member, New Jewish Agenda Board of Directors; Vice President, Brit Tzedek v’Shalom
- Rachel Cohen, Former Member, J Street U National Board; Writing Fellow, *The American Prospect*
- Robbie Skeist, Founding Member, Chutzpah Jewish Liberation Collective; Founding President, Chicago Friends of Peace Now

**Moderator:** Aliza Becker, Director, American Jewish Peace Archive: *An Oral History of Activists for Israeli-Palestinian Peace*
**Disruptive Media: Changing the Conversation in the Israeli-Palestinian Context**

FRUSTRATED WITH THE WAY THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT IS COVERED IN THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA? JOIN US TO LEARN HOW CITIZEN JOURNALISTS, BLOGGERS AND NEW MEDIA IN ISRAEL ARE RESHAPING MAINSTREAM CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ISSUES OF INEQUALITY, OCCUPATION, HUMAN RIGHTS AND NON-VIOLENCE. WHERE CAN WE FIND VOICES THAT CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO? HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT SOURCES TO TRUST? IS THERE A “BALANCED” WAY TO COVER THE CONFlict? WHAT ROLE CAN EMERGING INDEPENDENT PLATFORMS IN ISRAEL PLAY IN BOLSTERING FREE SPEECH AND CHALLENGING TOP-DOWN NARRATIVES?

**Panelists:**
- Ronit Avni, Founder and Former Executive Director, Just Vision
- Orly Noy, Co-Editor, Local Call
- Noam Sheizaf, Founder and Editor, +972 Magazine

**Moderator:** Muna Shikaki, Correspondent, Al-Arabiya

**Chair:** Jackson Holtz, Advocacy Chair, J Street Seattle

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**Plenary Session**

1:30–4 pm • Ballroom AB

**Policy Perspectives: Finding a Way Forward**

**Keynote Address:**
US Administration speaker to be announced

**Featured Address:**
- The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, Representative from Illinois
- The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, Representative from Illinois

**Panel Discussion:**
- Member of Knesset Hilik Bar, Secretary General, Labor Party; former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset
- Saeb Erekat, Chief Negotiator, PLO
- Ambassador Martin S. Indyk, Vice President and Director for Foreign Policy, Brookings Institution

**Moderator:**
- Ethan Bronner, Managing Editor, International News, Bloomberg
**Concurrent Sessions**

**Tapping Into a Better Future: Water Across Borders**  
*Presented by EcoPeace Middle East*  
207B

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict’s effect on the region’s environment is one of the least talked about issues in the Israeli public, despite the health and security implications it has for both Israelis and Palestinians. Water in particular has been held hostage to the parties’ inability to reach final status agreements for the past two decades. As a result, transboundary water resources are inequitably and unsustainably allocated. Water and sanitation issues are at the heart of the once again rising tensions in Gaza, posing a serious threat to public health and regional stability. Can a resolution to the water issue move forward despite the lack of a formal political process? How can the Israeli and Palestinian governments take on water issues in a way that strengthens moderate forces and rebuilds trust in joint initiatives? Does the American government have a role to play in helping to facilitate cross-border cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians to improve the shared water reality?

**Panelists:**  
*The Honorable Earl Blumenauer*, Representative from Oregon  
*Yoel Hasson*, Candidate for Knesset, Hatnua Party (Zionist Union)

**Moderator:**  
*Mary Alexander*, Chair, International Advisory Committee, EcoPeace Middle East  
**Chair:**  
*Robert Stein*, J Street Board of Directors

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**How Can the American Jewish Community Advocate for Two States?**  
201

While many Jewish communal organizations express public support for a two-state solution, too often they stop short of translating that support into action. This panel will explore the choices that synagogues, organizations and campuses face in deciding whether, how and when to actively push a two-state agenda. What are the stumbling blocks to “walking the walk,” and can they be overcome? If one presumes that there is the will to promote two states, what role could the American Jewish community play in addressing the existential threat to Israel posed by the lack of a two-state resolution to the conflict? And what would it take for Jewish communal leaders to take action?

**Panelists:**  
*Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater*, Senior Rabbi, Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center  
*Geri D. Palast*, Managing Director, JFNA/JCPA Israel Action Network  
*Rabbi Josh Weinberg*, President, Association of Reform Zionists of America

**Moderators:**  
*Ariella Hohl*, Columbia University/Jewish Theological Seminary Class of 2017; Co-Chair J Street U Columbia  
*Jacob Kraus*, Macalester College Class of 2015; Regional Co-Chair, J Street U Midwest Chair  
**Chair:**  
*Gaby Tolchinsky*, J Street National Leadership Circle

*Choices for a Better Future* sessions explore the crucial choices facing American, Israeli and Palestinian leaders.
**Pragmatic Middle Ground or Political Food Fight? Middle East Peacemaking and the 2016 Elections**

207A

With the 2016 presidential elections looming, both political parties are debating their respective foreign policy platforms. On the Republican side, neoconservatives are battling with isolationists over America’s international focus. Meanwhile, on the Democratic side, anti-war activists are debating the limits of the president’s military authority with interventionists. Will these debates result in a pragmatic middle ground favorable to Middle East peacemaking, or will a polarized conversation on foreign policy further impede efforts to achieve an Israeli-Palestinian accord? Could we see bipartisan cooperation between those who, despite being in different parties, hold similar views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? How might these debates impact US involvement in the Middle East? Join leading political minds from both sides of the aisle to discuss these questions and more.

**Panelists:**
- Joseph Bahout, Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- Marina Ottaway, Senior Scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- François Rivasseau, Deputy Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to the United States
- Ksenia Svetlova, Journalist and Commentator; Candidate for Knesset, Hatnua Party (Zionist Union)

**Moderator:** Rebecca Abou-Chedid, Fellow and Co-Chair, Middle East and North Africa Working Group, Truman National Security Project

**Chair:** Maida Schifter, J Street Finance Committee

**Going Global: Palestine at the UN and ICC**

204AB

In the first few months of 2015, Palestinians have taken their quest for statehood to the international arena, putting the 2014 negotiations with Israel behind them. 2014 ended with a failed resolution at the United Nations Security Council, quickly followed by a bid to join the International Criminal Court. Such acts have been met by Israel withholding tax receipts it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority and some in Congress urging an end to US aid for the Palestinians. What do the Palestinians hope to achieve through this strategy? What are the legal and procedural hurdles to the Palestinians’ approach to the ICC? Why are Israel and many of its supporters concerned about an ICC investigation? Could these controversial moves bring a Palestinian state closer? Or will they only create more roadblocks?

**Panelists:**
- Saeb Erekat, Chief Negotiator, PLO
- Member of Knesset Hilik Bar, Secretary General, Labor Party; former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset
- Diane Orentlicher, Professor of International Law, American University

**Moderator:** Dylan Williams, Vice President of Government Affairs, J Street

**Chair:** Evan Aptaker, J Street President’s Council

**Arab Spring, ISIS Fall?**

202AB

Beginning in December 2010, pro-reform activists took to the streets across the Middle East and North Africa demanding political and economic change. However, more than four years and several regime changes later, what’s truly different? The political landscape in Egypt has returned to the status quo, a civil war rages on in Syria, and the rise of the Islamic State has not only re-upped the threat of terrorism in the region but brought the violence closer to home for Americans and other Westerners. Did the wave of democracy-minded demonstrations achieve anything positive? Or has it simply paved the way for extremist groups to take control? And what does the current state of the region mean for Israel’s security and the prospects for a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli conflicts?
Text Study: How Do We Understand Jewish Values?
Presented by Shalom Hartman Institute of North America
208AB

When we speak about ethics, justice and values, what are we really talking about? Come delve deeper into the roots of Jewish values in this two-part series; and explore ways to apply those values to our work.

Part II: The Ethics of Self-Preservation
Questions of security dominate and often obscure the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with the voices of security experts given prominence and a prevailing sensibility that the morality of self-preservation is secondary—either taken for granted, or irrelevant. This session will explore the moral responsibilities and obligations of self-preservation in the Jewish tradition, and will ask how this moral consideration can help to animate the contemporary political conversation.

Presenter: Yehuda Kurtzer, President, Shalom Hartman Institute of North America
Chair: Rabbi Amy Small, Founder and Director, Deborah’s Palm Center For Jewish Learning And Experiences; National Co-Chair; J Street Rabbinic Cabinet

Mincha
Mechizta: 208AB Egalitarian: 201

Gala Dinner Reception
6:30–7:30 pm • South Pre-function

Gala Dinner
7:30–10 pm • Ballroom AB

This is a ticketed event.

2015 J. Zel Lurie Tzedek v’Shalom Award
Charles C. Kremer, Member, J Street Board of Directors and President, Access Leasing Corporation
Joanna Goodwin Friedman, Member, J Street Board of Directors and President, Middle East Peace Dialogue Network
Richard C. Goodwin, Member, J Street Advisory Council and Chairman, Middle East Peace Dialogue Network

Keynote Address:
The Honorable James A. Baker, III, 61st US Secretary of State

Special Guest Speaker:
Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers

The program will also feature:
Ethan Bronner, Managing Editor, International News, Bloomberg
Ambassador William J. Burns, President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Noam Shuster, Program Director, InterPeace
TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Advocacy Day Kick-Off 8:30–10 am • 2226 Rayburn House Office Building
Advocacy Day participants who are free at this time are invited to enjoy a light breakfast while hearing from Members of Congress and fellow J Street leaders.

Please allow for an additional 20-30 minutes in your commute due to Capitol Hill security screening.

Appointments with Member Offices 9 am–2 pm • Capitol Hill
Advocacy Day participants should consult their individual schedules for meeting times and locations.

Congressional meetings are closed to the press.

Exploring the Impact of the Recent Israeli Elections on US Foreign Policy 12–1 pm
Senate Visitors Center, Room 201
Last week’s elections in Israel will undoubtedly have significant impact on the prospects for a two-state solution and even potentially on the US-Israel relationship. Join leading experts in a discussion of the character of the forthcoming Israeli government and of its likely policies? Should we expect a shift in US policy towards Israel following the election or in Israeli relations with the White House or Congress?

Panelists:
Zack Beauchamp, World Correspondent, Vox
Tamara Cofman Wittes, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings Institution
Ilan Goldenberg, Senior Fellow and Director of the Middle East Security Program at the Center for a New American Security

Moderator: Dylan Williams, Vice President of Government Affairs, J Street

Please be aware that the easiest way to get to the Senate Visitors Center is above ground through the main entrances to the Capitol Visitors Center (East Capitol St., NE & First St., SE). This will require going through security a second time. Please budget time accordingly.
PLATINUM PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

PREMIER PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

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PLATINUM PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Abraham Fund Initiatives is a not-for-profit organization working since 1989 to promote coexistence and equality among Israel’s Jewish and Arab-Palestinian citizens. Named after the common ancestor of both Jews and Arabs, The Abraham Fund works toward a prosperous, secure and just society by promoting policies based on innovative social models, conducting large-scale initiatives, advocacy and public education.

Ameinu, Hebrew for “Our People,” is a national, multi-generational community of progressive American Jews. Recognizing the unbreakable bond between the Jewish people and Israel, Ameinu seeks to mobilize American Jews who seek opportunities to foster social and economic justice both in Israel and the United States. As Zionists, Ameinu understands that a secure peace between Israel and its neighbors is essential to the survival of a democratic Jewish state, and to that end it builds support within the American Jewish community for a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Ameinu is the leading progressive Zionist membership organization in the United States. Through its local, national and online activities, it provides community for college students, baby boomers and veteran activists.

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam (NSWAS) encourages, supports and publicizes the work of NSWAS, the “Oasis of Peace.” For over 35 years, NSWAS—the only community where Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel have chosen to live together and share decision-making and a life of peace and equality—has been dedicated to dialogue, cooperation and a genuine and durable peace between Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis. NSWAS is home to three important educational institutions: the first-in-the-nation bilingual/binational Primary School, the School for Peace, the Pluralistic Spiritual Community Center, Youth Center and new World Peace College.

Americans for Peace Now (APN), the sister organization of Israel’s Peace Now movement, is a leading non-partisan American Jewish organization that advocates in Washington and beyond for security for Israel through peace with its neighbors. Positions long advocated by APN—such as the evacuation of settlements and the creation of a Palestinian state—are now recognized by most Israelis and Americans as basic requirements for Israel’s future as a Jewish state and a democracy, and as a key US national security interest.

Breaking the Silence is an organization of veteran combatants that served in the Israeli military who work to expose the realities of life in the occupied territories to the Israeli public. Breaking the Silence endeavors to stimulate public debate about the moral implications of military control over a civilian population. Discharged soldiers who return to civilian life discover the gap between the reality that they encountered in the territories and the silence that they face at home regarding this reality. While many soldiers are compelled to suppress what they have seen and done, we strive to make their voices heard, encouraging Israeli society to face the reality it has enabled.

Geneva Initiative provides realistic and achievable solutions to all issues of the conflict, based on previous official negotiations, international resolutions and peace initiatives. In addition to presenting a detailed blueprint for Israeli-Palestinian peace, the Geneva Initiative educates and campaigns, both locally and internationally, and reaches out to select target groups, including those groups that are traditionally left out of the discussion. Geneva Initiative believes that it is in the best interest of Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate directly in order to reach a realistic, dignified and sustainable two-state solution in which both peoples can build a brighter future.

Mosaic Theater Company of DC makes powerful, transformational art, producing plays by authors on the frontlines of conflict zones, providing audiences with a dynamic new venue for the dramatizing and debating of ideas, creating rich seasons of contemporary work and an annual intercultural festival, like our acclaimed Voices From a Changing Middle East series. We broaden our interactions with the art through a multitude of lenses, offering a variety of artistic responses and discussion platforms. Mosaic brings communities from across our region to encounter our shared humanity. We contribute to broader civic conversations with a concern for heritage and the health of our homeland informed by respect for our artists’ vigorous, sensitive, uncensored portraits. For more information go to www.mosaictheater.org.

New Israel Fund (NIF) is the leading organization committed to equality and democracy for all Israelis. It is a partnership of Israelis and supporters of Israel worldwide who are dedicated to a vision of Israel as both the Jewish homeland and a shared society at peace with itself and its neighbors. NIF strengthens organizations and
leaders that work to achieve equality for all citizens of the state; realize the civil and human rights of all, including Arab citizens of Israel; recognize and reinforce the essential pluralism of Israeli society; and empower groups on the economic margins of Israeli society.

OneVoice is an international grassroots movement that amplifies the voice of mainstream Israelis and Palestinians, empowering them to propel their elected representatives toward the two-state solution.

It works to forge consensus for conflict resolution and to build a human infrastructure capable of mobilizing the people toward a negotiated, comprehensive, and permanent agreement between Israel and Palestine that ends the occupation, ensures security and peace for both sides, and solves all final-status issues. Our mission is premised on the notion that everyday people have a crucial role to play in creating the political conditions necessary to propel their leaders toward ending the conflict and the occupation.

**PREMIER PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS**

**Alliance for Middle East Peace** is a network of over 85 organizations that conduct civil society work in conflict transformation, development, coexistence and cooperative activities on the ground in the Middle East among Israelis, Palestinians, Arabs and Jews. Our members seek to build a secure, just and sustainable peace where all can enjoy the rights and freedoms needed for them to reach their human potential and live in peace with one another with dignity. Our mission is to support our members by ensuring more attention and resources are dedicated to their groundbreaking work.

**API Regional Network** is a forum of civil society activists and organizations from the Middle East (including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, and Israel) which works together to promote and implement the Arab Peace Initiative (API) as basis for a regional solution. Partners include the Center for Democracy and Community Development from Palestine, AJEEC-NISPED (Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation—Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development) from Israel, PAX from Holland and URI (United Religions Initiative) from Jordan. The Network has been active since 2011.

**American Friends of the Parents Circle** works to increase visibility and support among the American public for the essential work of the Parents Circle. The Parents Circle—Families Forum (PCFF) is a unique grassroots organization made up of more than six hundred families, half Israeli and half Palestinian, who have all lost immediate family members to the conflict. These families have embarked on a joint reconciliation mission in the midst of the ongoing violence, transforming their loss and pain into a catalyst for reconciliation. PCFF members strive to develop and maintain mechanisms that will facilitate a genuine reconciliation process alongside any future political agreement. We believe that without reconciliation there will never be a lasting peace.

The Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) enriches the Jewish identity of Reform Jews in the United States through a connection with Israel. We do so by strengthening the Reform movement in Israel while working to make Israel a Jewish, pluralistic, just and democratic society. ARZA links the people and institutions of the Israeli and American Reform Movements, informed by a love of Israel and a belief in K’lal Yisrael—Jewish peoplehood. ARZA works in partnership with the URJ and the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ), and their affiliates. ARZA represents US Reform Jews in national and international Zionist organizations, and the World Zionist Congress.

**Bimkom—Planners for Planning Rights** is an Israeli human rights organization formed in 1999 by a group of professional planners and architects, in order to strengthen democracy and human rights in the field of spatial planning and land issues. Bimkom assists communities throughout Israel and areas under Israeli control in matters concerning inadequate planning and home demolitions, as well as lack of infrastructure and public services. Drawing on values of social justice, good governance, equality and community participation, Bimkom advances the development of planning policies and practices that are more just and respectful of human rights, and responsive to the needs of local communities.

**EcoPeace Middle East** is a unique organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli environmentalists. Its primary objective is the promotion of cooperative efforts to protect the region’s shared environmental heritage. In so doing, it seeks to advance both sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace in the Middle East region. It has offices in Amman, Bethlehem and Tel-Aviv. As a project oriented NGO, EcoPeace uses both a “top-down” (advocacy) approach coupled with a “bottom-up” (grassroots/community) strategy that has proven to be a very effective work model.

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Givat Haviva is a nonprofit organization in Israel dedicated to promoting mutual responsibility, civic equality and cooperation between divided groups as the foundation for a shared future and shared society, critical elements of a sustainable and thriving democracy. Our mission is to further equality and understanding between Jews and Arabs in Israel. Givat Haviva serves as a catalyst in activating divided communities to work together towards achieving their common goals, while engaging in a process of interaction, support and empowerment. The Givat Haviva Educational Foundation is the NYC-based American arm, representing and supporting the Givat Haviva Institute in Israel.

Hashomer Hatzair USA encourages youth to build progressive Jewish values, explore connections to Israel and the Jewish community, and develop a commitment to social, environmental and economic justice in a setting characterized by youth leadership and collective responsibility. Since 1923, Hashomer Hatzair has been providing quality, youth-led alternative education, enabling its youth to take full responsibility over their education and culture while continuing to build life-long friendships. Through year-round programming and summer activities at Camp Shomria, each age group, led by young guides, learns and grows together in an environment that promotes and models youth leadership, personal maturation and cooperation.

Jewish Labor Committee (JLC), an independent secular organization, is the voice of the Jewish community in the labor movement and the voice of the labor movement in the Jewish community. Whether through its national office in New York or local offices and lay-led groups across the United States, the JLC enables the Jewish community and the trade union movement to work together in pursuit of our shared commitment to economic and social justice, to promote worker rights as well as civil and human rights in the workplace and the community-at-large, combat manifestations of anti-Semitism and all forms of prejudice, strengthen the historic relationship between American and Israeli trade unions, and promote a just peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Partners for Progressive Israel (formerly MeretzUSA) is an American Zionist organization affiliated with the World Union of Meretz. We are dedicated to the achievement of a durable and just peace between Israel and all its neighbors, especially the Palestinian people, based on a negotiated two-state solution; and to the realization of human and civil rights, equality and social justice for all of Israel’s inhabitants—regardless of ethnic/religious identity, national origin, gender or sexual orientation. Towards this end, we educate Americans on the issues of peace, democracy, justice and equality in Israel and the territories it controls; and encourage American Jews to develop a direct, personal connection with Israel, by forming ties with the country’s progressive forces and actively participating in programs with them.

Peace Now (Shalom Achshav) is Israel’s largest peace movement and the leading voice of Israeli public pressure for peace. Peace Now’s mission is to promote peace and democracy through educating the Israeli public. It works to ensure that both Israelis and Palestinians embrace the only viable solution to the conflict: a two-state solution. Peace Now works to advance the recognition within Israeli society that the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza harms Israel’s national security, weakens it economically and politically and damages the values and fabric of Israeli society.

T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights is an organization of 1800 rabbis from all streams of Judaism who act on the Jewish imperative to respect and protect the human rights of all people. Grounded in Torah and our Jewish historical experience and guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we advocate for human rights in Israel and North America. We are proud to partner with Rabbis for Human Rights-Israel in our efforts to protect the human rights of Jews, Palestinians and all others living in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. In our North American work, we are proud to partner with a range of Jewish, interfaith and secular organizations that share our commitment to human rights.

The Workmen’s Circle engages families and children in active, intergenerational learning and celebration. Our children’s classes, joyful celebrations and social action programs are rooted in our rich Jewish culture and progressive values. Through shared education experiences, children and their families discover a compelling Jewish cultural identity and a passion for transformational social justice activism. For 113 years, the Workmen’s Circle has been the heart of the Jewish progressive community: educating wave after wave of Jewish immigrants to America, caring for the poor and championing labor rights. Today, we are building on those strengths and focusing our energies on welcoming, teaching and encouraging children and families to build a better and more beautiful world for all.
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

All for Peace Radio is a parallel-operated Israeli-Palestinian independent media outlet dedicated to increasing the positive role of the media in strengthening democracy and civil society in the Middle East. The station serves as a Palestinian and Israeli cutting-edge media platform to promote freedom, equality, democracy and peace. Founded in January 2004, All for Peace Radio is one of the region’s leading and long-lasting independent media outlets, broadcasting 24 hours a day, seven days a week to vast areas in Israel and the Palestinian Authority, via 87.8 FM, online broadcasting on our site www.allforpeace.org, Facebook, iCast and beyond.

Artsbridge, Inc. is an American, grassroots nonprofit organization that provides Israeli, Palestinian and American teens leadership training and skills in creative thinking and dialogue. Following a three-week intensive program in the United States, Artsbridge students return to their home communities and take on the responsibility of mentoring younger students through community partner programs. Empowered by what they have learned in Artsbridge, students are able to imagine the experience of the “other” instead of maintaining the fear, hatred and mistrust that most have lived with their entire lives. Artsbridge partners with other organizations in the US, Palestine and Israel to ensure our participants have continual support throughout their personal journeys to become the change-makers of tomorrow. Artsbridge, Inc cultivates creativity, voice, respectful listening and dialogue in order to empower today’s youth to become leaders and change-makers in the question for a more just and constructive future.

The Center for Emerging Futures (CEF) creates dialogue and partnerships between Palestinians and Israelis. The joint Israeli-Palestinian team has designed and operates a specialized framework, changing the lives of thousands—young and old, women and men, professors and farmers—through a two-level process: gatherings allowing first-time dialogue and trust-building; and incubating grassroots civil projects of partnership, through which people stay connected and committed to each other and pull more people into the circle of common humanity. CEF also holds other specialized gatherings in the Middle East and abroad and cooperates with other organizations, integrating dialogue and partnerships into their programs.

The Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution (CRDC) engages in practice, education and research concerning peacebuilding in conflicts where religion and culture play a significant role. CRDC specializes in entrepreneurial engagement with partners, students and supporters who share the goal of promoting emerging networks of indigenous and global peacebuilders, mobilizing support for them and creating linkages between peacebuilders, citizen diplomats and policy makers.

The Foundation for Middle East Peace is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Washington, D.C. that promotes a just resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict through education and advocacy. FMEP publishes news and analysis on the conflict that is circulated to intellectuals, policymakers and peace activists. It also organizes speaker events, research trips to the region, and provides grants to other peacemaking organizations.

Gisha is an Israeli not-for-profit organization, founded in 2005, whose goal is to protect the freedom of movement of Palestinians, especially Gaza residents. Because freedom of movement is a precondition for exercising other basic rights, Gisha’s work has a multiplier effect in helping residents of the occupied territory to access education, livelihoods and family. Gisha, whose name means both “access” and “approach,” represents individuals and organizations in Israeli administrative proceedings and courts. As part of its advocacy work, Gisha reaches out to members of the public and opinion-makers and also advocates directly before decision-makers to promote policies that respect human rights. Visit us at www.gisha.org.

Healing Across the Divides is an American 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that brings together Jews, Muslims and Christians to improve the health of Palestinians and Israelis while helping to forge cooperation that furthers understanding between the two communities. By providing financial and technical support to community-based health organizations in Israel and the West Bank, Healing Across the Divides empowers a broad range of groups—including Arabs, Orthodox Jews, Ethiopians, young mothers and the disabled—to improve their lives and those of their communities. We believe that such empowerment is a critical component of the ability of such communities to achieve and sustain peace.
ILLI Initiatives believes that a peaceful and prosperous future in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is contingent upon having innovative leadership in all realms of life, and fostering meaningful and sustainable relationships across ethnic, religious and national boundaries. ILLI Initiatives offers a variety of programs, including travel throughout the MENA region (primarily Morocco, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan); exchanges between internationals and Middle Easterners, as well as between different groups within the region; language study programs; the opportunity to perform an internship or service learning in the country and field of choice; and conflict resolution and leadership workshops and training.

Ir Amim (“City of Nations” or “City of Peoples”) focuses on Jerusalem within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Ir Amim seeks to render Jerusalem a more equitable and sustainable city for the Israelis and Palestinians who share it and to help secure a negotiated resolution on the city through sustained monitoring, analysis and exposure of harmful unilateral actions; public education and outreach to re-orient the public discourse on Jerusalem; and legal and policy advocacy to impede or halt developments counter to a two-state solution. Ir Amim envisions a city that ensures the dignity and welfare of all its residents and that safeguards their holy places, as well as their historical and cultural heritages—today and in the future—and aspires to a sustainable political future for Jerusalem, achievable only through a negotiated process to resolve the conflict.

JCall is an organization of European Jews who are concerned about the future of the State of Israel of whose existence, security and democracy they are strongly committed. JCall considers that only the end of occupation and the creation of a viable Palestinian state will guarantee the long-term sustainability of Israel as a democratic state with a Jewish majority. JCall appeals to European and American leaders to exert joint pressure on both the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority to resume serious negotiations to secure a diplomatic solution to end the conflict.

The Jewish Alliance for Change (JAFC), a pro-Israel nonprofit organization, works to foster the American Jewish contribution to an America and a Jewish democratic Israel that respect the dignity of every individual. The Campaign for Bedouin-Jewish Justice, a JAFC project, has taken a lead role in informing and mobilizing American Jews to end home demolitions and destruction of Bedouin villages in Israel and to promote a just, negotiated solution to the plight of Israel’s Negev Bedouin citizens, the country’s single most disadvantaged population. JAFC also sponsors a project to develop educational curricula for teaching the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and peacemaking to Jewish high school students.

The Jewish Peace Lobby has just completed its 25th year of important work. We started in 1989 as an alternative Jewish voice in Washington; over the years we came to focus on innovative policy development focused on the final status issues of the conflict and new approaches to the peace process. We engage with US, Israeli, Palestinian and European policy makers in Washington, at the UN, and in Israel/Palestine. Visit our website www.peacelobby.org to find an array of material that outlines our ideas and proposals.

Living Liberally creates social communities around progressive politics across America and around the world. Best known for the Drinking Liberally happy hours in over 250 cities, they also host Screening Liberally happy hours, Reading Liberally book tours, Eating Liberally meals and Laughing Liberally comedy shows. Their events become centers of progressive energy in conservative corners and liberal oases in big cities and small towns across the country. The organization’s story was told in the recently-published 538 Ways to Live, Work and Play Like a Liberal, by co-founder Justin Krebs. Find or start a chapter at livingliberally.org.

MEPEACE—mepeace.org is a network for peace designed to exemplify and realize peace online and on the ground; empower people and organizations with interaction, information and inspiration; and enable a movement for peace with internet and networking technologies. Online, MEPEACE’s web platform enables individuals and organizations from more than 200 countries to overcome physical barriers to share and learn about one another. On the ground, MEPEACE creates community-building encounters, provides activist leadership training, and offers technology consulting to other peace organizations.

Mitvim—The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies is a progressive foreign policy think tank that envisions a fresh start for Israel among the nations. It aims to reshape Israel’s relations in the Middle East, Europe and the Mediterranean, by promoting new paradigms for Israel’s foreign policies, enhancing Israel’s regional belonging, and advancing Israeli-Arab peace. Mitvim works at the political, diplomatic and public levels. It is comprised of Israeli experts, strategists, scholars, and journalists, who bring forth fresh and innovative thinking. More information is at: www.mitvim.org.il and www.facebook.com/mitvim. To make contact: Dr. Nimrod Goren, Chairman, ngoren@mitvim.org.il.
Other Voice is a grassroots volunteer initiative comprised of citizens from communities around the Gaza border, working toward the co-creation of a sustainable reality for all people in the region. Other Voice keeps in close contact with Gazans, calls to end the siege on Gaza and demands that all sides end the cycle of senseless violence, which primarily harms innocent civilians. Other Voice has been extremely active in raising awareness to the dire reality of the region through public campaigns and petitions, letter writing to Israeli leaders, organization of seminars and conferences, speaking tours worldwide, educational tours of the area for visitors from Israel and from throughout the world, as well as occasional direct humanitarian aid to Gazans during and after the wars.

Palestine-Israel Journal (pij.org) is a Jerusalem-based non-profit organization, founded in 1994, concurrently with the first phases of the Oslo process, to encourage dialogue between civil societies on both sides and broaden the base of support for the peace process. Co-edited by Ziad AbuZayyad and Hillel Schenker, the PIJ is an independent publication with an often critical voice that provides background material and in-depth analysis of various aspects of the conflict from the perspective of both sides, thus helping to shed light on the complex issues dividing Israelis and Palestinians and the relationship between the two peoples.

Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGO Forum is a dynamic platform for cooperation and interaction between over 80 local NGOs in Israel and Palestine that are fostering bilateral civil society dialogue and working towards the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through ending the occupation and peace. This one-of-a-kind network, which goes beyond conflict lines, does not exist in any other conflict area. The Forum’s mission is to improve the coordination between the sides and the professionalism of member organizations, while also creating a whole that is larger than the sum of its parts—all with the aim of increasing local NGOs' impact on Israeli and Palestinian societies.

Project Hayei Sarah is a community of rabbinical students, rabbis, Jewish educators and lay leaders who are grappling with the difficult realities of Hebron. In light of their awareness of violations of human dignity there, many in the name of Judaism, Project Hayei Sarah seeks to educate Jewish communities and generate communal conversations, rooted in Jewish text and tradition, about the history, complexity and current reality of the holy city of Hebron. They seek to ritualize this conversation using the week of Hayei Sarah to reclaim and promote an alternative vision for marking this annual encounter with the text, inviting our communities into an experience of critical engagement, learning and action. Project Hayei Sarah hope to facilitate an alternate form of virtual pilgrimage inspired by the deeply held values of our communities for equality and justice. They work to spark individual and collective action towards a reality in Hebron that is reflective of our highest Jewish ideals.

Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to examining how genuine democracies can develop in the Middle East and how the US can best support that process. Through dialogue, research and advocacy, it aims to strengthen the constituency for US policies that peacefully support democratic reform in the Middle East. POMED believes there is a clear need to rigorously examine America’s actual and potential impact on political reform in the region; to bring together for constructive dialogue academics and activists, policymakers and regional experts, Americans and Middle Easterners; to identify clearly the parameters of legitimate, constructive support for democracy in the Middle East; and to empower the coalition of actors supporting policies consistent with those principles.

Tikkun Magazine has been at the forefront of the movement for a two-state solution and an end to the Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza since its founding in 1986. They were the first to publish the new Israeli historians; they brought Senator Wellstone to a large peace conference in Israel in 1991; and they have argued that a peace movement must insist on the humanity of the Palestinian people and regard their suffering as equally important to God as the suffering of Jews. Tikkun is also about a New Bottom Line of love, generosity, caring, environmental sanity, global peace and social justice. Maybe you should be writing for Tikkun? You could certainly support them by subscribing at tikkun.org.

Tikkun Olam in Tel Aviv-Jaffa provides service-learning opportunities for Jewish young adults that explore the challenge and complexity of the Jewish-democratic state of Israel. Our participants volunteer with disadvantaged communities across diverse swaths of Israeli society, while learning about the underlying issues facing those populations from a broad range of perspectives. Our long-term programs, lasting five or ten months, begin each September and February. Tikkun Olam is a joint project of the BINA Center for Jewish Identity and Hebrew Culture, and the Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism. More information is available at www.tikkunolamisrael.org.
The Water Resources Action Project (WRAP) is a volunteer, non-profit organization that was formed in 2009 to improve public health for underserved communities in the Middle East through greater water stewardship. WRAP’s leadership and governing board is comprised of people of diverse political, ethnic and religious backgrounds, operating with strict neutrality to put real results on the ground, which are replicable, scalable and apolitical. WRAP funds and constructs rainwater harvesting systems at schools throughout the region, accompanied by a strong educational program and monitoring/reporting procedures. To date, WRAP has installed three rainwater harvesting systems in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Women Wage Peace is a non-partisan, inclusive and rapidly growing movement of thousands of women. We are influential in public and in political arenas. Our members have different political views and affiliations. We are Jewish and Arab, secular and religious, and come from all over Israel. Yet we are unanimous in our call for the return of visions of peace to the very center of public discussion and diplomatic activity. We are working for the implementation of a non-violent, dignified, and regionally acceptable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We understand that peace is not utopia; it is the means toward, and necessary foundation for, the security and freedom of two peoples in this region.

Yachad was established in May 2011 to build support within Anglo-Jewry through education, debate and advocacy for a two-state solution and end to the occupation. Whether raising the voice of Anglo-Jewry in support of a two-state solution, educating the community about the conflict, or providing British Jews the opportunity to spend time in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Yachad’s work reaches thousands of British Jew each year. A significant body of support for the organisation comes from the next generation of the community from within the Jewish student body and Zionist youth movements.
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"No other country and no other army in history have gone to greater lengths to avoid casualties among the civilian population of their enemies."

Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel

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No other country and no other army in history have gone to greater lengths to avoid casualties among the civilian population of their enemies.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel

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BTSELEM USA

Read B’Tselem’s latest report on the policy of attacking residential buildings in the Gaza Strip, on www.btselem.org

Follow B’Tselem for information and analysis about human rights in the Occupied Territories
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Ultimate Peace builds bridges of friendship, understanding, and leadership between Arab, Jewish, and Palestinian youth, using the values-based sport of Ultimate as our tool.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

THE HONORABLE JAMES A. BAKER, III, an American attorney, is a senior partner in the law firm of Baker Botts. He is Honorary Chairman of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University and serves on the board of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Previously, he has served senior government positions under three different administrations, working for Presidents Ford, Reagan and Bush. His long career in public service began in 1975 as Under Secretary of Commerce to President Gerald Ford. From 1981 to 1985, Baker served as the White House Chief of Staff under the Reagan administration, and from 1985 to 1988, he served as the 67th Secretary of Treasury while simultaneously working as Chairman of the President’s Economic Policy Council. Under President Bush, Baker served as the 61st Secretary of State until 1992. Baker is credited with having an instrumental position to putting together the coalition against Saddam Hussein and for the liberation of Kuwait in the 1980s.

JEREMY BEN-AMI is the founder and president of J Street. He served in the mid-1990s as the deputy domestic policy advisor in the White House to President Bill Clinton and worked on seven presidential and numerous state and local campaigns. He was Howard Dean’s national policy director in 2004 and helped manage a mayoral campaign in New York City in 2001. In the late 1990s, Ben-Ami lived in Israel, where he started a consulting firm working with Israeli non-profit organizations and politicians. He was chosen by America’s weekly Jewish newspaper, the Jewish Daily Forward, for three years as part of the Forward 50, their compilation of the most influential Jewish Americans. He was one of 50 “People of the Decade” selected by Haaretz, the influential Israeli daily newspaper, and the Jerusalem Post included him in its list of the 50 “Most Influential Jews in the World”. Ben-Ami received a law degree from New York University and is a graduate of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Relations at Princeton University.

SAEB EREKAT is the former Palestinian chief of the PLO Steering and Monitoring Committee and has served as the chief negotiator since 1995. He is recognized for having participated in a number of peace negotiations and initiatives with Israel, including the the Camp David meetings in 2000, the Taba negotiations in 2001, and the Annapolis Conference in 2007. He is considered one of the architects of the Oslo Accords. Before entering government, he lectured in political science at An-Najah National University and served for 12 years on the editorial board of the Palestinian newspaper, Al-Quds. Erekat was elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council in 1996 on the Fatah slate representing Jericho. Erekat is also the author of nine books and has conducted extensive research on foreign policy, oil, conflict resolution, and negotiations. He is considered one of the most prominent spokespeople of the Palestinian narrative in Western media.

AMBASSADOR MARTIN S. INDYK is the vice president and director of the Brookings Institution’s Foreign Policy Program, having recently returned from leave while serving as the US special envoy of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Previously, Indyk was a senior fellow and the founding director of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings. He served as US ambassador to Israel from 1995–1997 and from 2000–2001. Indyk served as special assistant to President Clinton and senior director for Near East and South Asian affairs at the National Security Council and as assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs in the US Department of State. Before entering the US government, Indyk was founding executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy for eight years. He currently serves as chairman of the international council and as a board member of the New Israel Fund, as well as on the boards of the Lowy Institute for International Policy (Australia) and the Institute for National Security Studies (Israel). Indyk also serves as a member of the advisory boards of the Israel Democracy Institute and America Abroad Media.

RABBI RICK JACOBS is the current president of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the congregational arm of the Reform Jewish Movement in North America. Preceding his role at URJ, Rabbi Jacobs worked at the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, where he founded and co-directed the first synagogue-based homeless shelter in New York City. In 1982, he was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, and has since held various leadership positions in addition to serving on the boards of a number of Jewish organizations. Rabbi Jacobs has demonstrated his dedication to both the Jewish and global community. He is deeply committed to global social justice issues, and was part of the delegation that assessed disaster response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake as well as aiding to promote the recognition of Darfur refugees as part of an international humanitarian mission in 2005. In 2009, he attended and participated in an annual conference of Muslim and Christian leaders held in Qatar, which aims to build strong relations and understanding between the Muslim and Western worlds.
RONI KEIDAR moved to Israel as a child in 1951. She has lived in Netiv Ha’asara, an agricultural village on the border of the Gaza Strip, since 1982. Roni has also lived in Egypt, where she was exposed to the two sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and discovered the power of dialogue in bringing people together. Since moving back to Netiv Ha’asara, Roni’s home has been under constant threat of missiles, rockets and mortar shells. She has witnessed the damage to property, loss of life and ongoing fear of the next alert and the next rocket. However, through her work with Other Voice—a grassroots volunteer initiative comprised of citizens from the communities bordering the Gaza border—Roni and her peers try to make people understand that until people on both sides of the border are affected by the conflict, and that security and peace are imperative to their survival.

MAHA MEHANNA is a Gaza-born and based peace activist whose peacebuilding efforts are frequently covered in the media. Maha is a member of Other Voice, a grassroots volunteer initiative for a civil solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Maha is also a member of Friendship Across Borders, a joint peace initiative between Germans, Israelis and Palestinians that promotes peace between Palestinians and Israelis, and contributes to reconciliation between Germans and Jews. Maha is a professional freelance field researcher, organizational consultant and an Arabic-English translator. She studied community development in Canada and has worked for local and international NGOs in Gaza. Maha currently works for Applied Information Management, which focuses on building the capacity of corporations and social sector institutions in Palestine, as the Gaza Office Coordinator and Senior Arabic/English Translator. She has also been featured with her Israeli friend, Roni Keidar, in an American documentary directed by Ose Oyamendan about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, titled Bridges Over Blood.

MEMBER OF KNESSET YAakov PERI is the former Minister of Science, Technology and Space, since being elected in the Yesh Atid faction in 2013. He is a former director of the Shin Bet, which he directed for six years, instituting conceptual changes necessary to deal with a new political reality in the Middle East, in the Israeli news website Ynet. He was featured in the documentary, The Gatekeepers. He completed his studies at Tel Aviv University with a joint degree in Middle Eastern Studies and Jewish History. He holds a degree in Economics and Business Management from Harvard University.

CONGRESSWOMAN JAN SCHAKOWSKY represents Illinois’ Ninth Congressional District. First elected in 1998, she currently serves in the House Democratic leadership as chief deputy whip and is also a member of the Steering and Policy Committee. A passionate and capable leader, she serves on the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade, the Subcommittee on Health and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. She also leads the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and previously served on President Obama’s National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. Schakowsky works to ensure health care coverage for all Americans and to promote the interests of senior citizens. Additionally, she is a forceful advocate for women’s reproductive freedom and for the prevention of violence against women. Prior to her election to Congress, Schakowsky served for eight years in the Illinois State Assembly, where she fought for the public interest and rights of Illinois citizens.

RANDI WEINGARTEN is president of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO. Prior to her election as AFT president in 2008, Weingarten served for 12 years as president of the United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2, representing approximately 200,000 educators in the New York City public school system, as well as home child care providers and other workers in health, law and education. In 2013, the New York Observer named Weingarten one of the most influential New Yorkers of the past 25 years. Washington Life magazine included Weingarten on its 2013 Power 100 list of influential leaders. Weingarten created the AFT Innovation Fund, a groundbreaking initiative to support sustainable, innovative and collaborative education reform projects developed by members and their local unions. In 2012-13, Weingarten served on an education reform commission convened by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, which made a series of recommendations to improve teaching and learning.
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

REBECCA ABOU-CHEDID is a Fellow with the Truman National Security Project and co-chair of its Middle East–North Africa working group. She is co-chair of the Board of Directors of Just Vision, which highlights the power and potential of Palestinians and Israelis working to end the occupation and build a future of freedom, dignity, equality and human security using nonviolent means. Abou-Chedid is also the former Director of Outreach at the New America Foundation’s Middle East Task Force and National Political Director at the Arab American Institute. Abou-Chedid has been published in Foreign Policy, The Boston Globe, The Daily Star and An Nahar and has appeared on the BBC, MSNBC, Fox News, Al Jazeera, and Al Arabiya, among others.

SARA ABRAMSON is a junior psychology major and education minor at Vassar College. She is the co-founder and co-president of J Street U Vassar, and when she isn’t advocating for a two-state solution, you can find her choreographing musical theater numbers or teaching Hebrew to 5th graders.

HUDA ABUARQUOJ is the first on-the-ground regional director for the Alliance for Middle East Peace. She has years of experience in conflict resolution, NGO leadership, and social change education and activism. Huda is a well-known speaker on issues related to Middle East politics and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. After studying conflict transformation and peace studies as a Fulbright scholar, she worked as an executive director, a program director, and an NGO consultant to a number of organizations in the U.S., Israel, and Palestine. She is a co-founder of the Center for Transformative Education (CTE) and has taught and trained hundreds of students in Israel and the U.S. Previously, Huda worked as a teacher, trainer, and consultant for the Palestinian Ministry of Education for fifteen years. She earned her M.A. in conflict transformation and peace studies from Eastern Mennonite University and her B.A. in education for social change from Al-Quds Open University in Jerusalem. Born in Jerusalem, Huda has traveled extensively in Europe and the Middle East, lived for six years in the U.S., and now resides in Hebron.

ZIAD ABUZAYYAD is a Palestinian lawyer, journalist and politician. He is the co-editor and publisher of the quarterly Palestine-Israel Journal, which he co-founded in 1994. He is also a weekly columnist of Al-Quds Arabic daily newspaper. AbuZayyad has held several official posts, including former Minister of State in the Palestinian Authority and former Deputy Chairman of the Political Committee of the Euro-Med Parliament. He was also the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East multilateral peace talks in the Arms Control and Regional Security Working Group. AbuZayyad was an advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team in Washington, DC in 1992, and later a member of the post-Oslo negotiating team that concluded the 1994 Israeli-Palestinian Agreement. In 1986, well before the Oslo Accords, AbuZayyad founded the Palestinian bi-monthly Hebrew language journal Gesher, of which he was publisher and editor.

MARY ALEXANDER is the Chairman of the International Advisory Committee for EcoPeace Middle East. She also serves as the U.S. Representative for EcoPeace. Prior to joining this regional environmental peacebuilding organization in 2010, Ms Alexander spent 20 years working on national and international public policy issues, including tax, trade and environmental issues for a major consumer electronics company. She was a founding member of the Association of Women in International Trade, which honored her in 2005 with its first annual Lifetime Achievement Award. After retiring, Ms. Alexander turned her interests to environmental concerns, receiving both a Virginia Master Naturalist certificate and a graduate certificate in Natural History Field Studies from the USDA Graduate School. She has has a long-time interest in building peace in the Middle East as a result of her work with the U.S. State Department in Damascus, Syria in the late 1970s.

LIOR AMIHAI is the Deputy Director of Peace Now’s Settlement Watch project. Settlement Watch is the only group comprehensively monitoring the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Through aerial and ground surveys, Lior tracks and analyzes settlement developments, exposing them to the Israeli public and to relevant stakeholders. Lior also analyzes official Israeli documentation of settlement budgeting and funding, and authors reports on this issue. The Settlement Watch team, while internationally acclaimed for its credibility and reliability, is regularly cited by Israeli and international media, governments, and NGOs. Before joining Peace Now, Lior completed his undergraduate studies in Political Science and Sociology at City University London, and was awarded the Olive Tree Scholarship, granted to a small group of outstanding Israelis and Palestinians. Previously, Lior worked as the Israeli Program Director at Seeds of Peace, a US-based organization that brings Israeli and Palestinian youth to a dialogue-focused summer camp.

W. JAMES ANTLE, III, is managing editor of The Daily Caller, a columnist for The Week and author of the 2013 book Devouring Freedom: Can Big Government Ever Be Stopped? He was previously associate editor of The American Spectator, where he is currently a senior editor, and

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senior national affairs writer for The American Conservative, where is presently a contributing editor and weekly columnist. Antle has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, National Public Radio and Fox News. He has written for Politico, Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, the Guardian, the National Interest, the Boston Globe, the Spectator of London and numerous other publications.

BASSAM ARAMIN is the Palestinian International Relations Director for The Parents Circle. He is also a co-founder of Combatants for Peace and currently serves as a member of the organization’s management. Aramin became involved in the Palestinian struggle as a boy growing up in the ancient city of Hebron. At 17, he was caught planning an attack on Israeli troops and spent seven years in prison. In 2005, he co-founded Combatants for Peace, an organization of former Israeli and Palestinian combatants leading a non-violent struggle against the occupation. Since then, Aramin has not once picked up a weapon—not even when, two years later, his ten-year-old daughter Abir was killed by a rubber bullet. He resides in East Jerusalem, where he also serves as the president of the Al Quds Association for Democracy and Dialogue, an organization which emphasizes the use of sports as a means for building a common platform between Israeli and Palestinian youth.

AMBASSADOR GÉRARD ARAUD. a career diplomat, was appointed Ambassador of France to the United States in September 2014. The former Ambassador of France to Israel, Araud has also held numerous positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, including Director for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament, Director General for Political Affairs and Security, and Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in New York. Over the course of his career, Ambassador Araud has developed specialized knowledge of the Middle East, including his tenure as the French negotiator for Iranian nuclear talks from 2003 to 2006. Ambassador Araud has also contributed to the adoption of UN resolutions on Libya, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali and the Central African Republic. He has written numerous journal articles, including one recently published in Commentaire and another in Esprit.

RONIT AVNI is an award-winning filmmaker, media strategist and entrepreneur. She is the Founder of Just Vision, an organization that supports Palestinians and Israelis who work for freedom, equality, dignity and human security using unarmed means. Ronit produced the film Budrus (2009). Hailed in The New York Times as the “year’s must-see documentary,” Budrus won 18 awards. Ronit directed the critically acclaimed documentary, Encounter Point (2006), which received several Audience Awards for Best Documentary and screened in 200 cities. She Executive Produced the Peabody Award-winning film, My Neighbourhood (2012). Under Ronit’s leadership, Just Vision initiated and launched the growing Hebrew-language news and analysis site, Local Call, in partnership with +972 Magazine and ActiveStills. Ronit is a Young Global Leader through the World Economic Forum, a Term Member at the Council on Foreign Relations and Chairs the Program Committee on the Board of Directors of the human rights organization, WITNESS.

BASHAR AZZEH is a leading entrepreneur and youth activist in Palestine. In 2008, Azzev worked closely on the development of the Palestinian economy through entrepreneurship and the development of the social sector through leading various NGOs and youth initiatives. He worked as planning director for the past two Palestine Investment Conferences, an economic and political advisor for various ministers and a business development manager of various international economic development projects. Azzev assisted in the founding of Al Quds Holding Company in Jerusalem and is also the founder and chairman of Al Maqdese Association for Economic and Social Development in Jerusalem. Azzev is currently the chairman of Jerusalem Business Development Center, which services Jerusalem’s young entrepreneurs, and is co-chair of the Doha Forum’s youth forum. Azzev founded the RR Youth Center in Hebron, serving as its chairman. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of the Jerusalem Student Union and Board Secretary of the Palestine-Britain Business Council.

MEMBER OF KNESSET HILIK BAR has most recently served as the Labor party’s youngest secretary general to date. He is also the former deputy speaker of the Knesset, and he has chaired the Knesset Caucus for the Solution for the Israeli-Arab Conflict. Until 2013, Hilik was a city council member in Jerusalem, and he has held the foreign relations and tourism portfolios in the Jerusalem Municipality. He previously served as a senior advisor to various ministers in the Israeli government and cabinet. Hilik is an alumnus of two prominent State Department leadership programs—the American Council of Young Political Leaders, and the International Visitors Leadership Program. Hilik has a B.A. and M.A. in International Relations from the Hebrew University. He is married and lives with his wife and two children in Jerusalem.

ZACK BEAUCHAMP is a world correspondent at Vox, where he covers the Middle East and American foreign policy. Previously, he edited ThinkProgress’s section on political thought and contributed to Andrew Sullivan’s Dish. He holds an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics.

ALIZA BECKER is the director of the American Jewish Peace Archive: An Oral History of Israeli-Palestinian Peace Activists. She was the Founding Executive Director of Brit Tzedek v’Shalom in 2002 and subsequently worked as Special Projects Director at J Street. She is currently a Research Fellow at the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities at Bard College. She received her Bachelor’s degree in History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her Masters Degree in Linguistics from University of Illinois at Chicago.

PETER BEINART is associate professor of journalism and political science at the City University of New York. He is also a contributor to The Atlantic and National Journal, a senior columnist at Haaretz, a CNN political commentator, and a senior fellow at The New America Foundation. He is the author of The Crisis of Zionism, The Icarus Syndrome and The Good Fight. Beinart has written for The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times, the Boston Globe, The Atlantic, and Newsweek, among others. Beinart graduated from Yale University, winning a Rhodes scholarship for graduate study at Oxford University. After graduating from University College, Oxford, Beinart became The New Republic’s managing editor in 1995. He became senior editor in 1997, and from 1999 to 2006 served as the magazine’s editor.

ALUF BENN is the editor-in-chief of Haaretz. Before taking his current position in 2011, he held several writing and editing positions in the news newspaper, including diplomatic correspondent, chief news editor and opinion editor. As a reporter in the field of national security since 1986, he has fought government secrecy and censorship, winning a landmark Supreme Court case on press freedom in 1989, exposing the worst corruption case in the IDF history, and publishing the secret intelligence budgets and the details of a hushed-up Israeli-Iranian legal battle over billions of dollars. He covered six Israeli prime ministers from Yitzhak Rabin through Binyamin Netanyahu’s second term. His work appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, and The Guardian. He holds a joint MBA degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and the Recanati School of Business at Tel Aviv University.

MAYA BERKMAN is a junior at Wesleyan University, pursuing a government major and the certificates of Middle Eastern studies and international relations. After joining the newly founded J Street U Wesleyan chapter in the fall of 2012, Maya became a Campus Co-Chair the following year. In the spring of 2014, she joined the national J Street U leadership as an Education Co-Chair, and currently holds a position on the Northeast Regional Board. Last summer Maya served as a Governor’s Intern in the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination in the Deval Patrick administration. On campus, Maya is deeply involved in the dance community, works as a tour guide for the Office of Admissions, and solicits for the Wesleyan Annual Fund.

NADIA BILBASSY-CHARTERS is the senior US correspondent for Al Arabiya Television and is a well-known reporter in the Arab world. She has been working as a foreign correspondent for over 20 years. She was the first Arab journalist to be based in Africa for a major Arab television station. Her reporting from troubled spots in Southern Sudan, Rwanda, Somalia, Congo and Eritrea has distinguished her work as original, fair and informative. She was embedded with the 101 Marine Division during the war in Iraq. Since 2003, she has been based in Washington, DC for Al Arabiya TV and MBC TV (Middle Eastern Broadcast Center). She reports on US foreign policy vis-à-vis the Arab world. She has covered two presidential elections and reported from Guantanamo on the cases of Khalid Sheikh Mohammad and other 9/11 suspects. She has interviewed many influential politicians, including President George W. Bush, Prime Minister Tony Blair, President Mahmoud Abbas, General Colin Powell and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, among many others.

BEN BIRNBAUM is a journalist who reported about Israel from 2012-14 for The New Republic, Newsweek, and Tablet. He was recently nominated for a National Magazine Award for the behind-the-scenes New Republic article he wrote with Israeli journalist Amir Tibon on the most recent Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. While in Israel, Ben also
written New Republic’s 2013 cover story on the two-state solution, as well as profiles of former Palestinian Authority prime minister Salam Fayyad, former Israeli foreign minister Tzipi Livni, and other prominent Israeli figures. Prior to his time in Israel, he worked in Washington as a foreign-affairs reporter for The Washington Times. Ben has been a guest on CNN, BBC, MSNBC, Turkey’s TRT, and Israel’s Channel 2. He graduated magna cum laude from Cornell and is currently pursuing his master’s degree at Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs.

CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER has devoted his career to public service. He was elected to the Oregon Legislature in 1972, where he served three terms and Chaired the House Education and Revenue Committee in 1977-78. He was elected to the Portland City Council in 1986; there, his 10-year tenure as the Commissioner of Public Works demonstrated his leadership in transportation, planning, environmental programs and public participation. Elected to the US House of Representatives in 1996, Mr. Blumenauer has created a unique role as Congress’ chief spokesperson for Livable Communities: places where people are safe, healthy and economically secure. He was a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee from 2001 to 2007, and vice-chair of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming from 2007 to 2010. He is currently a member of the Budget Committee and Ways and Means Committee and the subcommittees on Health and Trade.

KENNETH BOB has served as the president of Ameinu and is a member of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization, and Jewish Agency for Israel’s Board of Governors. He is a member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and Jewish National Fund Board of Trustees. Bob was one of the founders of the Habonim Dror Foundation (HDF) in 1995, established to provide financial support for Habonim Dror North America and served as Vice-Chair and then chairman until 2005. He is also a member of the J Street Board of Directors. Mr. Bob has been CEO, president, and held other executive positions at a number of software companies, and has served as a technology and business consultant.

JOEL BRAUNOLD is the US director for the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP). For the last five years, Joel served in leadership roles at the PeaceWorks Foundation/OneMovement, an ALLMEP member organization. At OneVoice offices in London and New York, Joel innovated new programs and built collaboration across the business, government and NGO sectors. Most recently, Joel led OneVoice’s strategic partnerships and new economic initiatives. Joel’s insightful analysis on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been published by national and international media outlets, including Ha’aretz.com, New York Daily News, Guardian, Huffington Post and Daily Beast. An alumnus of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Joel also holds a B.A. (Hons) in philosophy from Bristol University. He has received the Avi Schaefer Peace Innovation Prize and is a senior fellow for the Alliance for Youth Movements.

BRIG. GEN. (RET.) SHLOMO BROM is a visiting fellow with the National Security and International Policy team at the Center for American Progress, where his work focuses on U.S.-Israeli relations, Middle East security issues, and the Iranian nuclear program. Brig. Gen. Brom is also a senior research associate at The Institute for National Security Studies and a former brigadier general in the Israel Defense Forces. Brig. Gen. Brom participated in peace negotiations with the Palestinians, Jordan, and Syria and in Middle Eastern regional security talks during the 1990s, though he continued to be involved in peace talks even after his retirement from the IDF. From 2005 to 2006, Brig. Gen. Brom was a member of the Meridor Committee established by the Israeli minister of defense to re-examine Israel’s security strategy. He has authored and edited several books, including The Middle East Military Balance 1999–2000 and The Middle East Military Balance 2001–2002.

ETHAN BRONNER is a managing editor for international news at Bloomberg. He spent 17 years at The New York Times where he was, among other things, deputy national editor, education editor, deputy foreign editor and Jerusalem bureau chief. A graduate of Wesleyan and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, he is married to Naomi Kehati-Bronner, an Israeli-born psychologist. They have two grown sons.

CHERIE BROWN is CEO of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), a DC-based nonprofit leadership training organization. Ms. Brown has an M.Ed in Counseling and Consulting Psychology from Harvard University. Over the last thirty years, Ms. Brown has built NCBI into one of the leading diversity training organizations. NCBI has affiliated leadership teams on equity and diversity issues on 80 campuses, organizations, cities, government agencies, and law enforcement departments. These NCBI-trained leaders work in teams to provide a resource for their communities—combating prejudice, resolving inter-group conflict and launching coalitions. Ms. Brown has been working on Israeli-Palestinian peace issues since 1969. She was a founding member of the Jewish Radical community of Los Angeles, Shalom Network, New Jewish Agenda and Brit Tzedek V’Shalom. She has been an adjunct faculty member of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, teaching courses on diversity, conflict resolution, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for rabbis.
AMOS BUHAI is J Street’s Southwest Regional Director. Amos joins J Street with a strong and varied background in the political, public and private sectors. Amos has served as a field organizer for John Kerry’s 2004 presidential campaign in Wisconsin, worked as a Field/GOTV Director and Legislative Director for New York City Council Member Jessica Lappin, and he managed Steve Warnstadt’s successful 2006 campaign for the Iowa State Senate. Amos honed his fundraising and communication skills during Obama’s primary campaign for president, serving as a high-donor fundraiser and the New York State Director for DraftObama, a grassroots organization promoting an Obama presidential candidacy. Amos was the Director of Business Development for the LA-based start up Saysme.tv, which created an online platform for self-serve TV ad placements. He most recently worked as a consultant for the Personal Democracy Forum, an organization that studies how technology is changing politics, government, and civic engagement. He holds a BA in History from The George Washington University and is a fifth-generation Los Angeles native.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAM J. BURNS is president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the oldest international affairs think tank in the United States. Ambassador Burns retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 2014 after a thirty-three-year diplomatic career. He holds the highest rank in the Foreign Service, career ambassador, and is only the second serving career diplomat in history to become deputy secretary of state. Prior to his tenure as deputy secretary, Ambassador Burns served from 2008 to 2011 as under secretary for political affairs. He was ambassador to Russia from 2005 to 2008, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs from 2001 to 2005, and ambassador to Jordan from 1998 to 2001. Ambassador Burns has been the recipient of three Presidential Distinguished Service Awards and a number of Department of State awards, including three Secretary’s Distinguished Service Awards and two Distinguished Honor Awards.

BENJY CANNON is the President of the J Street U National Student Board. He studies politics and philosophy at the University of Maryland. Benjy was born in the UK and then moved to Hong Kong for five years, before eventually finding his way to the US. He became involved with J Street UMD in his freshman year, and was a campus co-chair by his second semester. Benjy was also a Southeast regional co-chair, and a J Street U communications co-chair. He is the co-founder and board member of a cultural Jewish student group on Maryland’s campus, is on his Hillel’s Jewish Leadership Council, where he sits on the board, and he works for the Maryland Environmental Finance Center. Benjy is also a Jewish World Blogger for Haaretz.com.

DAVID CESARANI is a research professor in history at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is the author of several books on Jewish history and the Holocaust including Becoming Eichmann. Rethinking the life, crimes and trial of a ‘desk murderer’ (2006) which won the US National Jewish Book award for history and Major Farran’s Hat. The untold story of the struggle to establish the Jewish state (2009) shortlisted for a Golden Dagger non-fiction prize. He has acted as historical consultant for numerous TV documentaries, most recently Night Will Fall (2015). In 2005 he was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his work with the UK Home Office on the establishment of Holocaust Memorial Day and is currently an expert member of the Prime Minister’s Holocaust Commission.

TAMARA COFMAN WITTES is a senior fellow and the director of the Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings. Wittes served as deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs from November of 2009 to January 2012, coordinating US policy on democracy and human rights in the Middle East for the State Department, where she was central to organizing the US government’s response to the Arab awakening. Before joining the State Department, Wittes was a senior fellow in the Saban Center at Brookings, where she directed the Middle East Democracy and Development Project. Wittes is the author of Freedom’s Unsteady March: America’s Role in Building Arab Democracy. She is also editor of How Israelis and Palestinians Negotiate: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of the Oslo Peace Process. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Women in International Security.

MICHAEL COHEN is a fellow at The Century Foundation and a columnist at the Boston Globe. He is the author of Live from the Campaign Trail: The Greatest Presidential Campaign Speeches of the 20th Century and How They Shaped Modern America (Walker Books, 2008) and is currently writing a book on the 1968 presidential election for Oxford University Press. He has also been a columnist for the Guardian and Foreign Policy. He previously served in the U.S. Department of State as chief speechwriter for U.S. Representative to the United Nations Bill Richardson and Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat. He has worked at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and was chief speechwriter for Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT). He is a frequent writer on politics and international affairs, and his work has been featured in numerous publications including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Daily News, Foreign Affairs, Politico, Democracy, the Nation and many others. Michael also teaches at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. He lives in Brooklyn.
RACHEL COHEN is a former member of the J Street U National Board Member. She currently works as a Writing Fellow at The American Prospect. She graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 2014.

ROBI DAMELIN is the Israeli spokesperson and director of international relations for the Parents Circle-Bereaved Families Forum, a group of 600 Israeli and Palestinian families who have lost close family members and who work together for reconciliation and a just resolution to the conflict. Her son David was killed by a Palestinian sniper while he was guarding a checkpoint near a settlement during his army reserve service. She speaks with a Palestinian partner in communities and schools throughout Israel and the Palestinian Territories as well as internationally.

DEBRA DELEE is president and CEO of Americans for Peace Now (APN), a national Zionist organization dedicated to enhancing Israel’s security through peace and to supporting the Israeli Peace Now movement. Prior to joining APN, she was selected by President Clinton to serve as CEO of the 1996 Democratic National Convention, held in Chicago. In 1993, DeLee served as executive director of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and was appointed DNC chairman by President Bill Clinton in November 1994. Preceding this, DeLee served as the director of government relations for the National Education Association, serving as their chief lobbyist and the director of their PAC. DeLee served as the special assistant to former Senator Bob Graham during his first term as governor in the late 1970s. DeLee began her career as a fourth grade teacher in Chicago, Illinois.

SUZANNE DIMAGGIO is a Director and Senior Fellow at New America, where her work focuses on the organization’s growing body of international security projects related to the Middle East and Asia. Based at New America NYC, she is the Director of The Iran Initiative. An expert dialogue practitioner, she has been leading Track II diplomatic initiatives with partners in the Middle East and Asia on regional security, terrorism, nonproliferation, and governance since 2002. She has a special interest in the role of unofficial policy dialogue with countries that the U.S. has limited official relations, particularly Iran, Myanmar, and North Korea. She was the Vice President of Global Policy Programs at the Asia Society (2007-2014), and Vice President of Policy Studies at the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA; 1998-2007). She holds a B.A. from New York University and an M.A. from The City College of New York (CUNY).

MEGAN K. DOHERTY is a transatlantic fellow with GMF in Washington, DC, where she focuses on issues related to leadership development such as next generation access and equity, public diplomacy, and diversity and inclusion across the transatlantic space. Her expertise includes cross-cultural relations and institutional development, and she has a particular interest in the ways different national and cultural contexts shape leaders’ worldviews and ultimately affect policy innovations. Doherty has devoted her career to understanding and furthering cross-cultural communication and development. Prior to joining GMF, she was a lecturer in political philosophy at Columbia University in New York City. Her doctoral research in international history, also from Columbia, examined the ways networks of writers mobilized across national lines to rally cultural power as a diplomatic force to counter political extremism during the 20th century. She has written articles for several academic journals, mainstream outlets such as the Huffington Post and the Chronicle of Higher Education, and as a blogger for various outlets.

MATT DUSS is president of the Foundation for Middle East Peace. He has previously served as a policy analyst at the Center for American Progress and columnist for American Prospect. Duss received a Master’s degree in Middle East studies from the University of Washington’s Jackson School of International Studies and a BA in political science from the University of Washington. His writing has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, Baltimore Sun, Nation, Forward and Guardian. He has appeared as a commentator on CNN, MSNBC, BBC, Fox News and Al Jazeera, as well as numerous radio programs.

DAVID EICHENBAUM is a Washington-based Democratic media consultant. In the 2012 elections, Eichenbaum was part of the advertising team that produced ads for Priorities USA, the pro-Obama super PAC. He has helped elect many governors, Senators and Members of Congress, including Governors and now Senators Tim Kaine of Virginia and Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Governors Steve Beshear of Kentucky and Mike Beebe of Arkansas, Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray of Washington, Carl Levin of Michigan and the late Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey. Internationally, Eichenbaum has worked on political campaigns in the United Kingdom, Romania and Israel. Prior to becoming a consultant, David worked on Capitol Hill and in a variety of state and national Democratic campaigns as a press secretary and campaign manager and as communications director of the Democratic National Committee. David has twice lived in Israel, most recently in 2011, and he continues to be involved in projects there. Prior to moving to Washington, David was an actor in New York.
**Khaled Elgindy** is a fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. He is a founding board member of the Egyptian-American Rule of Law Association, established in the spring of 2011. Before arriving at Brookings, Elgindy spent more than five years as an advisor to the Palestinian leadership in Ramallah on permanent status negotiations with Israel, and was a key participant in the Annapolis negotiations held throughout 2008. Prior to that, he spent many years in various political and policy-related positions in Washington, DC, both inside and outside of government. Elgindy is the author of numerous analyses and articles on the Middle East peace process, Israeli-Palestinian affairs, Egyptian politics and related subjects. His articles have appeared in *Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The National Interest, The Washington Quarterly*, as well as other journals and edited volumes, and he has been a frequent commentator on Aljazeera English, ABC, BBC, CNN, MSNBC, NPR and other news media. Elgindy earned his M.A. in Arab Studies from Georgetown University and his B.A. in Political Science from Indiana University.

**Alan Elsner** is Vice President for Communications at J Street. As State Department and later White House correspondent for Reuters News Agency, Elsner traveled the world with Secretaries of State and was on first name terms with presidents and vice presidents. His sharp questioning during the Rwanda genocide forced the United States to change its policy and was later highlighted in the Hollywood movie “Hotel Rwanda.” As Reuters National Correspondent, Elsner was the agency’s chief writer on 9/11/2001 and his byline was featured on the agency’s stories that day and through the subsequent period. Elsner is the author of two novels and two works of fiction. His first book, *Gates of Injustice: The Crisis in America’s Prisons*, was hailed by the late Sen. Edward Kennedy as a “wake-up call” and welcomed by the political left and right. His first novel, *The Nazi Hunter*, was described by *Publishers’ Weekly* as “a gripping debut thriller and a compelling tale.”

**Nabila Espanioly** is an activist in Israeli’s Hadash party. Espanioly is also the founder of the Pedagogical Center and Multipurpose Women’s Center in Nazareth, and she has served as the director since its establishment in 1989. She is a founding member of the Mossawa Center—the Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens in Israel—which she chaired until 2011. A former member of New Israel Fund’s international board, Espanioly has also been active in various women’s organizations and peace organizations. She received the international Aachen Peace Prize in recognition of her efforts to promote peace and human rights in the Middle East, and she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize as one of “Thousand Women for Peace”. Espanioly has written and edited several books, and she lectures on topics including early childhood education, Palestinian women in Israel, violence against women, women in the media, and women’s political participation. Espanioly received a B.A. in social work from Haifa University, and an M.A. in psychology from Bamberg University in Germany.

**Marcia Freedman** migrated to Israel from the US in 1967. In the early 1970s, she was one of the founders and leaders of the feminist movement. Freedman was elected to the Knesset and served from 1973 to 1977. She was then a rare voice for women’s issues and the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. After returning to the US in 1981, Freedman was again a rare voice in the American Jewish community for a negotiated resolution of the conflict. In 2002 she was elected founding president of Brit Tzedek v’Shalom, which became part of J Street at its founding in 2009. Freedman is the author of *Exile in the Promised Land*, a memoir of her years in Israel, and *Sitting Shiva: A Ghost Story*, soon-to-be published.

**Josh Frieides** is the Director of Regional Operations and Strategy at J Street. Josh comes to J Street with over 20 years of experience as an organizer and strategist. After a stint in the Peace Corps, Josh got his law degree from the University of Colorado and then went to work for Common Cause Massachusetts, serving as its Executive Director. From there Josh worked for the AARP leaving that organization in 2000 to become the senior staff person at the Freedom to Marry Coalition of Massachusetts. Josh spent the next 12 years of his life advocating successfully for marriage equality, first in Massachusetts and then in Washington State where he became the Executive Director of Equal Rights Washington. In 2009 Josh served as the campaign manager of the Approve 71 campaign, the first successful campaign to secure comprehensive legal protection of LGBT families through the ballot.

**Lara Friedman** is the director of policy and government relations for Americans for Peace Now, the Washington-headquartered sister organization of the Israeli Peace Now movement (Shalom Achshav). A former US Foreign Service officer, Lara served in Jerusalem, Washington, Tunis and Beirut (and briefly in Khartoum). Widely recognized as an authority on US policy in the Middle East, Congressional discourse on the Middle East, Israeli settlements and Jerusalem, Lara meets frequently with Members of Congress and Congressional staff, administration officials, foreign diplomats and other members of the foreign policy community. She is a trusted resource for journalists and policymakers and regularly publishes pieces in the US and Israeli press. She also works closely with Jerusalem expert Danny Seidemann and
has participated in Track II efforts, including the Jerusalem Old City Initiative. Lara has a BA from the University of Arizona and a Master’s degree from Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service.

JIM GERSTEIN is a founding partner of Gerstein | Bocian | Agne Strategies, a Washington-based firm providing public opinion research and strategic planning services to a wide range of non-profit organizations, Fortune 500 companies and candidates for elected office. For 10 years, he served as the executive director of Democracy Corps, where he oversaw a national polling program and focus group research in over 20 states. He was also the executive director of the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation, where he convened Middle East diplomats in the US for meetings with political and business leaders. During the 1999 Israeli prime ministerial campaign, Gerstein joined Ehud Barak’s American consulting team and oversaw the polling, paid media and message development for the Barak campaign. He has worked on several American political campaigns and held several positions in the Democratic Party.

ILAN GOLDENBERG is Senior Fellow and Director of the Middle East Security Program at the Center for a New American Security. He is a foreign policy and defense expert with extensive government experience covering Iran’s nuclear program, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the broader challenges facing the Middle East. Prior to CNAS, Mr. Goldenberg served as the Chief of Staff to the Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations at the U.S. Department of State. In that position, he has played a key leadership role supporting Secretary Kerry’s initiative to conduct permanent status peace negotiations. Mr. Goldenberg previously served as a Senior Professional Staff Member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee covering Middle East issues, a Special Advisor on the Middle East, and the Iran Team Chief in the Office of the Under-Secretary of Defense for Policy. Prior to that, he worked as Policy Director and was one of the founding staff members of the National Security Network – a progressive nonprofit foreign policy organization.

LISA GOLDMAN is a journalist and policy analyst who focuses on Israel-Palestine and neighboring countries. Her articles have appeared in several publications, including Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, the New York Times, Toronto Globe and Mail and Haaretz. She covered the Second Lebanon War in 2006 and the Gaza disengagement in 2005. In 2007 she reported from Lebanon for Time Out Tel Aviv and Israel’s Channel 10. During Egypt’s 2011 uprising she spent two months in Cairo writing for the just-launched +972 Magazine, which she helped co-found and to which she is a contributing editor. Over the past year she headed the Israel-Palestine Initiative at the New America Foundation. Born and raised in Canada, she is an Israeli citizen who joined the Brooklyn diaspora in 2012.

GIORGIO GOMEL is the cofounder of Group Martin Buber-Jews for Peace, a Jewish group based in Rome devoted to promoting Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and the struggle against racism and anti-Semitism. He is member of the Board of JCall Europe and JCall Italy and a member of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Middle East Peace. Giorgio previously worked as an economist at the IMF in Washington and at the Bank of Italy in Rome, where he was Director for International Economics and Relations. He has written extensively on Israeli-Palestinian issues, European Jewry and anti-Semitism. He graduated with a degree in Political Science from the University of Torino and obtained a Ph.D in Economics from Columbia University.

NIMROD GOREN is the Founder and Chairman of Mitvim—The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies and a Teaching Fellow in Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He holds a PhD in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Psychology from the Hebrew University. After completing his doctorate, Dr. Goren took part in Public Policy training at Syracuse University as the Israeli participant in the U.S. State Department’s Fulbright Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program. Dr. Goren was the former Executive Director of the Young Israeli Forum for Cooperation (YIFC), and in this capacity he was awarded the 2009 Victor J. Goldberg IIE Prize for Peace in the Middle East. Dr. Goren served as a consultant in the Northern Ireland peace process, and has worked at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, The Nehemia Levtzion Center for Islamic Studies, and at The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace.

KALYANI GRAD-KAIMAL is a sophomore at George Washington University, majoring in Middle East Studies. After attending Seeds of Peace International Camp in 2012 (Go Bluel) she sought out ways to learn more about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. So she read A New Voice For Israel and became involved with J Street U upon arriving at campus. She is from Belmont, MA and believes the answer to most of the world’s problems can be found in Harry Potter.

MELANIE GREENBERG is President and CEO of the Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP). Before joining AfP, she was the President and Founder of the Cypress Fund for Peace and Security, a foundation making grants in the areas of peacebuilding and nuclear nonproliferation. Previously, she was a visiting scholar at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and a Teaching Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. She has served as the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Research and Planning at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and the Policy Director in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee covering Middle East issues. She is a Senior Fellow at the American Academy of Diplomacy and a Senior Research Associate at the National Defense University. Dr. Goren is a founding partner of Gerstein | Bocian | Agne Strategies.
Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, focusing on issues of justice in post-conflict peacebuilding. Formerly, Melanie was director of the Conflict Resolution Program at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. She previously served as associate director of the Stanford Center for International Security and Cooperation and deputy director of the Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation. In her work, Melanie has helped design and facilitate public peace processes in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, and the Caucasus. She has taught courses in international conflict resolution, multi-party conflict resolution, and negotiation at Stanford Law School, Georgetown University Law Center and George Washington University.

YOEL HASSON is the CEO of the Hatnua Party, which he joined in 2012. During the recent election, he was placed in the third place on the party’s list, and in 16th place in the Zionist Union alliance. He is the previous head of the Betar Movement, as well as Public Affairs Advisor to PM Ariel Sharon and Chair of the Likud Youth Movement. Most recently, he was also appointed as the Chairman of the State Comptroller Committee. Hasson joined the Kadima Party in 2006, and he was elected to Knesset shortly thereafter. During this time, he was appointed as the Kadima Parliamentary Group Chairman and the Coalition Chairman. That same year, Hasson was elected as the 35th President of the World Zionist Congress—the youngest person to be elected to this position since Theodor Herzl.

ARIELLA HOHL is a student at Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, class of 2017. She is focusing her studies in Middle Eastern Studies and Talmud and Rabbinics. Ariella comes from a Swiss family and was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil, where she worked as an educator in synagogues and Jewish high schools teaching Judaism, leadership programming and Israeli politics. She is currently the co-chair of J Street U at Columbia University.

HEATHER HURLBURT has spent her career at the intersection of US politics and national security policy. As Director of New America’s New Models of Policy Change program, Hurlburt leads research into how policy advocacy is adapting to be effective in our current environment of intense political polarization, and guides to advocates and funders seeking to navigate politics effectively on behalf of policy. Previously, she ran the National Security Network, a premier source for internationalist foreign policy messaging and advocacy; served as a Special Assistant and speechwriter to President Bill Clinton, speechwriter for Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright and Warren Christopher; and member of the State Department’s policy planning staff. She has also worked on Capitol Hill, the U.S. Delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and for the International Crisis Group. Hurlburt is a frequent media commentator and co-hosts the “Drezburt” podcast on foreign affairs at bloggingheads.tv. She holds degrees from Brown and George Washington Universities.

RABBI JILL JACOBS is the Executive Director of T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, which mobilizes 1,800 rabbis and cantors and tens of thousands of American Jews to protect human rights in North America and Israel. She is the author of Where Justice Dwells: A Hands-On Guide to Doing Social Justice in Your Jewish Community and There Shall Be No Needy: Pursuing Social Justice through Jewish Law and Tradition. Widely regarded as a leading voice on Jewish social justice, she has written about Jewish perspectives on social justice and human rights for more than two dozen publications. Rabbi Jacobs has been named three times to the Forward’s list of 50 influential American Jews, to Newsweek’s list of the 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America every year since 2009, and to the Jerusalem Post’s 2013 list of “Women to Watch.”

ABIGAIL JACOBSON is a lecturer in the history department at MIT. She is currently working on two main projects. The first focuses on the history of Palestinian communism and anti-imperial struggle at the end of the British mandate and the early years of the State of Israel. The second project discusses relations and links between Jews of Arab descents and Arabs in Mandatory Palestine. She received her PhD from the University of Chicago in 2006 and then taught for several years in Israel. In 2011-12 she was a junior research fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University. Her research focuses on the social and urban history of mixed urban communities in Palestine and the Eastern Mediterranean in the late Ottoman period and the British mandate. Jacobson’s book, entitled From Empire to Empire: Jerusalem between Ottoman and British Rule was published by Syracuse University Press in July 2011.

NADER JAYOUSI is a peace activist and lawyer living in Ramallah. Jayousi currently practices criminal and corporate law at Injaz Law firm in Ramallah. Jayousi spent two years working for the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an Analyst and Liaison Officer coordinating foreign diplomatic missions. He gained his LLB from the University of Jordan in Amman and is the founder of Pal Vision for Sport, a program designed to foster educational, social and athletic development for children in Palestine. Nader also participated in SHADES, a Ramallah-based program established to train young leaders in the region in the principles of negotiation and in New Story Leadership, a program...
supported by the US State Department. As a result of his work with New Story Leadership, Jayousi uses his narrative as a tool in working towards a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**BATYA KAHANA-DROR** is Executive Director and Advocacy Coordinator at Mavoi Satum (Dead End), an organization that advocates for a permanent solution for agunot—women denied a religious divorce. A lawyer by profession, Batya founded “Yachad”, the Council for Interrelations between the Secular, Observant, and Ultra-Orthodox. She previously served as a member of the editorial staff at the Channel One and Two TV stations. Before joining Mavoi Satum in 2004, Batya worked for the Jerusalem District Attorney’s office. An expert on gender issues in law, religion, and society, Batya writes and speaks widely on the subject, including a monthly column in Ynet (Yediot Achronoth’s online newspaper).

**DAN KALIK** is the Vice President of Political Affairs at J Street. He oversees all of J Street’s political activity, including JStreetPAC, the largest pro-Israel PAC in the United States. Kalik’s political career began at an early age as he grew up in the ‘first in the nation’ primary state of New Hampshire where he was lucky enough to meet every presidential candidate who ran for office in the 80s and 90s. In 2003-4, Kalik worked in Vermont at the national headquarters of Howard Dean’s presidential campaign. Kalik holds a law degree from The George Washington University, is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and has a degree in Economics from Tufts University.

**RON KAMPEAS** is the DC Bureau Chief of the Jewish Telegraph Agency (JTA). Ron came to JTA from The Associated Press, where he worked for more than a decade in its bureaus in Jerusalem, New York, London and, most recently, Washington. He has reported from Northern Ireland, Afghanistan, Bosnia and West Africa. While living in Israel, he also worked for the Jerusalem Post and several Jewish organizations.

**MENACHEM KLEIN** is a Senior Lecturer in Bar Ilan University’s Department of Political Science, a Senior Research fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, and a Visiting Professor at King’s College of London. He is a Board Member of B’tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. In 2000, Klein served as an external expert adviser for Jerusalem Affairs and Israel-PLO Final Status Talks to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He also served as a member of the political advisory team operating in the Prime Minister’s Office. Since 1996, Klein has been active in many unofficial negotiations with Palestinian counterparts, and he is a signatory to the Geneva Accord. Dr. Klein is the author of several books, including *Jerusalem: The Contested City, The Jerusalem Problem: The Struggle for Permanent Status, and A Possible Peace Between Israel & Palestine: An Insider’s Account of the Geneva Initiative, and Lives in Common: Arabs and Jews in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Hebron.*

**RABBIS SHARON KLEINBAUM** serves as spiritual leader of New York City’s Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST), the largest LGBTQ synagogue in the world. She was installed as CBST’s first rabbi in 1992. She is a prominent advocate for human rights. She graduated from Barnard College and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where she was ordained While at Barnard College. Rabbi Kleinbaum served on Mayor Bloomberg’s Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Runaway and Homeless Youth and New York Police Department’s LGBT Advisory Committee. She is a Commissioner on New York City’s Commission on Human Rights, serves on Mayor de Blasio’s Faith Based Advisory Council and the U.S Department of State’s Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group Sub-working Group on Social Justice. She has two daughters.

**JACOB KRAUS** is a senior Political Science major at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is one of three Midwest Regional Co-Chairs for J Street U.

**STEVEN KRUNBER** is the Chief of Staff at J Street. Prior to serving as Chief of Staff, Steven was J Street's Director of Israel and International Programs and oversaw efforts to highlight the significant support that exists in Israel for a two-state solution. Steven first joined J Street shortly after its inception in 2008 as the Assistant Director of Political Affairs and then moved into the position of Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs. He designed and implemented targeted advocacy efforts that helped earn J Street the title of The Nation’s “Most Valuable National Advocacy Group” in 2009. Previously, Steven served as a policy associate at the Institute for Inclusive Security where he worked with Israeli and Palestinian women leaders on designing inclusive peace and security processes. Prior to that, Steven worked for Search for Common Ground where he was one of the coordinators of the Madrid+15 conference, convening officials and civil society leaders from the Middle East, Europe, the US, and the UN to strategize on launching a regional, comprehensive approach to resolving Arab-Israeli conflicts.

**YEHUDA KURTZER** is President of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. He has a doctorate in Jewish Studies from Harvard University and an MA in Religion from Brown University, and is an alumnus of both the Wexner Graduate and Bronfman Youth Fellowship programs. Yehuda is the author of *Shuva: The Future of the Jewish*
Past, a work of constructive theology that offers new thinking on how contemporary Jews can and should relate to our past while living profoundly in the present. As a fellow in the Institute’s iEngage Project, Yehuda writes and teaches widely on the central challenges facing Jewish life in both America and Israel, and how new Jewish thinking can help us stand up to these challenges. Yehuda previously served on the faculty of Brandeis University as the inaugural Chair of Jewish Communal Innovation. He now lives in New York with his wife, Stephanie Ives, and their three children.

**MENACHEM LEIBOVIC** is the Deputy Chairman of Jewish National Fund/Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael and oversees the organization’s land portfolio. Leibovic also serves as Chairman of Himnuta, a subsidiary land acquisition group of JNF/KKL. Leibovic has a long record of service to Israel and the Jewish community, including serving as Executive Director of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism and as a Sergeant Major in the Artillery Corps of the Israel Defense Force. Leibovic holds degrees from Hebrew University and Baltimore Hebrew University and resides in Jerusalem with his wife, Rabbi Maya Leibovic, and their four children.

**LIBBY LENKINSKI** is the Vice President for Strategy at the New Israel Fund (NIF). Prior to joining NIF two years ago, Libby worked as Director of International Relations at the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), and before that as a strategy consultant to human rights and social change organizations in Israel, where she led media and fundraising efforts for organizations like Yesh Din, Parents Circle Families Forum and the Arava Institute. She has led outreach and impact campaigns for documentary films including Budrus and The Law in These Parts, helped start up media initiatives and run political and social issue campaigns. She is an advisor to OPEN (Online Progressive Engagement Network) and +972 Magazine and serves on the board of Comet-ME, an NGO providing renewable energy to off-the-grid Palestinian villages in the West Bank and Hashomer Hatzair North America.

**RACHEL LERNER** has worked on Jewish Community issues for over fifteen years, including six years at Jewish Council for Public Affairs in New York where she was director of the Israel Advocacy Initiative. In 2009, she joined J Street where she is currently Senior Vice President for Community Relations. Rachel graduated with a BA in Literature from SUNY Binghamton and a Masters in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School. She spent her freshman undergraduate year in Israel at Bar Ilan University and a summer at the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. She has led outreach and special project work on Jewish communities in Israel (ACRI), and before that as a strategy consultant to human rights and social change organizations in Israel, where she led media and fundraising efforts for organizations like Yesh Din, Parents Circle Families Forum and the Arava Institute. She has led outreach and impact campaigns for documentary films including Budrus and The Law in These Parts, helped start up media initiatives and run political and social issue campaigns. She is an advisor to OPEN (Online Progressive Engagement Network) and +972 Magazine and serves on the board of Comet-ME, an NGO providing renewable energy to off-the-grid Palestinian villages in the West Bank and Hashomer Hatzair North America.

**RABBI JOSHUA LEVINE GRATER** is the spiritual leader of Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center since 2003. He was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Before arriving in Pasadena, he served a pulpit in Kingston, NY and was a Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow at Congregation B’hai Jeshurun in New York City. He co-chairs the interfaith organization Abrahamic Faith Peacemaking Initiative, which he helped to found in 2004. He is on the Executive Committee of T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights and is co-chair of J-Street’s Los Angeles Rabbinic Cabinet. Rabbi Levine Grater has a regular blog in The Huffington Post and The Times of Israel, is a frequent contributor to the Jewish Journal of Southern California. He is a trained Jewish meditation instructor and plays percussion. He resides in Pasadena with his wife, Franci and their two children.
DANIEL LEVY is the Director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at the European Council on Foreign Relations based in London. He was formerly Director of the New America Foundation’s Middle East Taskforce and a Senior Fellow at The Century Foundation. Mr. Levy was a member of the official Israeli delegation to the Taba negotiations with the Palestinians in January 2001, and previously served on the Israeli negotiating team to the “Oslo B” Agreement from May to September 1995, under Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. He also served as the lead Israeli drafter of model peace agreement, the Geneva Initiative. From 2003 to 2004, he worked as an analyst for the International Crisis Group’s Middle East Programme. Mr. Levy received a Bachelors and Masters with Honors from King’s College, Cambridge where he was awarded prizes in Social and Political Science. He was the elected Chair of the World Union of Jewish Students and was also Projects Director for the Economic Co-operation Foundation, a policy planning think tank in Tel Aviv. He is member of the board of Directors of the New Israel Fund and of Molad, the Centre for the Renewal of Israeli Democracy and a Trustee of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

SARAH ANNE MINKIN is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley’s Center for Right-Wing Studies and a lecturer in the UC Berkeley Sociology department. Sarah Anne is currently writing a book on the ways in which mainstream American Jewish organizations cultivate Jewish attachment to the state of Israel while simultaneously setting boundaries around acceptable Jewish engagement with Israel. Her research probes the intersection of emotion and politics, paying close attention to the marginalization and exclusion of Jews who challenge conventional beliefs and practices with regard to Palestinians. In the 2015-2016 academic year, she will hold a position of assistant professor of Sociology at the University of San Francisco. Sarah Anne earned her PhD in Sociology from UC Berkeley in 2014 and holds an MA in Sociology from UC Berkeley and a BA in Women’s and Gender Studies from Yale University.

NEGAR MORTAZAVI is an Iranian-American journalist and commentator based in New York City. She has previously served as the host of a daily interactive show at Voice of America’s Persian television in Washington, DC. She has also worked for the International Center for Journalists in Washington and the United Nations in New York. She received her Master’s in International Development from Brandeis University and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Massachusetts. She was born and raised in Tehran.

HANNAH NAYOWITH is a student at Carleton College and a Co-Chair of J Street U Carleton. She grew up in both Pittsboro, North Carolina and Western Massachusetts. After taking a class on identity narratives in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, she joined J Street U Carleton her freshman year and interned at J Street Los Angeles this past summer.

ORYL NOY is a blogger and editor of the Hebrew website, Local Call, and a translator of Farsi literature into Hebrew. Born in Tehran, Iran, Noy immigrated to Israel at the beginning of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. For the past two decades, she has served as a left and Mizrahi activist committed to the struggle against the occupation and against the political, cultural and social marginalization of the Israeli Jews from Arab and Muslim countries. In the past, she has worked as the producer, editor, and presenter of a daily political talk show at All For Peace radio station; spokesperson for Keshev, the Center for the Protection of Democracy in Isreal; and spokesperson and report writer at Ir-Amin. She served as a board member at IPCRI: Israeli-Palestinian Center for Research and Information, the Mizrahi Democratic Rainbow, and Coalition of Women for Peace.

DANIEL MAY began his organizing career building tenant unions in the South Bronx before moving to Los Angeles to found, with other organizers, One LA - IAF, the Los Angeles affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation. While in Los Angeles, Daniel led a campaign to uncover police profiling and abuse of undocumented immigrants in Maywood, CA and spearheaded the IAF’s outreach to the LA Jewish community. From 2010-2014 he was Director of J Street U, overseeing its growth from 6 campus chapters to over 60. He has a Masters in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School and is currently a PhD candidate in Religion, Ethics and Politics at Princeton University.
YUDITH OPPENHEIMER is the executive director of Ir Amim. Before assuming leadership of Ir Amim in 2008, Yudith was a fellow at the Mandel School for Educational Leadership in Jerusalem. From 2000 to 2006, she served as Executive Director of Kol Ha-Isha - The Jerusalem Feminist Center. During extended stays in South Africa and New Zealand, Yudith engaged in various communal and gender-related projects and among positions early in her career, served at the Association of Civil Rights in Israel. A long time human rights activist, feminist and educator, Yudith holds an MA in Development Administration from the University of South Africa and is a Doctoral candidate in the Department of Hermeneutics and Cultural Studies at Bar-Ilan University.

DIANE ORENTLICHER, professor of international law at American University, has been described by the Washington Diplomat as “one of the world’s leading authorities on human rights law and war crimes tribunals.” She has lectured and published widely on issues of transitional justice, international criminal law and other areas of public international law, and has testified before the United States Senate and House on a range of issues relating to both domestic human rights laws and US foreign policy. Professor Orentlicher has served in various public positions, including as the deputy for war crimes issues in the US Department of State (2009-2011); as a United Nations independent expert on combating impunity (on appointment by the UN secretary-general); and as special advisor to the high commissioner on national minorities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (on secondment from the US Department of State). Professor Orentlicher is a graduate of Yale University and Columbia Law School.

MARINA OTTAWAY is a Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center and a long-time analyst of political transformations in Africa, the Balkans, and the Middle East. She is working on a project at the Wilson Center about the countries of the Arab Spring and Iraq. Ottaway joined the Wilson Center after 14 years at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, during which she played a central role in launching the Middle East Program. Prior to that, she carried out research in Africa and in the Middle East for many years and taught at Georgetown University, the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, the American University in Cairo, the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, the University of Zambia, and Addis Ababa University. Her most recent publications include Getting to Pluralism and Yemen on the Brink. While at Carnegie, she also supervised their Guide to Egypt’s Transition, a website that provides background and analysis on issues that will shape Egypt’s political future, and Iraqi Elections 2010, an online guide to Iraqi politics. Ottaway received her Ph.D. from Columbia University.

NAOMI PAISS is the Vice President of Public Affairs at the New Israel Fund. Before working for the New Israel Fund, she served as Vice President for Widmeyer Communications. She has previously directed communication for the Brady Campaign, the National Wildlife Federation, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. She graduated with a BA in History and Philosophy from Sarah Lawrence College.

GERI D. PALAST is the Managing Director at the Israel Action Network (IAN), the joint initiative of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs to defend Israel's legitimacy and work towards the two-state solution. She has extensive experience organizing and leading broad-based national grassroots and legislative issue campaigns. From 2000-2011, she founded and ran two NGOs on school finance reform to ensure adequate funding for poor children and justice system reform. From 1993-2000, she served as the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs during the Clinton Administration. Previously, she served as the national Legislative and Political Director of Service Employees International Union. She has served on numerous boards, including the JCPA, taught at universities, ran three social justice NGOs and is an attorney.

AMBASSADOR THOMAS R. PICKERING holds the rank of Career Ambassador. In a diplomatic career spanning five decades, he was US ambassador to the Russian Federation, India, Israel, El Salvador, Nigeria, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Pickering also served on assignments in Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and he has also served as Ambassador and Representative to the UN, Executive Secretary of the Department of State, and Special Assistant to William Rogers and Henry Kissinger. Ambassador Pickering is currently Vice Chairman at Hills and Company, which provides advice and counsel to a number of major US enterprises. He has previously served as Senior Vice President for International Relations and a member of the Executive Council at Boeing, which he joined upon his retirement as US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. He is a recipient of the Department of State's highest achievement, the Distinguished Service Award, and he serves as a member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies and the Council on Foreign Relations. He speaks French, Spanish and Swahili and has some fluency in Arabic, Hebrew and Russian.

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OPHIR PINES PAZ served as a Member of Knesset from 1996 until 2010 as a member of the Labor party. He has also held two major government positions, in which he served both as a portfolio minister and as a member of the cabinet. From 2005 to 2006, as part of Ariel Sharon’s government, Pines Paz served as the Minister of the Interior. During 2006, as part of the Ehud Olmert government, he served as the Minister of Science, Culture, and Sport and was a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defence cabinet. He is the recipient of the 2006 “Ometz” award. Pines Paz is currently the head of the Institution for Research of Local Government at Tel Aviv University.

KATE PRESS is the New York City Regional Director and Deputy Field Director at J Street. In 2009 Kate joined J Street as the East Coast Student Organizer. She became a member of the Field Team in June 2010. Before J Street she worked in Freetown, Sierra Leone building public administrative capacities in the provinces outside of Freetown. In this role, she trained local college graduates and found them placements in provincial government offices. Before that Kate worked for the International Development Research Center. Kate has a Masters in International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Kate has spent a over a year living in Israel and traveling the West Bank extensively as part of the Dorot Fellowship in Israel which works to assemble and empower a network of young Jewish lay leaders to enliven the American Jewish landscape. Born in Toronto, Canada, Kate now lives in Brooklyn.

BOAZ RAKOCZ currently serves as the Director General of the Knesset Social Guard, a non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to enhancing Israeli democracy and transforming the relationship between elected officials and their constituents. Previously, he worked at a marketing research firm, which he left in the wake of the 2011 social protests in Israel. Boaz was one of the leaders of the protest movement, and, inspired by its values, worked with other leaders to create the Knesset Social Guard. A native of Tel Aviv, Boaz served in the IDF for eight years as the commander of a combat unit and currently holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the reserves. He is currently an executive member of the Heschel Sustainability Center. He holds a MA in International Relations from Columbia University, specializing in economic and political development, as well as a BA in History and Security Studies from the Hebrew University.

FRANÇOIS RIVASSEAU is Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the United States. Prior to joining the Delegation, he served as the Deputy Head of Diplomatic Mission at the French Embassy to the United States. Mr. Rivasseau has spent much of his career working on disarmament, security, and multilateral affairs. He served as the head of the NATO desk in the Strategic Affairs and Disarmament department at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has also served as head of political affairs at the Ministry's United Nations Directorate, Deputy Permanent Representative at the French Mission to the Conference on Disarmament, and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to the EU. In 2006, he was elected for a year president of the Third Review Conference on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which restricts the use of inhumane armaments such as mines, lasers, and incendiary weapons.

LILLY RIVLIN is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and political activist. Before focusing on documentaries, she was a journalist and foundation consultant on the Middle East and women. Most recently, Rivlin was selected as the 2013-14 recipient of the annual Miller Distinguished Jewish Woman Filmmaker Award. In chronological order her films are Esther Broner: A Weave of Women (2013) and before that the award winning film, Grace Paley: Collected Shorts (2010); Can You Hear Me? Israeli and Palestinian Women Fight for Peace (2006); Gimme a Kiss (2000); Miriam’s Daughters Now (1986); and The Tribe (1983). She contributed to such works as Expulsion and Memory (1995); Full Circle, a film about women’s role in kibbutzim (1995); If Not Now When? (1988); Pillars of Fire, Israel TV’s 18-part series on the history of Zionism (1983); The Jews (1970-72). She is listed in Feminists Who Changed America, 1963-1975 (2007) and Jewish Women, A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia (2007).

JESSICA ROSENBLOM is J Street’s director of Media and Communications. Prior to working at J Street, Jessica was a vice president at Rabinowitz/Dorf Communications, where she worked to raise the profile of a number highly successful advocacy campaigns including the Great Schlep and the campaign by retired senior military leaders to end US-sanctioned torture. There she also worked to establish and grow J Street’s presence from its inception in 2008. Prior to joining Rabinowitz/Dorf, Rosenblum was the Director of Media and Communications for Brit Tzedek v’Shalom—then the largest American Jewish grassroots peace movement. Rosenblum also has served as a communications consultant for a various non-profit organizations and political campaigns, including then-State Senator Barack Obama’s first run for the United States Congress.

ALON SACHAR spent a half-dozen years as a Middle East expert and advisor on Arab-Israeli issues at the U.S. Department of State. Soon after joining the State Department in 2006, Alon held the Roadmap monitoring portfolio in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and worked
Previously he has served as diplomatic correspondent and political US-Israeli relations and Israel’s internal politics for close to thirty years. Eden.

CHEMI SHALEV is a co-founder of the Peace Now movement, served for many year the Prevention of Nuclear War and is an International Advisory Board and a diploma in conflict resolution from University of Maryland. She serves on the board of directors of several Israeli human rights, re-prioritize and reframe social change issues within the Israeli public debate. Saragusti has a masters degree in law from Tel Aviv University.

MEMBER OF Kneset OFER SHELACH is a member of the Yesh Atid party. In 2013, he placed sixth on the party’s list. Shelach is an experienced political and military commentator and sports journalist. He has worked for Yedioth Achronoth, Maariv and many other publications. He has also written a great amount about the IDF and security issues in the region. Shelach served in an elite paratrooper during the 1982 Lebanon War. He holds a BA in Economics and English Literature from Tel Aviv University.

MUNA SHIKAKI is an on-air correspondent and video journalist for Al-Arabiya News Channel, a leading Arabic language news network. Based in Washington, DC since 2004, she covers a broad range of issues, from US elections and politics, to foreign policy and the Arab and Muslim American communities. Shikaki has reported from over 30 US states, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Dubai, the Palestinian Territories and South America. She was a 2004 Fulbright scholar at Columbia University in New York, where she earned her M.S. in Journalism. She completed her B.A. at Birzeit University in Ramallah, Palestine.

DAVID K. SHIPLER worked for The New York Times from 1966 to 1988, reporting from New York, Saigon, Moscow, and Jerusalem before serving as chief diplomatic correspondent in Washington. He shared a George Polk Award for his coverage of the 1982 war in Lebanon and was executive producer, writer, and narrator of two PBS documentaries on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, one of which won an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for excellence in broadcast journalism. He is the author of seven books, Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land, which won a Pulitzer Prize. He has been a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a trustee of Dartmouth College, chair of the Pulitzer jury on general nonfiction, a writer-in-residence at the University of Southern California, and a Woodrow Wilson Visiting
Fellow. He has taught at Princeton University, at American University in Washington, DC, and at Dartmouth College.

NOAM SHUSTER graduated from Brandeis University as a co-existence scholar. Throughout her studies, she worked with youth in Rwanda and was awarded the “Davis Peace Prize” for having developed peace-peacebuilding programs for HIV-positive youth in Kigali. These initiatives supported the creation of healing narratives for health education based on reconciliation and confronting of the past. Ms. Shuster grew up in the only community in Israel where Palestinians and Jews live together in equality, Neve Shalom-Wahat Al Salam. She was educated in a bilingual and bicultural school, and speaks fluent Arabic—strengthening her Middle Eastern identity that is based on family roots in Iran. Ms. Shuster has worked in peacebuilding programs with Israelis and Palestinians since a young age and joined the international peacebuilding organization Interpeace in 2012, engaging with a special UN-based program working with strategic populations in the Israeli society that were previously excluded from the peace process.

ROBBIE SKEIST is the founder of the Chutzpah Collective and Chicago Friends of Peace Now. From the early 1970s through the mid-1980s, Skeist led the emergence of a vibrant pro-Israel, pro-peace movement among young Chicago-area Jews. He organized study groups and trips to Israel and the West Bank as well as Israeli-Palestinian dialogues at Hillels, synagogues, and social justice organizations. During his masters study in human services administration at Spertus College of Judaica, Skeist developed Chicago Friends of Peace Now (CFPN). In the 1980s, CFPN conducted hundreds of public forums to promote “two peoples, two states,” demonstrated against Israel’s role in the Sabra and Shatila massacres, and generated sustained coverage in Jewish and general media. For his clinical and advocacy work as an RN working with people over 50 impacted by HIV, he was honored by Nursing Spectrum Magazine as the nation’s nurse of the year for community service.

RACHAEL STRYER is a sophomore at Stanford University studying political science, where she also serves as the the Northwest Regional Co-Chair for J Street U. She is originally from Rockville, MD.

HOWARD J. SUMKA is an expert in post-conflict reconstruction and development in fragile and conflict-ridden regions. During his 25-year career with the US Agency for International Development, he lived and worked in Kenya and served as the country director of USAID’s Missions in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and, from 2006–2010, West Bank-Gaza, where he led USAID’s programs for Palestinian state building. In 2011–2012 he served as CEO of the OneVoice Movement, which mobilizes civil society on both sides to support a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Sumka is on OneVoice’s Honorary Board of Advisers and on the board of CEDAR (Communities Engaging with Difference and Religion). He attained the rank of minister counselor in the Senior Foreign Service and received the President’s Distinguished Service Award in 2012, the President’s Meritorious Service Award in 2004, and the USAID Administrator’s Award for Distinguished Career Service in 2010.

KSENIA SVETLOVA is a Knesset candidate for the Zionist Union and the Hatnua party. For 13 years, she served for as Arab affairs correspondent and analyst on Middle Eastern affairs for Russian-language Channel 9 in Israel, as well as the Jerusalem Post, Jerusalem Report, and many other Israeli and international publications. Ksenia received her BA and MA degrees in journalism and Middle East studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She is currently a PhD candidate and an associate professor at Hebrew University, where she teaches courses on journalism and communications in the Middle East as well as on contemporary culture in the Arab world. Ksenia speaks four languages fluently: Russian, English, Hebrew and Arabic. She is a mother of two.

MOAV VARDI is one of Israel’s top diplomatic and political correspondents. He is currently a Diplomatic Correspondent for the popular Channel 10 News, where he covers the Prime Minister’s office, Israel’s foreign relations, US-Israel relations and the Israeli Foreign Ministry. He previously served as a Documentary and Investigative Reporter for “The Source” on the same channel. He has reported live about the Egyptian Revolution, Iran negotiations and Ukraine’s revolution and conflict with Russia. He has participated in the CNN Journalistic Fellowship and the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the US Department of State’s premier professional exchange program. A good friend of J Street, Vardi has proved an invaluable resource for discovering what is really happening at the top echelons of Israeli policy making.

AVSHALOM VILAN is the co-founder of the Israeli peace movement Peace Now. He is also a veteran Israeli peace activist, kibbutz manager and educator, as well as a veteran in the most elite commando unit in the IDF. Vilan most recently served as a Member of Knesset for the Meretz Party, having been elected to the 15th, 16th, and 17th Knesset. A member of Kibbutz Negba, where he was born, Vilan served in a special unit of the Israeli Defense Forces before joining
with others reserve soldiers in 1977 to found Israel’s first active peace movement. He served Peace Now as press liaison officer, represented the organization at international colloquia and meetings with heads of state in Israel and abroad, and functioned as a key spokesperson for the movement. Between 1977 and 1980, Vilan served the Kibbutz Artzi Federation of Kibbutzim as director of the KAF’s Young Adults Division.

RABBI JOSHUA WEINBERG is the President of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He was recently ordained from the HUC-JIR Israeli Rabbinic Program in Jerusalem, and is currently living in New York. Josh previously served as the Director of the Israel program for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and as a faculty member of NFTY-EIE High School in Israel teaching Jewish History. Josh is a reserve officer in the IDF spokesperson’s unit, has hiked the Israel-trail, and came on Aliyah to Israel in 2003. Originally from Chicago, he has a B.A. from University of Wisconsin in Hebrew Literature, Political Science and International Relations, and studied for an M.A. at the Hebrew University in Jewish Education. Josh has taught and lectured widely throughout Israel, the US and Europe, as well as on Kivunim and Shnat Netzer gap-year programs. He has led numerous tours and trained tour educators for the Reform movement’s Israel experiences.

DYLAN WILLIAMS is the Vice President of Government Affairs at J Street. He joined J Street after serving as Counsel for Foreign Relations, Trade and Immigration to US Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME). He brings more than a decade of experience advising US government officials and private clients on international affairs and law. Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, Dylan is a member of the New York Bar and holds a law degree and Bachelors in Government from Cornell University.

STANLEY WULF serves on J Street’s National Advisory Council and supports community outreach through multivisual, motivational, and educational presentations for local J Street chapters and synagogues. He has specific expertise in communication seminars and “train the trainer” workshops. He was raised in South Africa as a committed Zionist and traditional Jew. He practiced as an obstetrician-gynecologist in Los Angeles, then studied in Jerusalem at the liberal Pardes yeshiva. Since 1989, he has lived in Berkeley, and has served as President and Treasurer of Berkeley’s Modern Orthodox synagogue. His family has a home in Jerusalem, he spends extended periods in Israel, and serves on the Board of Molad, the Center for Renewal of Israeli Democracy, headquartered in Jerusalem. Dr. Wulf has recently retired as Chief Medical Officer of a medical technology company. In 2009 he was chosen by his peers as one of the “100 Most Inspiring People in the Life-Sciences Industry.”

MEMBER OF KNESSET TAMAR ZANDBERG was elected to Knesset in 2013 on behalf of the Meretz party. During her tenure, she served as chair of the Committee on Women’s Rights, as well as a member of several committees, including the finance, affordable housing and gender equality committees. Zandberg was also behind the initiative to introduce public transport on Shabbat, as well as behind the Israeli movement to support Palestinian statehood. A former Tel Aviv Yaffo City Council Member, Zandberg is a lifelong social and feminist activist. She is also the former parliamentary assistant to Member of Knesset Ran Cohen. Zandberg is a former lecturer at Sapir College in Sederot and at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya. She graduated from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and received an LLB from Tel Aviv University Law School and MA from Ben Gurion University.

GUY ZIV is an assistant professor at American University’s School of International Service (SIS), where he teaches courses on US foreign policy, the Middle East, and international negotiations. He is the author of Why Hawks Become Doves: Shimon Peres and Foreign Policy Change in Israel, published by SUNY Press in 2014. He also is Founder and Director of the Israel National Security Project (INSP), a repository of statements by Israeli security experts concerning the strategic imperative of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His current research focuses on foreign policy decision-making, the influence of think tanks on US foreign policy, and the role of political elites in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Ziv has a background in policy, having worked on Capitol Hill and for Israel Policy Forum. His articles have been published in peer-reviewed academic journals, policy journals and newspapers, such as The Baltimore Sun, Haaretz, The Hill, The Jerusalem Post, Newsday and USA Today.
## SATURDAY, MARCH 21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-10 pm</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION</strong> A Clear Choice for a Better Future</td>
<td>Ballroom AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 pm</td>
<td><strong>DESSERT RECEPTION</strong></td>
<td>South Pre-function</td>
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## SUNDAY, MARCH 22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30-8:15 am</td>
<td><strong>BREAKFAST</strong> Chapter Leadership Breakfast</td>
<td>Outside 202AB</td>
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<td>208AB</td>
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<td>209AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-9:45 am</td>
<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Israel as a Neighbor: A Progressive Approach to Israeli National Security and Foreign Policy</td>
<td>207A</td>
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<td>What Happens from Here? A Look at the Israeli Elections</td>
<td>202AB</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>BEYOND THE GREEN LINE</strong> Can the Obstacle of Settlements be Overcome?</td>
<td>201</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>CHOICES FOR A BETTER FUTURE</strong> What Should the US Do Next To Advance a Two-State Solution?</td>
<td>204AB</td>
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<td>Beyond the Usual Suspects: Broadening the Israeli Peace Camp</td>
<td>207B</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 am -11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION</strong> The Choices Ahead: Views from Israel</td>
<td>Ballroom AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am-12 pm</td>
<td>Parents Circle Mural Open House</td>
<td>Outside Ballroom B</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 am-12:45 pm</td>
<td>Stay Tuned: Israeli Women Up Front</td>
<td>202AB</td>
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<td>Artistic Freedom and Israeli History: A Book Discussion</td>
<td>201</td>
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<td>An Insider’s Look at a Unique Israeli-Palestinian Publication</td>
<td>204AB</td>
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<td>J Street U Presents: A Conversation with the Next Generation of Anti-Occupation Activists</td>
<td>207B</td>
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<td>Advocacy Day State Captain and Team Leader Training</td>
<td>207A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Israeli Meet-Up</td>
<td>204C</td>
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<td>J Street U: Hillel Professionals and Israel Fellows Meet-Up</td>
<td>208A</td>
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<td>J Street U: Parent Session</td>
<td>Ballroom A Balcony</td>
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<td></td>
<td>J Street U: High School Meet-Up</td>
<td>208B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>BEYOND THE GREEN LINE</strong> What Can the US and International Community Do About Settlements?</td>
<td>202AB</td>
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<td>Democracy Not Deals: Fighting Israel’s Hidden Corruption</td>
<td>207B</td>
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<td>Gaza: The Human and Political Costs of Deprivation and Disunity</td>
<td>204AB</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>CHOICES FOR A BETTER FUTURE</strong> Israel at a Crossroads</td>
<td>201</td>
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<td>Palestinian Efforts from the Ground Up</td>
<td>207A</td>
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<td><strong>TRAINING WORKSHOP</strong> Moving Others Through Stories</td>
<td>204C</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-3:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Iranian Nuclear Negotiations: The Political Challenges Ahead</td>
<td>202AB</td>
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<td>Is There a Regional Peace Process on the “Diplomatic Horizon?”</td>
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<td>What Just Happened? A Look at the Israeli Elections</td>
<td>207A</td>
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<td><strong>BEYOND THE GREEN LINE</strong> Eroding the Dream—The Cost of the Occupation to Israeli Society</td>
<td>207B</td>
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<td>The Pro-Israel, Pro-Peace Movement: Looking Back, Looking Forward</td>
<td>204AB</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>TRAINING WORKSHOP</strong> Responding to the Toughest Questions</td>
<td>204C</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION</strong> Does Liberal Zionism Have a Future?</td>
<td>Ballroom AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30-5:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>MINCHA SERVICES: EGALITARIAN AND MECHITZA</strong></td>
<td>See Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:45-9:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>SUPPLEMENTARY SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>J Street U Student Plenary Session</td>
<td>202AB and various breakouts</td>
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<td>Tr’uah and J Street Rabbinic Cabinet Happy Hour</td>
<td>Sixth and I Synagogue, 600 I St. NW</td>
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<td>Young Professionals Bar Night</td>
<td>Sixth Engine, 438 Massachusetts Ave NW</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LGBT Meet-Up</td>
<td>Ping Pong Dim Sum, 900 7th St. NW</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J Street Delegation Meet-Ups</td>
<td>See Program</td>
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</tbody>
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### MONDAY, MARCH 23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30-9 am</td>
<td>BREAKFAST</td>
<td>Outside 202AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-8:50 am</td>
<td>ADVOCACY DAY STATE CAPTAIN TEAM LEADER TRAINING</td>
<td>207A</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-10:15 am</td>
<td>J Street, Can We Hold it Together? Old Conflicts and New Developments on the Temple Mount</td>
<td>207A</td>
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<td>The Rise of European Anti-Semitism</td>
<td>204AB</td>
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<td>OLD CONFLICTS AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT</td>
<td>207A</td>
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<td>CHOICES FOR A BETTER FUTURE What’s Next for Palestinian Leadership?</td>
<td>202AB</td>
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<td>BEYOND THE GREEN LINE Follow the Money—American Philanthropic Dollars and the Future of a Two-State Solution</td>
<td>201</td>
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<td>Text Study: How Do We Understand Jewish Values, Part I</td>
<td>208AB</td>
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<td>TRAINING WORKSHOP Our Future Our Choice: Get Engaged In Your Community</td>
<td>204C</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am-12 pm</td>
<td>ADVOCACY DAY TRAINING</td>
<td>201</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Midwest, PA-Great Lakes, and New York</td>
<td>204AB</td>
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<td>Northeast, Northwest, and Southeast</td>
<td>202AB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southwest, Mountain West, and Capitol Region</td>
<td>207A</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-1:15 pm</td>
<td>SUPPLEMENTARY SESSIONS</td>
<td>201</td>
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<td>Lives in Common—Arabs and Jews in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Hebron: A Book Discussion</td>
<td>202AB</td>
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<td>People to People: Is It Just Nice or Also Necessary?</td>
<td>204AB</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Disruptive Media: Changing the Conversation in the Israeli-Palestinian Context</td>
<td>207A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Youth Activism From One Generation to the Next</td>
<td>201</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Community and Youth Group Meet-Ups</td>
<td>Salon ABC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rabbinic Lunch</td>
<td>208AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30-4 pm</td>
<td>PLENARY SESSION Policy Perspectives: Finding a Way Forward</td>
<td>Ballroom AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15-5:30 pm</td>
<td>GOING GLOBAL: PALESTINE AT THE UN AND ICC</td>
<td>204AB</td>
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<td>TAPPING INTO A BETTER FUTURE: WATER ACROSS BORDERS</td>
<td>207B</td>
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<td>CHOICES FOR A BETTER FUTURE How Can the American Jewish Community Advocate for Two States?</td>
<td>201</td>
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<td>Text Study: How Do We Understand Jewish Values, Part II</td>
<td>208AB</td>
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<td>Arab Spring, ISIS Fall?</td>
<td>202AB</td>
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<td>Pragmatic Middle Ground or Political Food Fight? Middle East Peacemaking and the 2016 Elections</td>
<td>207A</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:45-6 pm</td>
<td>MINCHA SERVICES: EGALITARIAN AND MECHITZA</td>
<td>See Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30-7:30 pm</td>
<td>GENERAL PRE-GALA RECEPTION</td>
<td>South Pre-function</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30-10 pm</td>
<td>GALA DINNER</td>
<td>Ballroom AB</td>
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</tbody>
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### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-10 am</td>
<td>ADVOCACY DAY KICK-OFF</td>
<td>2226 Rayburn House Office Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 am-2 pm</td>
<td>APPOINTMENTS WITH MEMBER OFFICES</td>
<td>Capitol Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-1 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Impact of the Recent Israeli Elections on US Foreign Policy</td>
<td>Senate Visitors Center, Room 201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Talk to a J Street U student</strong></td>
<td><strong>Speak to a member of a reconciliation organization</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visit the table of an organization that does work in the US and Israel/Palestinian territory</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>J Street</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visit an organization table who does work in the US and Israel/Palestinian territory</strong></td>
<td><strong>Attend all four plenaries</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Talk to a Rabbi</strong></td>
<td><strong>Find the map of Israel in your conference bag and think about how you’ll use it</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk to a member of a joint Palestinian-Israeli organization</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attend a session on Israeli Settlements</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk to a panelist</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk to a J Street or J Street U leader from Seattle</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Talk to someone who has visited a settlement in the last year</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk to someone who has lived in Israel/Palestinian authority</strong></td>
<td><strong>Attend a session on a topic you know nothing about</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Speak to someone who has served in the IDF</strong></td>
<td><strong>Attend the J Street U session</strong></td>
<td><strong>Find a think tank</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**EMAIL ADDRESS**

**NAME**

Drop this at the J Street Info Desk in Salon ABC for a chance to win two tickets to the next J Street National Conference!