



**J STREET
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

**RISE TO THE
MOMENT**

October 26-29, 2019 | Washington, DC

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

12:00–5:00PM	REGISTRATION OPENS Courtyard Marriott, Shaw Ballroom, 901 L Street NW
6:00PM	DOORS OPEN
7:30–9:30PM	WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
<i>The evening program will be livestreamed.</i>	<p>DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D Street NW</p> <p>SPEAKERS Nancy Reichman, Conference Co-Chair, J Street Michael Young, Conference Co-Chair, J Street</p> <p>FEATURED REMARKS Admiral (ret.) Ami Ayalon, Former Director, Shin Bet</p> <p>INTRODUCTION Jessica Smith, Chief Operating Officer, J Street J Street U National Board</p> <p>Live Recording of Pod Save the World J Street is honored to welcome Crooked Media’s hit podcast “Pod Save the World” for a live taping of an upcoming episode. Former Obama Administration officials Ben Rhodes and Tommy Vietor will discuss the latest global news with New York Times columnist Michelle Goldberg. They’ll also take a deep dive into the state of the US-Israel relationship, the threats to the core values and interests of both nations posed by their present leaderships and the dangers of West Bank annexation and Trump administration policies. Joined by leading activists - Jewish and Arab - from Israel, Rhodes and Vietor will explore some of the exciting new ways progressives are standing together in the fight to advance a democratic society and preserve the prospects for peace.</p> <p>MODERATORS Tommy Vietor, Host, <i>Pod Save The World</i> Ben Rhodes, Host, <i>Pod Save The World</i></p> <p>PANELISTS Michelle Goldberg, Columnist, <i>The Daily Beast</i>, <i>Slate</i>, <i>The New York Times</i> Maisam Jaljuli, Member of the National Leadership, Standing Together Mikhael Manekin, Director, Alliance for Israel’s Future Fellowship</p>
9:30–11:30PM	SOCIAL EVENT City Tap House Dupont DC, 1250 Connecticut Avenue NW <i>New Israel Fund New Gen and J Street Present:</i> Young Professionals Afterparty Join other young American, Israeli and Palestinian activists for an evening of drinks and networking. This afterparty is intended for conference participants between the ages of 23-39.

DAR Constitution Hall



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

7:30–10:30AM	REGISTRATION OPENS Courtyard Marriott, Shaw Ballroom, 901 L Street NW
8:45–10:00AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Room 202A	<p>From the River to the Sea?: A Primer on Occupation and Annexation In trying to understand the realities of occupation and the threat of annexation, it can be hard to fully grasp the situation on the ground from 6,000 miles away. Frank Lowenstein, former Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations, has briefed leaders at the highest levels of the US and foreign governments to demonstrate how occupation and creeping annexation are killing hopes for Palestinian statehood. His work was featured in <i>The New Yorker</i> piece “The Maps of Israeli Settlements that Shocked Barack Obama.” Join Lowenstein for a presentation he recently delivered on Capitol Hill, which breaks down the entrenchment of the settlements, the human impact of Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and how the far-right policies of Trump and Netanyahu are paving the way toward annexation.</p> <p>PRESENTER Frank Lowenstein, Former Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations</p>
Room 202B	<p>Israel’s Secret Allies and Not-So-Secret Foes: The Neighborhood in 2019 “Israel is here to stay, and we want peace with it,” said Bahraini Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa in June 2019 – one of many recent indications that Israel is shedding its pariah status among some Middle Eastern states. Indeed, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain increasingly work together behind the scenes – often jointly pressuring the Trump administration – with the shared goal of isolating Iran. How has this shift in regional alliances, marked by Israel’s improving ties to various Gulf states, impacted the possible opportunities for Israel to reach a long-term rapprochement with these former foes? Are Arab states increasingly turning a deaf ear to Palestinians’ aspirations for statehood, as Prime Minister Netanyahu seems to have gambled? Or will the failure to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remain a major barrier to improved ties between Israel and the Arab states?</p> <p>MODERATOR Hady Amr, Nonresident Senior Fellow – Foreign Policy, Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings Institution</p> <p>PANELISTS Admiral (ret.) Ami Ayalon, Former Director, Shin Bet Dr. Assaf David, Co-Founder, Forum for Regional Thinking (FORTH) Robin Wright, Senior Fellow, The Wilson Center</p>
Room 203AB	<p>Advocacy Day State Captains and Team Leaders Briefing All Advocacy Day State Captains and Team Leaders must attend this session one of the two times this training is offered. The same session will also be offered on Sunday, October 27 from 12:00-1:15PM.</p> <p>PRESENTER Dylan Williams, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, J Street</p>

Room 203AB
This session is closed to the press.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27



8:45–10:00AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
<p>Room 206</p> <p><i>This session will be livestreamed.</i></p>	<p>Israeli Elections Round Two: Interplay Between Israeli Politics and Media</p> <p>We find ourselves once again in the midst of a post-election coalition building period, following Netanyahu’s pre-indictment hearing, waiting to see how it all unfolds. The most recent Israeli election brought vicious campaign rhetoric, lowlighted by Netanyahu’s incitement against minorities, attacks on the media, violations of election law and alarming pledges to annex parts of the West Bank. During the election, cynical political operatives attempted to manipulate public opinion via social networks, and those networks became notorious as hotbeds for “fake news.” In this political environment, public trust in the media, leaders and state institutions has declined. The public is searching for responsible sources that can provide meaning and context to current affairs. How can the media help safeguard democracy in an increasingly hostile environment? What is the Israeli public most concerned about as coalition negotiations continue? What do the recent election results and government coalition building efforts tell us about the priorities of Israelis and their political leaders?</p> <p>MODERATOR Anat Saragusti, Journalist and Publicist</p> <p>PANELISTS Amb. Alon Pinkas, former Consul General, Israeli Consulate of New York Member of Knesset Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh, Blue and White Party Amir Tibon, Washington Correspondent, <i>Haaretz</i></p>
<p>Room 207B</p>	<p><i>Gisha – The Legal Center for Freedom of Movement Presents:</i> Gaza: From Crisis to Crisis</p> <p>According to UN reports, Gaza could be virtually uninhabitable in just a few years’ time. Water is undrinkable, unemployment rates are sky-high and over seventy percent of the population relies on humanitarian aid. Yet many observers treat the crisis more like an unavoidable natural disaster than as the consequence of failed and dangerous policies. In this panel, we will examine the roles of various actors — including Hamas, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, the Trump administration and the international community — in maintaining Gaza’s inhumane status quo. How can this cycle of deterioration finally be broken, and how can we help achieve desperately-needed change for the people of Gaza?</p> <p>MODERATOR Shifra Sered, Associate Regional Director for Tristate/PA, J Street</p> <p>PANELISTS Yousef Bashir, Author, <i>The Words of My Father</i> Elizabeth Campbell, Director, UNRWA Washington Tania Hary, Executive Director, Gisha — The Legal Center for Freedom of Movement Celine Touboul, Co-Director-General, Economic Cooperation Foundation</p>

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

8:45–10:00AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
<p>Room 208AB</p>	<p><i>OneVoice and J Street U Present:</i> Student Activist Workshop</p> <p>Join like-minded student activists from across the nation for a collaborative thinking and working session. Share your experiences fighting for justice in Israel and the Palestinian territory and working for a solution to the conflict and an end to the occupation. Strategize together how to address the most urgent issues on your campus, in our communities and in our national politics.</p>
<p>Room 209BC</p> <p><i>This session is for clergy only.</i></p>	<p><i>T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights Presents:</i> A Text Study: Not by Might: Anti-Democratic Trends in the United States & Israel</p> <p>What does Rav Kook say about representative democracy? How does theology shape our response to segregation? Is America still, as Rav Moshe Feinstein called it, a “government of chesed”? Study these texts and more as we examine parallel anti-democratic trends in the United States and Israel. We’ll be looking for ways that the Torah undergirds and supports our contention that we can best secure safety for the Jewish people through building bridges with other minority communities, not by circling the wagons.</p> <p>PRESENTER Rabbi Lev Meirowitz Nelson, Director of Rabbinic Training, T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights</p>
<p>10:00–10:30AM</p>	<p>BREAKFAST</p>
<p>Salon GHI</p> <p>10:30AM</p>	<p>REGISTRATION OPENS</p>
<p>Salon GHI</p>	<p>Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt Vernon Place NW</p>

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

10:30–11:45AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 201

If You Build It, They Will Come: Building an Infrastructure for Change in Israel with American Partners

Over the last decade, Israeli activists have increasingly understood that political change requires investment in institutions and in the next generation of leaders. As a result, Israelis have established a multitude of new organizations and programs — including trainings, coalitions, mobilization efforts and think tanks to inject new ideas into the Israeli left. On the other side of the political aisle, Israel’s right wing and its American counterparts have spent decades building a powerful alliance through international right-wing institutions and networks — and it has had a major political impact. How can American progressives support their Israeli counterparts in building progressive movements? What do like-minded American and Israelis stand to benefit from this partnership? How can an alliance between progressives in Israel and the United States combat the authoritarianism promoted by our respective right-wing blocks?

PANEL CHAIR

David N. Myers, Board President, New Israel Fund

MODERATOR

Isaac Luria, Director of Voice, Creativity and Culture, The Nathan Cummings Foundation

PANELISTS

Rami Hod, Executive Director, Berl Katznelson Center

Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, Deputy Director, T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers

Uri Zaki, Founder, The Front

Room 202A

How Do We “Let Our People Know”?

Young American Jews are seeking a comprehensive Israel education that aligns with their values and includes Palestinian narratives. Birthright, one of the major facilitators of the relationship between young American Jews and Israel in the 21st century, currently falls short of that task. Seasoned educators, tour guides and activists are stepping up to fill the gaps of knowledge left by Birthright’s unwillingness to address Palestinians’ narratives in their otherwise thorough Israel curriculum. What are the key tenets of effective Israel education? What should Israel education look like after a half-century of occupation, in the era of creeping and explicit annexation? How can we cultivate students’ connections to Israel while allowing them to ask difficult questions — and to receive uncomfortable answers? Join us for a conversation with experts in Jewish education and participants of J Street’s inaugural “Let Our People Know” (LOPK) student trip to Israel and the Palestinian territory.

MODERATOR

Gabi Kamran, Alumnus, J Street U and LOPK Participant

PANELISTS

David Bryfman, CEO, The Jewish Education Project

Channah Powell, Vice President for the Northeast Region, J Street U, LOPK Trip Participant

Tilly Shames, Executive Director, University of Michigan Hillel

Ethan Wellerstein, J Street U Student, UC Davis & LOPK Trip Participant



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

10:30–11:45AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 202B

This session will be livestreamed.

Fighting Antisemitism and its Weaponization in American Politics

In recent years, antisemitism has resurfaced as an urgent threat to American Jews — and a source of contention in our politics. What do we need to do to confront and defeat antisemitism? Amidst the cacophony of 24-hour media cycles and social-media echo chambers, how have legitimate concerns been maliciously exploited by Trump and his allies to use antisemitism as a political weapon against his critics and opponents — especially people of color? How can American Jews work together effectively with other minority communities to raise awareness about antisemitism and build alliances against common threats? And how has a rising sense of insecurity helped to shape the political views of Jewish voters?

MODERATOR

Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Executive Director, T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

PANELISTS

Peter Beinart, Professor of Journalism and Political Science, City University of New York

Maya Berry, Executive Director, Arab American Institute

Halie Soifer, Executive Director, Jewish Democratic Council of America

Eric Ward, Executive Director, Western States Center

Americans for Peace Now Presents:

Annexation 101

What is annexation, and how does it threaten the prospects for Palestinian statehood and Israel’s future as a democratic homeland for the Jewish people? How does “creeping annexation” lead to the steady, ongoing displacement and demolition of Palestinian communities? If the Israeli government formally annexes parts of Area C, as Prime Minister Netanyahu promised to do in the final days of his September campaign, how will that impact the future of the conflict and prospects for a successful diplomatic solution? Could the process of annexation ever be reversed?

MODERATOR

Debra Shushan, Director of Policy and Government Relations, Americans for Peace Now

PANELISTS

Lior Amihai, Executive Director, Yesh Din

Shaqued Morag, Executive Director, Peace Now

Osama Qawasma, Adviser to Palestinian President Abbas

Room 206

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

10:30–11:45AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 207B

The Other Israel Film Festival Presents: Censorship and Israeli Cinema

Israeli films have been making waves internationally and are among Israel's most impactful exports. Still, the Israeli Ministry of Culture and Sport often criticizes celebrated films that do not align politically with the government's agenda. The Israeli government has now changed the "film laws" to exert greater control over the selection of films supported — putting Israel's artistic and creative freedom in danger. The Other Israel Film Festival presents and supports films about minority Israeli populations and Palestinian themes — films that challenge perspectives and take viewers beyond superficial headlines. Through clips, short films and conversation, join us for a panel of creatives examining the state of democracy in Israeli cinema.

MODERATOR

Isaac Zablocki, Senior Director for Film Programs and the Israel Film Center, JCC Manhattan

PANELISTS

Tawfik Abu Wael, Co-Creator, *Our Boys*

Rachel Leah Jones, Director, *The Advocate*

Carole Zabar, Co-Founder, The Other Israel Film Festival

Room 208AB

The New Guard: How Young Leadership Can Change the Jewish Community

Recent polls demonstrate that Jewish young adults hold more progressive views on Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict than many leaders of the current Jewish establishment. On this issue, establishment Jewish organizations are increasingly out of step with the values of a large majority of American Jews. What role can young leadership play in helping to align the positions of Jewish establishment organizations with the values held by the Jewish community they're meant to serve? Join a conversation with some of the community's boldest and most innovative young leaders.

MODERATOR

Talia Benamy, Communal Engagement Chair, J Street NYC

PANELISTS

Adam Basciano, National Director, IPF Atid

Eli Cohn-Postel, Director of Israel Engagement, JCRC of Greater Boston

Rabbi Eliana Fischel, Assistant Rabbi, Washington Hebrew Congregation

Sheila Katz, CEO, National Council of Jewish Women

Emily Mayer, Founding Member, IfNotNow

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

12:00–1:15PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 201

Israeli Politics: Arab-Jewish Political Alliance

Lunch, including Kosher options, will be available for purchase during this time block in the 200s level.

In 1993, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would never have been able to pass the Oslo Accords through the Knesset without the support of the Arab parties. In 2019's first Israeli election, leaders of the Blue and White party declared that they would only form a coalition government with Zionist parties, excluding Arab party support. What opportunities would a political alliance between the Zionist-left and Arab parties create for Israel? Could such an alliance be achieved in today's political climate? What kind of political arrangement could be envisioned, and what would be its goals? How can we reconcile that the last Knesset allocated the largest sum ever to the Arab community in Israel, but also increasingly employed racist and right-wing rhetoric? What issues drive Israeli Arab voters (Palestinian citizens of Israel) to the polls, and how receptive are they to allying with progressive Zionists?

MODERATOR

Mikhael Manekin, Director, Alliance for Israel's Future Fellowship

PANELISTS

Dr. Thabet Abu Rass, Co-Executive Director, Abraham Initiatives

Dr. Enaya Banna-Jeries, Urban Planner, The Arab Center for Alternative Planning

Alon-Lee Green, National Director, Standing Together

Fida Nara, Co-Director, Mahapach-Taghir

Yaniv Sagee, CEO, Givat Haviva

Anat Saragusti, Board Member, Abraham Initiatives

Room 202A

Training: Antisemitism, Racism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Progressive Understanding of Antisemitism

From Charlottesville to Pittsburgh to Poway, we have seen the very real and murderous manifestations of white nationalism, white supremacy and antisemitism. At the same time, charges of antisemitism on the left make headlines regularly. As progressives, real or alleged antisemitism on the left is bewildering. We see ourselves — and our work for a diplomatic solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — as integral to progressive efforts more broadly. We strive to be active participants in broad-based big-tent coalitions and to show up as allies in the fight for racial justice and the other struggles of our day. This workshop will help understand what is and isn't antisemitism, how to respond and how to stay in coalition while taking on antisemitism.

PRESENTERS

April N. Baskin, Racial Justice Director, Jewish Social Justice Roundtable & Founder/Principal, Joyous Justice Consulting

Cherie Brown, Founder and CEO, National Coalition Building Institute

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

12:00–1:15PM

Room 202B

This session will be livestreamed.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Scorched Earth: The Trump Legacy on Israel and the Palestinian Territory

With Jared Kushner and David Friedman leading the way, the Trump administration has reversed decades of bipartisan American policy aimed at resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Instead of working to mediate between the sides, the United States has aligned itself squarely with right-wing Israelis seeking to establish one state from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea under Jewish sovereignty. For three years, administration actions — moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem, closing its consulate, cutting Palestinian aid and denying occupation — have fulfilled the wish list of Israel's hard right. The administration's much-anticipated 'vision for peace' is unlikely to do anything more than cement its support for right-wing Israelis' positions on the core issues of the conflict. Looking ahead, the question for the next administration's policymakers in the Middle East is likely to be whether these actions can be reversed and how American credibility as a mediator in the conflict can be restored. Join our panel of experts in exploring the short and long-term implications of the past three years on the prospects for reviving diplomacy. The panel will discuss what options the next administration will have in dealing with the emerging one-state reality and working with leadership on both sides less ready than ever for serious negotiations and compromise.

MODERATOR

Debra Shushan, Director of Policy and Government Relations, Americans for Peace Now

PANELISTS

Khaled Elgindy, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

Ilan Goldenberg, Senior Fellow and Director of the Middle East Security Program, Center for a New American Security

Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin, Political Analyst, Public Opinion Expert

Daniel Seidemann, Founder and Director, Terrestrial Jerusalem

Room 203AB

This session is closed to the press.

Advocacy Day State Captains and Team Leaders Briefing

All Advocacy Day State Captains and Team Leaders must attend this session one of the two times this training is offered. The same session will also be offered on Sunday, October 27 from 8:45-10:00AM.

PRESENTER

Dylan Williams, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, J Street

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

12:00–1:15PM

Room 204ABC

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Palestinian Economy

How can economic tools help further the cause of a two-state solution? Are there ways to both positively incentivize peace and build a thriving Palestinian economy? Several organizations are working to answer these questions, and encourage investors to bring their capital to Palestinian and joint Israeli-Palestinian enterprises. At the same time, economic tactics alone will not suffice to realize the Palestinian national struggle for statehood via a two-state solution. What are the strengths and drawbacks of pursuing economic tactics while a political solution is stalled? What is the potential synergy between economic initiatives and a political peace process?

PANELISTS

Bashar Azzeh, Member of PLO Palestine National Council & Central Council

Kevin Rachlin, US Director, Alliance for Middle East Peace

Is Transformation Possible?

A shared history of mutually-inflicted trauma makes the thought of Israelis and Palestinians peacefully coexisting as neighbors impossible for some to imagine. NGOs on the ground are working on conflict transformation to build a constituency for peace. Conflict transformation is defined as a process of engaging with and transforming the relationships, interests, discourses and, if necessary, the very constitution of society that supports the continuation of violent conflict. This panel will bring together activists who facilitate conflict transformation and people who themselves underwent personal transformation. Panelists will share their stories and their solutions for transforming Israelis' and Palestinians' mutual mistrust to mutual understanding.

MODERATOR

Samah Salaime, Director of Communications and Development, Wahat al-Salam/Neve Shalom

PANELISTS

Robi Damelin, Israeli Spokesperson, Parents Circle – Families Forum

Mazen Faraj, Bereaved Son, Parents Circle – Families Forum

Shir Nosatzki, Director, *Have You Seen The Horizon Lately?*

Room 206

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

12:00–1:15PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 207B

#JewishResistance — A New Book by Gili Getz

Israeli-American photographer Gili Getz will present photographs from his upcoming book *#JewishResistance*, which documents Jewish-American political activism. Hoping to inspire community members to act on their views and make their voices heard, the book looks at the different ways the Jewish community fights for our most cherished values of justice and democracy — and against white nationalism and the Israeli occupation. Getz has been capturing Jewish political activism, protest and advocacy on film for many years. His work is published regularly in Israeli and Jewish news outlets and he has been dubbed the official photographer of the #JewishResistance.

MODERATOR

Gili Getz, Activist, Actor and Photographer

PANELISTS

Julia Kupferman, J Street U, Tufts University

Emily Mayer, Founding Member, IfNotNow

Rabbi Salem Pearce, Director of Organizing, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Room 208AB

Storytelling for Social Change

Storytelling is central to J Street U's organizing model. Stories help us make meaning of the world; they help us understand others and help others understand us; they are especially useful in developing empathy and common cause.

In this session, J Street U will demonstrate its use of personal narrative as an organizing tool and as a way to develop and empower student leaders (and non-students). Student leaders will discuss the impact storytelling can have by changing hearts and minds and rallying supporters to deepen their engagement. In this session, attendees will have an opportunity to learn and practice using stories to bring people together for action.

PRESENTERS

Elianna Cooper, J Street U, Florida State University

Eliza Koren, J Street U, Haverford College



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

1:30–2:45PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 201

Lunch, including Kosher options, will be available for purchase during this time block in the 200s level.

Israeli and American Jewry: The Growing Rift

Though strong, the relationship between American Jews and Israel has never been monolithic. In recent years, members of the American Jewish community are increasingly pushing to open up a healthy debate about the American Jewish relationship with Israel. One major point of contention is the divergence of political attitudes between the liberal majority of American Jews and Israeli Jews, especially with regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

How does each community prioritize issues such as religious pluralism and the occupation? How can we work to understand each other's perspectives in order to bridge the divide and strengthen the relationship?

MODERATOR

Dr. Dov Waxman, Professor of Political Science, International Affairs and Israel Studies & the Stotsky Professor of Jewish Historical and Cultural Studies, Northeastern University

PANELISTS

Rabbi Ayelet Cohen, Senior Director, New Israel Fund's NY/Tri-State Region

Nancy K. Kaufman, Former CEO, National Council of Jewish Women

Former Member of Knesset, Dr. Nachman Shai, Israel Institute Visiting Professor, Emory University

Anna Schwartz, Special Assistant to the President, J Street, & Alumnus, J Street U

Nadav Tamir, Advisor for International Affairs, Peres Center for Peace and Innovation

New Israel Fund Presents:

Marking 40 Years: An Intergenerational Conversation About the Past, Present and Future of Social Change in Israel

For 40 years, NIF has been on the cutting edge of social change, facilitating partnerships between Israelis and supporters of Israel around the world. From 1979 until today, group by group, struggle by struggle, NIF has built the foundations of Israeli civil society to address the challenges of the day. As the New Israel Fund celebrates its 40th anniversary, we can look back over significant accomplishments — and use those lessons to analyze the present challenges and plan for the future.

No one embodies NIF's mind, heart and soul more than its former president, former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset Naomi Chazan. Naomi has, on the basis of her sharp analysis and personal charisma, helped mobilize and organize for a more equal and democratic Israel for decades. What lessons can we learn from her experience that can serve the current moment? How can the experience of spearheading movements of the past propel us into a strong progressive future?

PRESENTERS

Former Member of Knesset Prof. Naomi Chazan, Former Board President, New Israel Fund

Libby Lenkinski, Vice President for Public Engagement, New Israel Fund

Room 202A

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

1:30–2:45PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 202B

This session will be livestreamed.

Israel in the 2020 Election

For a long time in American politics, presidential candidates have avoided talking about Israel — or have made sure to veer toward right-leaning positions, reluctant to offer any criticisms of Israeli government policies or support for Palestinian aspirations. But in our current election cycle, the politics on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have clearly shifted — we've seen far more willingness by Democratic candidates to criticize Prime Minister Netanyahu, warn about how potential annexation could damage US and Israeli interests and discuss how US military aid could be leveraged to help influence Israeli policies. How will these conversations evolve over the course of the 2020 election cycle, and what are the flash points and debates that will shape the future political conversation on Israel? How will the 2020 platforms of the Democratic and Republican Parties approach these issues?

MODERATOR

Ben Shnider, Vice President of Political Affairs and Strategy, J Street

PANELISTS

Peter Beinart, Professor of Journalism and Political Science, City University of New York

Karen Finney, Democratic Strategist

Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers

Room 204ABC

Humans, Not Infiltrators: Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the US and Israel

Both the Israeli and American governments are facing an influx of asylum seekers at their borders — and neither government is particularly welcoming to these refugees. In Israel, there's no asylum process. In the US, the asylum process has been excessively curtailed by the Trump administration, leaving little opportunity for asylum-seekers to find refuge. American leaders are using xenophobic rhetoric to describe refugees and minorities, a painful reminder for American Jews of the United States' rejection of Jewish refugees during WWII. How do today's refugees and asylum seekers navigate the hardship of establishing a new home in a nation that's often unfriendly to their very existence? What are the US' and Israel's responsibilities towards asylum seekers? Who are the people fighting on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees, and how does their work preserve democratic and Jewish values?

MODERATOR

Rebecca Kirzner, Campaign Director, HIAS

PANELISTS

Mutasim Ali, First Sudanese Asylum Seeker to Obtain Refuge Status in Israel & LLM Candidate, George Washington University

Tally Kritzman-Amir, Visiting Associate Professor, Harvard University

Melanie Nezer, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, HIAS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

1:30–2:45PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 206

Yousef and Dorit: Two Writers on Love, Pain and Paper

Personal relationships have the power to bridge divides of race, nationality, politics and identity — they remind us what it is to connect on a fundamentally human level. Authors Yousef Bashir and Dorit Rabinyan have both written deeply powerful, personal stories of relationships which reach across the Israeli-Palestinian divide. This panel will unite the pair — an Israeli and a Gazan — for a discussion about love, hate, humanity and the power of stories to humanize our enemies and challenge one-sided narratives.

PRESENTERS

Yousef Bashir, Author, [The Words of My Father](#)

Dorit Rabinyan, Author, [All the Rivers](#)

Room 207B

East Jerusalem: Facts on the Ground

East Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in 1967 and annexed formally in the mid-1980s, is still seen by Palestinians and advocates of the two-state solution as the future capital of a Palestinian state. East Jerusalem is a major hub and symbol of Palestinian civil and political life, but its Palestinian residents live with the threat of evictions, demolitions and revocation of their residency status. At the same time, settlers are pushing to build Jewish homes in Palestinian neighborhoods and fundamentally change the demographics of East Jerusalem. What does it mean to be a Palestinian resident in East Jerusalem? How are facts on the ground changing in Palestinian neighborhoods such as Silwan and Sheikh Jarrah? What can Israeli policies and practices in East Jerusalem tell us about the potential ramifications of annexations in the West Bank?

MODERATOR

Amos Gil, Capital South Regional Director, J Street

PANELISTS

Nizar Farsakh, Board Chair, The Museum of the Palestinian People

Shaqued Morag, Executive Director, Peace Now

Moien Odeh, Palestinian Human Rights Attourney & PhD Conflict Resolution Student, George Mason University

Yudith Oppenheimer, Executive Director, Ir Amim

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

1:30–2:45PM

Room 208AB

The session is recommended for high school students.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Your Voice, Your Platform: Putting the “I” in Activism

J Street High is the future of young American Jewish pro-peace activism. In this session, we’ll generate an understanding of how high school students can advocate for their values within their Jewish communities. We’ll hear from young Palestinian, Israeli and American peace activists and begin to develop our own pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-solution story. Equipped with a clearer picture of reality on the ground as well as story-telling skills, participants will leave empowered to go back to their communities and share their vision for a better future for Israelis and Palestinians.

FACILITATOR

Eli Reiter, Teacher and Storyteller

STORYTELLERS

Rawan Odeh, Managing Director, New Story Leadership

Yoni Slater, J Street U, George Washington University

Mirabella Moore Weathers, OneVoice Alumna

T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights Presents:

Talking About the Occupation So People Will Hear You

“Speaking truth to power” may feel righteous and cathartic, but effective leaders and organizers know that we have more impact when we “meet people where they are”. American Jews who identify with the political left, right and center have different perceptions of the occupation, and it’s up to activists to communicate strategically so that our targets don’t tune us out. In this workshop, we’ll use our collective experience to identify those different needs and develop strategies for how to address each of these constituencies, so that we can work together to advance the goal of ending the occupation.

PRESENTER

Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, Deputy Director, T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Room 209BC

This session is for clergy only.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

3:00–4:15PM

Room 201

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Democracy, Security, and Israeli Foreign Policy

Terrorism and other threats to homeland security have sown fear into Israeli society, empowering more extreme and authoritarian political leaders and deligitimizing moderate voices who are in favor of diplomacy, tolerance and coexistence. At a time when Israel continues to strengthen ties with illiberal regimes, it is clear that the erosion of Israeli democracy impacts Israeli foreign policy as well. On this panel, our experts will discuss the best long-term strategies for combating security threats while maintaining democratic values in domestic and foreign policy. What lessons — and cautionary tales — can we take from the Israeli experience?

MODERATOR

Emily Schaeffer Omer-Man, Israeli Human Rights Attorney

PANELISTS

Admiral (ret.) Ami Ayalon, Former Director, Shin Bet

Dr. Nimrod Goren, Head of the Institute, Mitvim - The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies

Member of Knesset Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh, Blue and White Party

Room 204ABC

What Does Progressive US Foreign Policy in the Middle East Look Like?

The Trump administration’s dangerous withdrawal from Syria, which cleared the way for Turkey to attack US Kurdish allies, its unquestioning alliance with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, its violation of the Iran nuclear deal and its uncritical support of Israel’s settlement enterprise (among other novel foreign policy positions) epitomize this president’s dramatic reshaping of the US foreign policy chessboard in the Middle East. In the past three years, the US has taken once-unimaginable foreign policy positions — from banning immigrants from Muslim-majority countries and refusing to hold Saudi Arabia accountable for the murder of US-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi to bringing the US startlingly close to military conflict with the Iranian regime on two separate occasions. President Trump has similarly violated long-standing bipartisan positions including taking steps to rebuff the two-state solution as made clear by the administration’s decisions to withdraw aid from the Palestinians, relocate the US embassy to Jerusalem and close the PLO mission to the United States.

What does an alternative, progressive vision for US policy in the Middle East look like? How can the next president prioritize diplomacy and put democratic values at the forefront of our foreign policy? What needs to immediately be addressed on January 20, 2021? Join policymakers, experts and activists from the progressive foreign policy movement to consider these questions and more.

MODERATOR

Rebecca Brocato, Director of Strategy and Government Affairs, National Security Action

PANELISTS

Brian Katulis, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

Kate Kizer, Policy Director, Win Without War

Trita Parsi, Executive Vice President, Quincy Institute

Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin, Political Analyst, Public Opinion Expert

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

3:00–4:15PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 206

Fighting White Supremacists in the 21st Century

A wave of ethnonationalism and white supremacy is washing over the Western world — and at its crest are a cadre of neo-Nazis. Recruiting and organizing online through global far-right extremist networks, today's neo-Nazis are using 21st century technology to spread 1930s-era hate, fear and antisemitism. How do today's Nazis differ from their forebears? How do they use global networks to organize? And most importantly, how do we stop them?

PRESENTERS

Oren Segal, Director, Anti-Defamation League
Amy Spitalnick, Executive Director, Integrity First for America
Eric Ward, Executive Director, Western States Center

Room 207B

Long-Term Impacts of People-to-People Work

People-to-people (P2P) initiatives have long been a mainstay of conflict resolution approaches, and there's a large P2P industry revolving around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Often apolitical, do these programs help create the long-term change in the hearts and minds of Israelis and Palestinians that could help facilitate a permanent peace? Or are they short-term projects that feel good but, while they may impact the lives of many, do not add up to a larger political endgame?

MODERATOR

Ned Lazarus, Visiting Assistant Professor of International Affairs, George Washington University

PANELISTS

Eva Armour, Director for Impact, Seeds of Peace
Amit Caraco, Jewish Israeli Regional Manager, Hands of Peace
Sulaiman Khatib, Co-Founder, Combatants for Peace
John Lyndon, Executive Director, Alliance for Middle East Peace

Room 208AB

This session is for college and high school students only.

53 Years-Long: Making Sense of The Players and Policies of Israel's Military Occupation of The West Bank

Given the overwhelming amount of information out there attempting to "explain" the origins of the occupation as well as its status quo, it is often difficult to decipher fact from fiction. This session presents J Street U students with an opportunity to get acquainted with the fundamentals of the occupation and the policies that have enabled its entrenchment. Students will be able to directly engage with key political activists around questions about the history, decision-makers and policies that have led to reality on the ground 53 years later.

PRESENTERS

Avner Gvaryahu, Executive Director, Breaking the Silence



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

3:00–4:15PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 209A

This session will be in Hebrew.

The Role of Israeli-Americans in Jewish Progressive Politics

In this session, we will explore what can be done to strengthen Israeli-American participation in progressive Jewish politics in Washington and in the American Jewish community. We'll examine how we can build bridges between Americans and Israelis in pursuit of peace and social justice. This panel will look at the shared struggle of members of this community and will discuss best practices for organizing Israeli-Americans.

MODERATOR

Gili Getz, Activist, Actor and Photographer

PANELISTS

Chen Arieli, Deputy Mayor, Tel Aviv-Yafo
Bar Gissin, Community Organizer and Political Entrepreneur
Miki Golod, Director of Israel Programs, Ameinu

Room 209BC

The Impact of Immersive Israel/Palestine Experiences on Professionals

Numerous studies show that immersive, on-the-ground experiences are the best way for individuals to engage with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the occupation. These experiences have a lasting impact on participants and shape their approach to the issue over the course of their professional lives. What are the best ways to ensure the American Jewish community and policymakers are able to witness the occupation first hand? What responsibility do these participants have to share what they have learned? How do these experiences change the way we engage with and speak about the conflict with communities at home?

MODERATOR

Nancy K. Kaufman, Former CEO, National Council of Jewish Women

PANELISTS

Sarah Brammer-Shlay, Rabbinical Student, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
Rabbi Joel Mosbacher, Senior Rabbi, Temple Shaaray Tefila, New York City
Brett Rosenberg, Associate Director of Policy, National Security Action
Abi Weber, Rabbinical Student, Jewish Theological Seminary

4:30–4:40PM

EGALITARIAN MINCHA SERVICE

Room 203AB

4:30–6:30PM

J STREET U SESSION

Room 202AB

This session is required for all undergraduate college students and open to all high school students.

J Street U All-Student Gathering: National Campaign Launch

Be part of the J Street student movement leading the charge on progressive Israel Politics. In this session we will chart the path for our campaign in the coming year to ensure that our progressive, pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-diplomacy and pro-solution values are reflected in political candidates' foreign policy platforms.

PRESENTERS

Matan Arad-Neeman, President, J Street U National Board
Rachel Powers, Vice President for the Northwest Region, J Street U National Board

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

4:30-6:30PM

Room 207B

NAILA AND THE UPRISING — FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

When a nation-wide uprising breaks out in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, a young woman in Gaza must make a choice between love, family and freedom. Undaunted, she embraces all three, joining a clandestine network of women in a movement that forces the world to recognize the Palestinian right to self-determination for the first time. Naila and the Uprising chronicles the remarkable journey of Naila Ayesh and a fierce community of women at the frontlines, whose stories weave through — the First Intifada in the late 1980s. Using evocative animation, intimate interviews and exclusive archival footage, this film brings out of anonymity the courageous women activists who have remained on the margins of history — until now. Through the experience of countless women engaged at all levels of society, we learn what is possible when women take the lead in struggles for rights and justice — from a movement’s inception to peace talks — and what we lose when they are stripped of their roles.

PRESENTER

Suhad Babaa, Executive Director, Just Vision

4:45-5:45PM

Room 209BC

RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT CAUCUS

Reconstructing Judaism and the Reconstructionist Rabbinic Association (RRA) welcome congregants, rabbis, students and all who identify with Reconstructing Judaism to join us for a gathering. Rabbi Deborah Waxman, President of Reconstructing Judaism, will offer words of welcome. We will hear about opportunities to become engaged and have a chance to meet one another.

5:00-6:00PM

Room 204ABC

COMBATANTS FOR PEACE MEET-UP

Interested in learning more about the grassroots activism happening in Israel and Palestine today? Come meet Combatants for Peace (CfP) — the activists who are doing the hard work to effect change on the ground. CfP is arguably the largest peace movement in Israel today — able to draw crowds of nearly 10,000 people at our largest events. It is made up of Israeli and Palestinian former fighters who have renounced violence and are dedicated to working together to end the occupation and bring a just and peaceful future to both peoples. At our meet-up, you will have the chance to meet the leadership of our movement, as well as activists from the CfP North group, CfP South group and CfP women’s group.

5:00-6:30PM

REGIONAL MEET-UPS

Join other J Street supporters local to your area for food, drinks and discussion.

West Regional Meet-up
 Capital South Regional Meet-up*
 New England Regional Meet-up
 Tri-State Regional Meet-up
 Midwest Regional Meet-up

Vapiano Chinatown 623-625 H Street NW
Busboys and Poets 450 K Street NW
Elephant & Castle 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Astro Beer Hall 1306 G Street NW
La Tasca 722 7th Street NW

*Please RSVP to ariellehollies@jstreet.org, as seating is limited.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

5:15-6:30PM

Open to all rabbis, cantors, seminary students and supporters of T’ruah.

HAPPY HOUR WITH T’RUAH AND THE J STREET RABBINIC AND CANTORIAL CABINET

Sixth & I, 600 I Street NW

T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights and J Street’s Rabbinic and Cantorial Cabinet invite all clergy and T’ruah supporters to join us for a happy hour. Meet your clergy colleagues, seminary students and leaders from both organizations. Complimentary drinks and light food will be served.

7:00-9:30PM

Ballroom

This session will be livestreamed.

PLENARY SESSION

Presidential Candidate Interviews

Pod Save the World’s Ben Rhodes and Tommy Vietor will interview 2020 presidential candidates about the US-Israel relationship, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the future of American foreign policy.

Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator from Minnesota

Pittsburgh Tree of Life Memorial

Rabbi John Rosove, Co-Chair, J Street Rabbinic & Cantorial Cabinet
Nancy Bernstein, Board Member, J Street

Rise to the Moment

With autocrats, racism and right-wing nationalism on the rise around the globe, the past several years have been among the most challenging of our lives. Core pillars of democracy are under threat: the free press, independent courts and civil society. The very values on which stable democracies are built — justice, equality, tolerance and peace — are under attack. In tonight’s signature plenary, political and civil society leaders from the US and Israel will share their newest strategies and thinking for Rising to the Moment to beat back these threats and to build a better, more just and more peaceful future.

MODERATORS

Jeremy Ben-Ami, President, J Street
Yael Patir, Israel Director, J Street

PANELISTS

Chen Arieli, Deputy Mayor, Tel Aviv-Yafo
Rami Hod, Executive Director, Berl Katznelson Center
Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Executive Director, T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Brad Lander, Council Member, New York City Council
Fida Nara, Co-Director, Mahapach-Taghir
Maya Peretz, Head of Public Transportation Sector, Koach LaOvdim (Power to the Workers)
Daniel Sokatch, CEO, New Israel Fund

The precise timing of this lineup is subject to change. Please check the J Street Conference app for the latest timing updates.

9:30-11:00PM

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE HAPPY HOUR

City Tap House, 901 9th Street NW

Connect with old friends, meet new colleagues and bring a friend who you think is (or would make) a great Jewish professional. Erin Fine, MAJNM/MSW, from HUC wants to connect with all of our alumni at J Street. Join us for apps, drinks and a chance to network.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

7:30–8:30AM

Room 209BC
For Rabbinic and Cantorial Cabinet members only.

RABBINIC & CANTORIAL CABINET BREAKFAST

This breakfast is a unique opportunity for members of the J Street Rabbinic and Cantorial Cabinet to shmooze, network and share challenges and successes.
A kosher breakfast will be served.

8:00–9:30AM

Salon GHI

BREAKFAST

8:30–9:45AM

These sessions are closed to the press.

ADVOCACY DAY BRIEFING SESSION

Everything you need to know for Advocacy Day. Attendance is mandatory for all Advocacy Day participants.

Please attend the training specific to your region:

Northwest and Southwest	202A
New England, Tri-State, Pennsylvania	202B
Capital/South and Midwest	203AB

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

10:00AM–12:00PM

Ballroom
This session will be livestreamed.

PLENARY SESSION

Presidential Candidate Interviews

Pod Save the World's Ben Rhodes and Tommy Vietor will interview 2020 presidential candidates about the US-Israel relationship, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the future of American foreign policy.

Senator Michael Bennet, Senator from Colorado
Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Mayor of South Bend, Indiana
Secretary Julián Castro, Former US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Senator Bernie Sanders, Senator from Vermont

Featured Remarks

Hannah Fajer, Vice President for the Southeast Region, J Street U

Featured Remarks

Ehud Barak, Former Israeli Prime Minister

Our Boys Presentation

Our Boys, a co-production of Keshet Media Group and HBO, chronicles the violence and aftermath of the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers and the price-tag killing of a 16-year-old Palestinian. It has become must-watch television on the cable giant and stirred a passionate and vitriolic debate in Israel. Described in Haaretz as “the most painful but strangely rewarding show of the year,” the show has drawn praise from critics and condemnation from Prime Minister Netanyahu, who branded the series “antisemitic” and called for a boycott of the station airing the show in Israel. J Street is proud to welcome the creators of *Our Boys* to our 2019 National Conference for a nuanced, in-depth discussion of their uncompromising portrayal of a wrenching moment in recent Israeli history.

MODERATOR

Michal Aharoni, Public Relations Professional, Playwright and Columnist

PANELISTS

Tawfik Abu Wael, Co-Creator, *Our Boys*
Joseph Cedar, Co-Creator, *Our Boys*
Hagai Levy, Co-Creator, *Our Boys*

The precise timing of this lineup is subject to change. Please check the J Street Conference app for the latest timing updates.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

12:15–1:30PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 202A

Lunch, including Kosher options, will be available for purchase during this time block in the 200s level.

ORGANIZATION MEET-UPS

Canadian Meeting — We the North!

All participants from Canada are invited to join Karen Mock, President of JSpaceCanada, and Barbara Landau, Chair of JSpaceCanada’s Shared Society Initiative, as well as other members of the board to learn more about JSpaceCanada! Grab your lunch and join us to discuss how we can work together from coast to coast to more effectively raise the progressive Zionist voice in Canada. And enjoy a taste of maple syrup cookies, too!

What is this Jewish Professional Life? Hebrew Union College Meet-Up

Ever considered what makes Jewish community life work? Are you a professional in a Jewish institution looking for your next career steps? Are you an active participant in J Street U or Hillel who wants to maintain involvement in Jewish life as part of your career path? Erin Fine, MAJNM/MSW, from Hebrew Union College invites you to bring your lunch and join a conversation about what programs HUC offers for aspiring Jewish communal professionals (Executives, Hillel Programmers, Educators, Camp Professionals, Rabbis, Cantors, etc.). Alumni will be available to answer questions about how HUC has elevated their careers.

Habonim Dror Meet-Up

Come meet current and past members of Habonim Dror North America to learn all about their work for a better Israel.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

12:15–1:30PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 202B

This session will be livestreamed.

Palestinian Political Organizing

Facing an interminable occupation, eroding democratic space and an aging leadership that has been in place for decades, young Palestinians are seeking new avenues to build and exercise political power. Where is today’s emerging young Palestinian leadership coming from, and what are the issues that matter most to them? How are activists utilizing social media to drive Palestinian political mobilization? What are the challenges and opportunities for the rising generation, and how do they feel about the future of their people’s leadership?

MODERATOR

Ezzeldeen Masri, Senior Regional Organizing Director, OneVoice Movement

PANELISTS

Bashar Azzeh, Member of PLO Palestine National Council & Central Council

Abdallah Hamarsheh, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Zimam

Rawan Odeh, Managing Director, New Story Leadership

Room 204ABC

Impact of Identity: African-American Jews’ Relationships with Israel

African-American Jews’ relationships with Israel are shaped by their experiences in two diaspora communities — the African Diaspora and the Jewish Diaspora. How do these intersecting identities shape the way that African-American Jews experience their Jewish community and their perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

PRESENTERS

Bentley Addison, J Street U, Johns Hopkins University

April Baskin, Racial Justice Director, Jewish Social Justice Roundtable & Founder/Principal, Joyous Justice Consulting

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28



12:15–1:30PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 206

Stifling Dissent in Israel and the Palestinian Territory

Israeli human rights defenders work around the clock to monitor, defend and advocate for the human rights of Palestinians living under occupation. In recent years, Israel’s tolerance for dissent and anti-occupation work has continued to shrink, and the pressure once reserved for human rights defenders has expanded to include efforts to delegitimize the media, the Supreme Court and even former Israeli security officials. Likewise, Palestinian human rights defenders face institutional road blocks as well. Under Netanyahu, the Israeli government has promulgated a culture of silence in launching public attack campaigns, seeking to pass legislation to curtail the work of human rights organizations and barring activists from entering the country. While these developments are worrying, they have also helped to increase the visibility of human rights offenses and brought more awareness to realities on the ground in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories. How should we understand this debate, the effects it has both in Israel and abroad and what the near future holds for advocates of Palestinian human rights and national self-determination?

MODERATOR

Tania Hary, Executive Director, Gisha — The Legal Center for Freedom of Movement

PANELISTS

Issa Amro, Co-Founder, Youth Against Settlements

Hagai El-Ad, Executive Director, B’Tselem

Avner Gvaryahu, Executive Director, Breaking the Silence

Emily Schaeffer Omer-Man, Israeli Human Rights Attorney

Room 207B

Israelism — Film Discussion

Israelism: American Jews and Israel is a nearly-completed documentary film that explores the ways in which Israel came to play a central role in American Jewish life and identity, the ways in which American Jewish support has historically enabled the occupation and the growing role of groups like J Street and IfNotNow in challenging traditional American Jewish support for Israel and in creating a more nuanced and critical relationship. Featuring interviews with Jeremy Ben-Ami, Peter Beinart, Simone Zimmerman, Ahed Tamimi, Abe Foxman, Avner Gvaryahu, Libby Lenkinski and many more, ‘Israelism’ seeks to document the growing divide within the American Jewish community. As more traditional American Jewish institutional groups tacitly or directly support Trump and his embrace of far-right political groups in Israel, others like J Street and IfNotNow work towards justice and equality both in Israel/Palestine and in the US.

MODERATOR

Eric Axelman, Co-Director, *Israelism: American Jews and Israel*

PANELISTS

Danny DeBare, J Street U, Pomona College

Libby Lenkinski, Vice President for Public Engagement, New Israel Fund

Sam Eilertsen, Co-Director, *Israelism: American Jews and Israel*

Simone Zimmerman, Director, B’Tselem USA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

12:15–1:30PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 208AB

An Honest, Rigorous and Loving Approach to Israel Education

“I was lied to!” is a common refrain from J Street U students and young adults. Too many young adults express feeling that their Jewish education did not adequately prepare them for the realities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, there are successful ways to teach Israel and the conflict in day school, camp and supplementary schools settings. This session will provide several examples of Jewish professionals who are asking difficult questions and modeling how to teach the concept of “loving and wrestling with Israel and Palestine.” College students and young adults will engage in conversation with clergy and education directors.

MODERATOR

Rabbi Dr. Laura Novak Winer, Director of Clinical Education, Rhea Hirsch School of Education, HUC-JIR

PANELISTS

Dr. Jonathan Golden, Israeli Curriculum Coordinator, Gann Academy

Rabbi Reuven Greenvald, Director of Israel Engagement, Union for Reform Judaism

Lori Sagarin, Director of Congregational Learning, Temple Beth Israel

Olivia Szabo, J Street U, Stanford University

Room 209BC

Fight Like a Mensch

Pro-Israel, pro-peace advocacy can be a bruising and draining endeavor. How can we channel our passion for and anger over injustice in healthy, nurturing ways, while also deflecting attacks? How can we build resilience, renewing enthusiasm for our work, when a better future seems so far away? This session will explore Jewish spiritual resources for mobilizing inner qualities that help us stay connected to our own deep wisdom and to each other, empowering us to stay committed to the good fight for years to come.

PANELISTS

Rabbi David Jaffe, Founder, Inside Out Wisdom and Action

Rabbi Rachel Timoner, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Beth Elohim

Rabbi Deborah Waxman, President, Reconstructing Judaism

1:00–1:40PM

ENCOUNTER PROGRAM ALUMNI MEET UP

Room 201

If you are an alum of any Encounter program please join us for an informal gathering. We will discuss current and upcoming challenges in the region facing Israelis and Palestinians. Join us in discussing the formation of a government in Israel and the soon to be released Trump Peace Plan.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

1:45–3:15PM

PLENARY SESSION

Ballroom

This session will be livestreamed.

Presidential Candidate Interviews

Pod Save the World's Ben Rhodes and Tommy Vietor will interview 2020 presidential candidates about the US-Israel relationship, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the future of American foreign policy.

- Senator Michael Bennet**, Senator from Colorado
- Mayor Pete Buttigieg**, Mayor of South Bend, Indiana
- Secretary Julián Castro**, Former US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- Senator Bernie Sanders**, Senator from Vermont

Featured Remarks

Dr. Saeb Erakat, Palestinian Chief Negotiator

Featured Remarks

Member of Knesset Nitzan Horowitz, Head of Party, Meretz

The precise timing of this lineup is subject to change. Please check the J Street Conference app for the latest timing updates.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

3:45–5:00PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 201

How to Build a Values-Based Congregational Trip to Israel and the Palestinian Territory

Most synagogues offer rabbi-led congregational trips to Israel. Whether an adult-only or a family-friendly adventure, clergy struggle with how to include the multiple aspects of Israel in a brief 10-day trip. Is it possible to visit both Masada and Hebron? To visit a kibbutz near the Gaza border and the Palestinian planned city of Rawabi? How can pre-trip learning prepare congregants for a “more than Disneyland” experience?

MODERATOR

Shaina Wasserman, National Director of Rabbinic & Community Engagement, J Street

PANELISTS

- Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum**, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, New York City
- Jeffrey Levy**, Congregant, Temple Rodef Shalom, VA
- Marsha Melnick**, Congregant, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah
- Joe Perlov**, Founding Director, Re:IL - Regarding Israel
- Rabbi Jeff Saxe**, Rabbi, Temple Rodef Shalom, VA

Room 202A

Expanding the Tent: Redefining What Israel Activists Can Look Like

Activists and peace advocates around the world are drawn to the cause of Middle East peace — specifically, to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Much of the peace-making dialogue revolves around participants’ religious or ethnic identities, but advocates from a variety of backgrounds actively contribute to conflict resolution efforts. While there are major movements within the American Jewish community focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, achieving peace will depend on leadership and participation from a broader coalition. Panelists consider: What responsibility do Americans have to participate in the peace process? What roles can they take on and what motivates them to get involved?

MODERATOR

Amna Farooqi, Former President of the Student Board, J Street U

PANELISTS

- Kyle Cristofalo**, Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, Churches for Middle East Peace
- Gretchen Grad**, Founder, Hands of Peace
- Joy Hill**, Alumnus, J Street U and J Street LEAD

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

3:45–5:00PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 202B

This session will be livestreamed.

The Topol Family Foundation Seminar on Non-Violent Resistance:

Opportunities and Challenges for Palestinian Non-Violent Resistance

Research has shown that campaigns of nonviolent resistance were more than two times as effective as their violent counterparts in the last century. Attracting impressive support from citizens that consolidates power in the hands of the people and results in tactical innovation, these campaigns have produced remarkable results, such as in the contexts of Iran, the Philippines and Burma. In their book *Why Civil Resistance Works*, Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan detail the factors enabling such campaigns to succeed and, at times, causing them to fail. This panel will explore how those factors affect current non-violent efforts to resist the Israeli occupation. What is the impact of current nonviolent resistance against the occupation? What challenges and opportunities do these efforts face in the Israeli and Palestinian contexts? How can we encourage women and other often-disenfranchised groups to lead movements and remain leaders once a movement becomes incorporated into a more “official” political process?

PANEL CHAIR

Sidney Topol, Principal, Topol Family Foundation

MODERATOR

Oriel Eisner, US-based Director of Campaigns, Center for Jewish Non-Violence

PANELISTS

Issa Amro, Co-Founder, Youth Against Settlements

Sulaiman Khatib, Co-Founder, Combatants for Peace

Samah Salaime, Director of Communications and Development, Wahat al-Salam Neve Shalom

Susan Shadid, Strategic Facilitator, Palestinian Non-Violent Activists



Sidney Topol, Champion of Nonviolent Activism

An innovator, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Sidney “Sid” Topol is a native of Dorchester, Massachusetts, who continues to serve his community. Sid is a graduate of Boston Latin School, UMass Amherst and the Harvard-MIT Radar School. Throughout his career, Sid has played a pivotal role in the development of international telecommunications trade policies and the promotion of high definition television (HDTV).

Sid has dedicated himself to supporting efforts for peace in the Middle East, nonviolent prevention and resolution of conflicts and an improved and equitable education system. Through the Topol Fellowships in Nonviolence Practice, Sid is cultivating an international movement of nonviolence by supporting individuals who pursue graduate studies in nonviolence and conflict prevention at Harvard, UMass, Tufts, Brandeis and the University of Haifa. Formerly Chairman of Scientific-Atlanta, Sid is now president of The Topol Group, LLC and The Topol Family Fund. He is a longtime member of the J Street National Board.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

3:45–5:00PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 204ABC

Understanding the World Zionist Congress Elections

The World Zionist Congress (WZC) is the World Zionist Organization’s (WZO) legislative body, which meets every four years in Jerusalem. By playing a role in the WZC’s elections, American Jews can impact the policy and funding decisions that help shape Israel’s character as the democratic homeland of the Jewish people. The Congress’ decisions will influence hundreds of millions of dollars in funding as well as policy decisions in Israel and worldwide. The WZC elections will take place in early 2020 and all Jews over the age of 18 are eligible to vote. In this session, we will discuss the impact J Street and other progressive organizations can have on the WZC and WZO.

Note: There will be a WZC Elections table set up in the exhibition hall.

PANELISTS

Ken Bob, President, Ameinu

Bar Gissin, Israeli Community Organizer and Political Entrepreneur

Paul Scham, President, Partners for Progressive Israel

Room 206

The Post-JCPOA World: US-Iranian Relations & the Repercussions of Extremists at the Helm

Since the US’ violation of the Iran nuclear agreement in May 2018 and the beginning of Trump’s unilateral ‘maximum pressure’ campaign, tensions with Iran have skyrocketed — bringing us to the brink of military conflict. The US’ economic strangulation of Iran, the Trump administration’s bellicose rhetoric and its haphazard policy approaches have only increased domestic support for Iran’s extremist leaders, emboldening them to take steps in breach of the JCPOA. Is there a path capable of leading us to detente between the extremists in both the US and Iranian administrations? Can the US prevent Iran from further advancing its nuclear activities while the Trump administration is still in power? And can a new administration repair the damage, re-enter the JCPOA and achieve new diplomatic progress?

MODERATOR

Barbara Slavin, Director, Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council

PANELISTS

Rob Malley, President and CEO, International Crisis Group

Amb. Alon Pinkas, former Consul General, Israeli Consulate of New York

Jasmin Ramsey, Communications Director, Center for Human Rights in Iran

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

3:45–5:00PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 207B

Organized Money: The New Progressive “Money Muscle” Movement

Progressives (and everyone to the left of the far-right) have tended to allow conservatives to manage their money and to use it for conservative goals. In underestimating the immense power of the financial system, we are inadvertently financing our opposition. Across a wide range of goals, progressives will not win unless and until they embrace their “Money Muscle.” Led by the co-author of a new handbook for Progressives, this session will introduce an essential strategy for change — Organized Money — beginning with Financial Systems Literacy.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

PRESENTER

Mark A. Pinsky, Co-Author, *Organized Money: How Progressives Can Make the Financial System Work For Them, Not Against Them*

Room 208AB

Activism Meet-Up: The Power of Coalition-Building within Movement Spaces

Speed dating-style groups with activists.

In this session, students and on-the-ground activists will come together to discuss their experiences. We will share stories, learn from each other’s organizing challenges and successes and build relationships between student activists and the broader activist community.

This meeting is a step in coalition-building — we will consider the ways in which we can amplify each other’s work. At the end of the day, we’re fighting towards the same goal of human dignity for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

PARTICIPANTS

Maisam Jaljuli, Member of the National Leadership, Standing Together

Marwa Odeh, Fellow, Combatants for Peace

Daniel Roth, Co-Founder and Director, Achvat Amim

Simone Zimmerman, Director, *B’Tselem* USA

Room 209A

This conversation will be in Hebrew.

Hebrew Speakers Meet-Up

Following the session “The Role of Israeli-Americans in Jewish Progressive Politics,” Israeli-Americans at the J Street conference will convene for a strategy session on organizing other Israeli-Americans around the pro-Israel, pro-peace political agenda.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

5:15–6:15PM

REFORM MOVEMENT MEET-UP

Room 209BC

Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) invite conference attendees to a pre-Gala reception hosted by Rabbi Jonah Pesner (RAC Director), Rabbi John Rosove (ARZA, immediate past Chair & Co-chair of the J Street Rabbinic & Cantorial Cabinet), Maya Levy (NFTY, President) Rabbi Reuven Greenvald (URJ Director of Israel Engagement), Rabbi Esther Lederman (URJ, Director of Congregational Innovation) and Evan Traylor (URJ Associate Director for College Engagement). This will be a great opportunity to connect with other Reform Jews and to strengthen our collective engagement with Israel.

5:20–5:40PM

EGALITARIAN MINCHA SERVICE

Room 203AB

6:30–7:30PM

GALA DINNER RECEPTION

This is a ticketed event.

South Prefunction

7:30–10:00PM

GALA DINNER

This is a ticketed event.

Ballroom

This session will be livestreamed.

WELCOME

Alexandra C. Stanton, Chair, J Street

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer

REMARKS

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

2019 TZEDEK V'SHALOM AWARD HONOREES

Pilar Crespi Robert and Stephen Robert

REMARKS

Jeremy Ben-Ami, President, J Street

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Representative from Washington

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen, Senator from Maryland

MODERATED BY

Jodi Rudoren, Editor in Chief, *The Forward*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

8:30–9:30AM

ADVOCACY DAY KICK-OFF

2043 Rayburn House Office Building

Advocacy Day participants who are free at this time are invited to hear from Members of Congress and network with fellow J Street leaders.

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

9:00AM–4:00PM

APPOINTMENTS WITH MEMBER OFFICES

Congressional meetings are closed to the press.

Capitol Hill

Advocacy Day participants should consult their individual schedules for meeting times and locations.

NOTES
