A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
By Eric Hasson, AIPAC Campus Liaison

Over the past year, the pro-Israel group at the University of Washington has been through numerous changes. The most notable improvement was our name change from “HuskiPAC” to “Huskies for Israel.” This has provided us with a name that is easily recognizable and clearly associated with our mission.

Since last July, Huskies for Israel has taken a new approach to aid us in “taking back our campus.” This new approach was unveiled at the Saban National Political Leadership Training Seminar, part of AIPAC’s Schusterman Advocacy Institute. As part of a revamped student program at AIPAC, the University of Washington is one of 60 targeted campuses nationwide that has been trained by AIPAC to build relationships with campus leaders. AIPAC has invested in this leadership training because they know that these students are most likely to become active leaders in the future.

This new relationship building process, in addition to advocating on behalf of Israel, has given us a new direction with clear goals. Rather than bickering between the same 20 pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian students at small events, our events now have a true meaning and clear target groups.

In November, Israeli Consul General Yossi Amrani was scheduled to speak on campus, but unfortunately had to cancel his visit. We were fortunate to find a replacement in Dr. Brian Goldberg, the Pacific Northwest Director of the ADL who spoke to a crowd of 60 people. Aside from educational events for Huskies for Israel members, we have held special events for campus leaders. These include leaders of the College Republicans, the Young Democrats, and the Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW). The two events that we held for these groups of students were an Israel Education Forum, and a visit by Congressman Rick Larsen.

The Israel forum educated leaders of the ASUW about Israel and why a strong U.S.-Israel relationship is important. One attendee thanked us and told us that, “What I saw was very informative and eye-opening. I learned so much in 45 minutes…” Just a couple weeks later, Congressman Rick Larsen came to campus to speak about the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship and about college activism in general. After these events, the College Republicans and Young Democrats decided that they would like to plan a pro-Israel rally on campus.

Currently we are busy planning big events for Spring Quarter. On May 1st, Caravan for Democracy will be bringing a pro-Israel speaker to campus, possibly Roni Milo, the former mayor of Tel Aviv. The purpose of this program is to reinforce the shared values of freedom and democracy that bond Israel and the United States. In honor of Israel Independence Day, Huskies for Israel, in conjunction with Hillel, will be sponsoring “Israelpalooza”, a campus wide event with food where we highlight Israeli culture as opposed to the political situation. We have scheduled Israeli Consul General Yossi Amrani speak on campus on May 11th. In addition, the King David Drummers are planning to come to Seattle to play on campus, and we are anticipating a visit from Ismael Khaldi, an Israeli Bedouin. If you would like to attend any of these events, please visit our website or send me an e-mail at israeluw@u.washington.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

MAY 1: CARAVAN FOR DEMOCRACY
MAY 7: ISRAEL-PALOOZA, ISRAEL’S 55TH BIRTHDAY
MAY 8: PROTEST OF EDWARD SAID’S VISIT TO UW
MAY 11: ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL, YOSSI AMRANI

ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD ON THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON CAMPUS AT SITES TO BE DETERMINED. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT STUDENTS.WASHINGTON.EDU/ISRAELUW TO FIND MORE DETAILS.

OUR PRO-ISRAEL PETITION
By Jason Edelman, Campus Advocacy Coordinator

Engaging people in discussion and debate about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an integral part of the Israel advocacy campaign. This winter quarter we worked extensively on circulating and collecting signatures for a pro-Israel petition, that states, “WE STAND WITH ISRAEL IN ITS QUEST FOR PEACE.” This allowed Huskies for Israel members to talk to several thousand students regarding the Israeli perspective in the conflict. The result of our efforts was a pro-Israel petition signed by 1,105 members of the University of Washington community, which was printed as a full-page ad in The Daily, UW’s newspaper. The purpose of placing the ad in The Daily was to garner awareness of Israel from otherwise apathetic readers.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Nearly 200 UW students have participated in Israel trips and Israel advocacy training programs in the past three years.
- Pro-Palestinian events on campus receive funding from over 20 organizations, including the UW Jackson School’s Middle East Center (which includes the Near Eastern Languages Department) and Jewish Voices Against the Occupation.
- It costs over $6,000 to host a prominent speaker (e.g., Michael Oren, Daniel Pipes), not including travel and hotel expenses. Some speakers are generous enough to make complimentary appearances; associated costs are still over $1000.

Your gift supports Israel advocacy at the University of Washington and helps educate the next generation of pro-Israel community leaders.

RETURN COUPON

Enclosed is my gift of $__________ to support Israel advocacy at the University of Washington.

Name __________________________________________

Email __________________________________________

Address ________________________________________

City __________ State ____ Zip __________

Phone _________________________________________

Please make checks payable to Huskies for Israel and mail c/o Hillel at the University of Washington, 4745 17th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105.
**The Liberal Case for Israel**

By Lindsay Scola, Vice President, Young Democrats at the UW

As liberals, we fight for equal rights for women and homosexuals. Liberals also fight for civil rights, freedom of speech, and a strong democracy. These are values that Israel shares and continues to defend. As liberals we must recognize Israel as a country and identify that every Israeli has the right to live in peace and security. Once we realize this, we must educate others, including the media, that Israel is not the enemy.

Historically the Democrats have been very supportive of Israel. It was under President Truman, a Democrat, that Israel became a state. We need to continue this tradition and stand up and defend Israel.

Earlier this month, The Young Democrats at the UW led the campaign to place Israel in the Young Democrats of Washington platform. The YDW Foreign Affairs section of the Platform now reads, “We support a secure peace for Israel.” The platform acts as an opinion guide for all Washington Young Democrat Chapters.

**Congressman to UW**

By Ron Kamara, Campus Political Coordinator

On February 18, Congressman Rick Larsen (D-WA) addressed over 40 student leaders from organizations such as Young Democrats, College Republicans, and student government. Congressman Larsen spoke at length about the importance of the special relationship between the United States and Israel, saying it is based on “common values and interests.” The Congressman further stated that “the Administration, with the support of Congress, has made it clear that Israel has a right to defend itself.” With regards to negotiations with the Palestinian leadership, Representative Larsen said, “If I were in the leadership in Israel, I too would have reservations about negotiating with people who have made it their goal to destroy my country.”

Congressman Larsen, from Washington’s second district, has been an ardent supporter of Israel and a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. He has voted consistently in favor of foreign aid to Israel and recently was one of 411 Members of Congress who voted in favor of a resolution praising Israel’s “dedication to democratic ideals” and commending Israel’s “free and open” January 28th election. The resolution also reiterated American support for a “secure peace for Israel” as well as the preconditions for a Palestinian state outlined by President Bush.

**Israel Education Forum**

By Joshua Newman, Campus Relations Coordinator

On January 30th, members from the University of Washington student government (ASUW) gathered at Hillel to partake in dinner and learning, an event to educate student leaders about Israel. They heard from IDF Lt. Col (Ret.) Gil Elan speak about Israel’s history and the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

This forum for campus influencers was developed after it became apparent that there is a lack of knowledge about Israel, as expressed by the ASUW President Alex Narvaez. Members of the ASUW Board of Directors and the Student Senate came to Hillel to learn about Israel and its important relationship with the United States.

The event included a brief historical lecture on Israel’s history from the rise of Zionism to Camp David in 2000, a Q&A/discussion session, dinner, and networking. By the end of the evening, invitees left only after being promised similar events in the future. The event was so well received by those who attended, that those who were not able to attend expressed admiration for the event and their desire to attend similar events in the future. This type of feedback only strengthens Huskies for Israel, and solidifies our commitment to educating the current and future leaders of our campus, community, and country.

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This event was special in that it not only involved a Member of Congress, but it was tailored to the UW student leadership, allowing influential people of tomorrow to hear a pro-Israel message from a leader of today. The event was also covered in the campus newspaper, The Daily, as well as a conservative campus student publication, Right Turn, allowing the Congressman’s message on Israel to reach the broader campus community. These articles can be read on our website, students.washington.edu/israeluw. The event was such a success that as a result, the Young Democrats and College Republicans have decided to plan a bipartisan pro-Israel rally on campus!

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"FOR ISRAEL, FOR PEACE"

The mission of HUSKIES FOR ISRAEL is to educate the University of Washington campus community about the State of Israel, its culture, history, and relationship with the United States. We promote political involvement and activism on campus specifically, but not limited to, pro-Israel activism and pro-Israel education.

HUSKIES FOR ISRAEL
4745 17th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98105