

Americans for a Safe Israel Celebrates Israel and Ze'ev Jabotinsky

Judy Freedman Kadish, Co-Executive Director of AFSI, opened the August 8, 2018 evening at Park East Synagogue in Manhattan with greetings to the large crowd of over 200 people that had assembled for the event. She then proceeded to tell the group about the remarkable work that AFSI does in supporting much needed programs in Israel. AFSI's donation of a security camera, a firebreak to prevent arson destruction, and constant support for beleaguered cities such as Sderot, are just a few examples. She also announced, with great pride, the opening of the new YOUTH GAP-YEAR PROGRAM IN ISRAEL sponsored by AFSI, entitled: IFNOTUS. The program will provide free trips to Judea, Samaria, the Golan, the Jordan Valley, eastern Jerusalem, and other disputed areas of Israel. The goal is to educate American youth with the truth about Israel so that they will be prepared to counter the anti-Zionism/Semitism they will meet when they begin their college careers. AFSI encourages anyone interested in supporting these efforts to contact Judy@afsi.org: 212-828-2424.

As this was the yearly AFSI sponsored Ze'ev Jabotinsky Memorial event, this time commemorating the 78th Yahrzeit of the remarkable leader of the Jewish people who died an untimely death in Hunter, NY in August 1940, Ron Edelstein, former Betarnik, then spoke to us about his early days in Camp Betar (Betar is the Jabotinsky Youth Movement) and his gratitude to his parents for setting him off on the right path to appreciating his Jewish heritage.

Helen Freedman, the senior Co-Executive Director of AFSI, followed, speaking about AFSI's efforts in America in terms of protesting against the evils of the Iran "deal", the evils of the U.N., the rising anti-Semitism in the U.S., and the never-ending fake news regarding President Trump's alleged collusion with the Russians. On that subject, guest speaker Aaron Klein, has been doing a great deal of investigative reporting.

Aaron Klein, investigative reporter, radio host of The Answer, on Salem radio 970 AM every Sunday night from 7-9 PM, Mideast bureau chief for Breitbart News, and weekly columnist for the Jewish Press, concluded the program with a brilliant analysis of news today, both in Israel and the U.S. He began his remarks by recalling the August 2005 Gush Katif expulsion of almost 10,000 homes from beautifully flourishing communities, now turned into Arab rocket launching sites. The overwhelming mistake in carrying out the expulsion gives untold lessons for today regarding the expectations we can have from the Arab world. Aaron declared that he would call 911 for anyone who believed today in the possibility of the "two-state solution".

The evening was book-ended in song. Alexander Rabinowitz led in the singing of the anthems and the beautifully rendered Al Maaleh Rachamim for Jabotinsky at the opening. This annual Memorial for Jabotinsky celebrates his legacy and ideology upon which AFSI was founded. Jabotinsky was known for his Iron Wall theory about a strong Jewish defense as being necessary for the survival of the Jewish people. We see the wisdom of this theory as world events play out today. The evening ended with the attendees joining in the singing of Shir Betar - the Betar anthem, which declares some important truths: "Even in poverty a Jew is a prince" - "Silence is filth".

Refreshments were then served, and the crowd continued to enjoy conversation and conviviality. Once again, AFSI has presented an evening of enjoyment and interest. For further information, contact: ilene@afsi.org 212-828-2424.