

Community News

Israel Table Is Up And Running At The Saturday Market

By Craig Weinerman

The Israel Action Network (IAN) awarded the Federation and the JCRC a grant to counter the assault on Israel's legitimacy in our community. The IAN is a strategic initiative of the Jewish Federations of North America.

Part of the grant has been used to organize a Jewish presence at the Saturday Market where the AI-Nakba group unfairly demonizes Israel on a weekly basis by purveying its poisonous propaganda. Many in our community have had a beautiful day at the market spoiled by their negative messaging which includes equating Israel with apartheid South Africa and calls for boycotts, divestment and sanctions against the Jewish state.

What we are doing is promoting the JCRC's consensus position on the conflict and not our individual views. As Rabbi Maurice Harris explains: "The JCRC's position in a nutshell is that we believe in Israel's right to exist as a democratic and a Jewish homeland, and that we support a negotiated resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict leading to two-states living in peace side by side." This position is consistent with our "big tent" philosophy about Israel. We seek to accommodate those who embrace J Street, AIPAC and other groups that support a two-state solution.

Our primary goals are visibility and sharing of materials that explain our position and rebut the distortions of truth contained in the AI-Nakba display. Some of the materials we are distributing can be found at www.icsresources.org/factsheets.htm.

Our experience with the Israel table has been positive. Many people have thanked us just for being there, supporting Israel and countering the unfair attack against Israel. Engaging the public is fun. A collateral benefit is getting to know better the other volunteers who have joined this effort.

Please volunteer for a two-hour shift. You won't regret it. We are located at the northeast corner of 8th and Oak. The link to sign up is at www.doodle.com/4hvtqwk2pb7bn2k.

Craig Weinerman
Chairman, Jewish Community Relations Council



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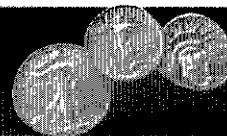
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