

Georgetown asked to cancel meeting

The Zionist Organization of America has called upon Georgetown University to withdraw its invitation to host the Palestine Solidarity Movement's annual conference, set to take place Feb. 17-19.

According to ZOA and other Jewish organizations, PSM refuses to condemn suicide bombings, and it promotes divestment from Israel.

Together with its Center for Law and Justice, the ZOA has asked Georgetown to reconsider its decision based on the university's Speech and Expression policy which protects against hate speech on campus. The ZOA also maintains that PSM is in violation of federal anti-boycott laws in calling for divestment from Israel.

"Georgetown must allay the concerns of Jews and supporters of Israel, and show that it is not connected or associated with those who hate and seek to harm Jews and the State of Israel," said ZOA President Morton Klein.

"By hosting the conference, the university will help legitimize a hate-filled organization with a hateful agenda, putting a stain on Georgetown's fine reputation and tainting the university as a place that is hostile to Israel and Jews."

Teens rave over talk by MTV reality show star

By Jacob Sugerman

Last weekend in Milton, Jewish teens hung on every word of former MTV reality show star Cara Kahn Nussbaum.

"There are some things in our Jewish identity that can guide us, and I know they've helped me," said the 26-year-old cast member of "The Real World: Chicago." "There is just a connection, a comfort, and a general understanding of my background that I feel with other [Jews]. I'm proud to be a Jewish woman."

Nussbaum was the first speaker of the day's events at Jewbilee, the fifth annual weekend conference at Milton Academy for Jewish students who attend private schools. More than 70 high school students from seven states converged at the school for two days of workshops and musical performances.

In addition to relating her own

past and more recent experiences in grappling with her identity as a Jew, she made a point to mention those she had on "The Real World" to further explain how to deal with the complexities of life.

She said: "I [felt] pressure to represent Jewish people, especially Jewish women, in a positive way. I wanted desperately to give Jewish women a good name – I really wanted to make Jewish people in America proud."

Her words resonated among a vast majority of the students, who spent the next 30 minutes asking questions about a number of subjects – from appearing on a hit reality TV show to how being Jewish plays a role in her life.

"I was really impressed," said J.K. Rosenfeld, 17, a senior at Dana Hall School in Wellesley. "What Cara said showed that Judaism can play a part in your life that you don't have to completely invest



Seventy Jewish teens gathered at Milton Academy last weekend.

yourself and can do it in your own way. She captivated all of us."

The Curriculum Initiative, or TCI, is an organization that works to build a Jewish community among teens and helps develop a Jewish identity among high school students at non-Jewish private schools who may otherwise not have any other means to express their Judaism. The group hosts interscholastic events, such as Jewbilee, to give these students a chance to find their Jewish "niche."

"This is an important population, because these kids will become the policy makers of tomorrow," said Eileen Gress, executive director of TCI. "We want them to grow up with a sense of being Jewish."

The weekend-long forum was jam-packed with activities to give the teens not only the chance to meet other Jewish students, but to help develop their appreciation for

their identity as well. In addition to performances by Yoel Ben-Simhom and the Sultana Ensemble on Saturday and the Brandeis Manginah a capella group on Sunday, there were a number of workshops meant to help intersect private school life with Jewish identity.

With a variety of workshops planned for Sunday afternoon, Nussbaum left the teens with words of wisdom on how to regard their Jewish identity for the future.

"There is still a lot of work to be done, and it's very important to remember that even though sometimes it may seem like Jews are everywhere, and we are often in the public eye, in a beautiful, strong presence, we still are a minority – and that can be easy to forget," she said. "My identity, like all of yours, is deep, complex, and distinctive. My identity is me."

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Kenneth R. Timmerman is an investigative reporter with more than twenty years of experience covering the Middle East, terrorism and weapons proliferation. He is the New York Times bestselling author of *The French Betrayal of America* and *Preachers of Hate: Islam and the War on America*. His most recent book is *Countdown to Crisis: The Coming Nuclear Showdown with Iran*.



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