

## YOUNG ISRAELITES CREATE AIAC: AMERICAN ISRAELI ACTION COALITION TO MOBILIZE EXPATRIATES IN ISRAEL



Members of AIAC with Congressman Chris Smith: (l-r) Rabbi Aaron S. Tirschwell, NCYI Director of Israel Operations, Sarah Schwartz, Harvey Schwartz, Congressman Smith, Rabbi Chaim Wasserman, Rabbi Jeffrey Bienenfeld

**Y**ou may be surprised by the fact that in excess of 250,000 Americans live in Israel!! That represents a significant block of potential voters in any American election, particularly for this year's Presidential election. As American Israelis, we can play a dual role in affecting change in the fate of Israel and Jerusalem. Therefore, NCYI's Israel office began gathering a group of people who wanted to make a difference in both political arenas. That gave birth to the AIAC: American Israeli Action Coalition. Its mission is to bring together American Israelis to create relationships with Members of Knesset and Congress so that a true dialogue can commence amongst all of us to clarify the issues of the day and safeguard what is rightfully ours.

The first meeting of AIAC took place with Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ) in January at the start of Presi-

dent Bush's visit to Israel. The discussion focused on the fact that the majority of Congress (as well as the majority of Israelis) believe that Jerusalem should not be divided – and how that message can resonate with the President. AIAC also organized groups of American Israelis to speak with members of the foreign press during the presidential visit.

Members of AIAC's initial working group include Bruce Abrams, Rabbi Jeff Bienenfeld, Jeff Daube, Rabbi Moshe Gorelik, Eve Harow, Moshe Loshinsky, Harvey Schwartz, Sarah Schwartz, Rabbi Binyamin Walfish, and Rabbi Chaim Wasserman. NCYI's Director of Israel Operations, Rabbi Aaron S. Tirschwell, serves as the group's coordinator. For more information about the American Israeli Action Coalition, please visit their website:

[www.aiacoalition.org](http://www.aiacoalition.org)