

## IAJF Sponsors Young Leadership Delegation to AIPAC Policy Conference

From March 26th to March 28th, 2017, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference was held in Washington, DC. The Iranian American Jewish Federation of NY sponsored a trip for 35 members of the young Iranian American Jewish community to attend, led by Chairs Benjamin Navi, Jeremy Nazarian and David Oheb. The delegation participated in lectures and met influential leaders, government representatives, and fellow supporters of Israel.

The group joined 18,000 AIPAC Policy Conference attendees as they learned about Israeli political, social, and economic policies and American policy towards Israel. The delegation enjoyed a historic moment when Vice President of the United States Mike Pence gave a riveting speech in support of the Jewish nation. Other Keynote Speakers included:

- \*U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley
- \*Speaker of the House Paul Ryan
- \*Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
- \*Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
- \*Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer
- \*Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat
- \* Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (via Satellite)
- \*and many other American, Israeli, and international political leaders

On the first night of the conference, the group attended an AIPAC YL reception where over 300 young people from across the world came together as one. The next night, following a live concert by renowned Israeli singer-songwriter Idan Raichel, IAJF hosted a private Glatt kosher dinner in the Capital Hilton's Executive Lounge for the Young Leadership delegation to cap off the weekend. Our IAJF YL group was joined by fellow Iranian American Jews from across the country looking to make new friendships. The dinner was a social and delicious way to bring the entire group together to discuss and reinforce their collective AIPAC experience.

On the final day of the conference the delegation, led by IAJF Board of Trustees Member Mehran Hakimian, participated in lobbying sessions in the United States Capital Building with local elected officials including Congressman Thomas Suozzi.

