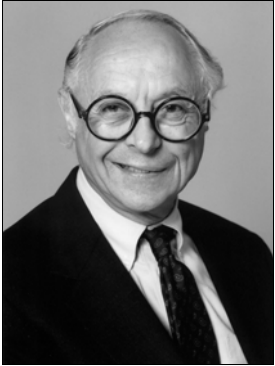


AJC UPDATE

American Jewish Committee • Chicago Chapter

Stan Weinberger Honored at 61st Annual Meeting, Richard Rice Elected Chapter President



Stanley R. Weinberger

The Chicago Chapter's 61st Annual Meeting featured the presentation of the Emily and Richard Alschuler Award to Stanley R. Weinberger, the installation of Richard J. Rice as new Chapter President, and a performance by noted singer and Chapter board member Betsy Katz.

The Alschuler Award is presented to outstanding Chapter leaders who exemplify the Alschulers' commitments to the AJC and their personal involvement in the work of the Chicago Chapter and the general community. Weinberger is a board member and former president of the Chicago Chapter and served on the AJC's National Board of Governors.

"Honoring Stan Weinberger was most fitting," outgoing Chapter President David W. Inlander said. "His dedication to promoting AJC values – strengthening mutual understanding among diverse religious, racial and ethnic groups; combating bigotry and discrimination; building understanding and support for Israel's aspirations for peace – has been unwavering."

Weinberger is Of Counsel to the law firm of Dykema Gossett. He also serves on the Glencoe Public Library Board of Trustees, and is on the Board of Directors of North Shore Community Bank and Trust Company and Wayne Hummer Trust Company and related companies.



Richard J. Rice

New Chapter President Richard J. Rice is owner and CEO of March Capital Corporation, an NASD member firm in Chicago. He has been a member of the American Jewish Committee since 1982 and served on the National Board of Governors as Chair of AJC's International Relations Commission. He also serves as a director of the Mather High School Alumni Scholarship Committee and A Silver Lining Foundation.

Richard chaired Chicago's Committee on Decent Unbiased Campaign Tactics (CONDUCT) and served on the board of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. He also served on the Executive Committee of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and for five years was Chair of the Chicago Conference on Soviet Jewry. He was one of the first Chicagoans to participate in the Wexner Heritage Foundation's leadership development program.

John Bucksbaum Receives Human Rights Medallion Award



John Bucksbaum, CEO of Chicago-based General Growth Properties, received the Chapter's Human Rights Medallion Award for his commitment to building a more compassionate society. He was presented with the Award by his parents Matthew and Kay Bucksbaum. Matthew Bucksbaum received the award in 1999.



Thomas Friedman, Foreign Affairs Columnist for The New York Times, was keynote speaker. Honorary chairs for the event were Lester Crown, Joan W. Harris, and Matthew Bucksbaum.

Chapter Marks 25 Years of Exchange with Germany's Adenauer Foundation

Some 24 leaders from the Chicago Chapter were in Germany recently to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the AJC's partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The German-Jewish Exchange Program, the oldest, ongoing exchange program bringing American Jews and Germans together to promote understanding and cooperation, is a hallmark of AJC's engagement with Germany. Chicago Chapter International Affairs Commission chair Allen Reich chaired the 120 member AJC delegation. AJC was the first American Jewish organization to open a permanent office in Germany in 1997.



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American Jewish Committee
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Chicago Chapter Briefs

Chapter Welcomes New Israel Consul



The new Consul General of Israel for the Midwest, Barukh Binah, right, met with Chapter leaders soon after assuming his new post. Binah is a former colleague of AJC's Israel Office director Eran Lerman.

Director in Israel on "Mission of Peace"

Chapter director Emily D. Soloff joined leaders representing eight Christian denominations and national organizations and six national Jewish organizations and religious movements who traveled to Israel together to demonstrate that Christians and Jews can work together and dialogue on peace even when there is disagreement on specific policies and solutions. The group spent four days meeting with Israeli and Palestinian public officials, religious leaders and scholars. The Jewish and Christian delegations each planned two days of the visit.

Chapter Bids Farewell to Polish Consul



Polish Consul General Franciszek Adamczyk, left, thanks Past President David W. Inlander and board member Shana Lowitz during a farewell dinner held in his honor.

Air Force Chaplain on Religious Tolerance

PR director Todd Winer met with the chief of the U.S. Air Force Chaplain Service, Major General Charles C. Baldwin. Chaplain Baldwin told representatives from the AJC, ADL, Jewish Federation and JCRC that the reports of religious intolerance at the Air Force Academy were being taken seriously. Subsequent guidelines were praised by AJC as an important first step in establishing a climate of diversity, respect and mutual understanding throughout our nation's armed forces.

Indonesian Activist Visits Chapter

Chapter leadership met with the Director of the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue in Indonesia, Ms. Augustina Elga Joan Sarapung. Ms. Sarapung is involved in several Indonesian NGO's committed to achieving religious tolerance.

Warsaw Jewish Life Exhibit



Board member Betsy Katz, right, cut the ribbon at an exhibit of paintings of life in the Warsaw Ghetto sponsored by and exhibited in the Cook County Treasurer's Office in Chicago. Katz was the only lay leader asked to speak at the program, attended by some 75 government and lay representatives, including Treasurer Maria Pappas, left. The Chapter also co-sponsored an art exhibition on Romania's synagogues.

Challenging Divestment Remains Priority

Chapter leaders took part in a video conference designed to develop a cadre of professional staff and lay people to continue the engagement with Christians on the divestment issue. AJC is meeting with Mainline Protestants to discuss ways to work together on constructive steps toward peace rather than destructive and negative actions that could promote further conflict.

Chapter's Diplomatic Outreach

Members of the Chapter's International Relations Commission continue their outreach to Chicago's Consular Corps, meeting with representatives from South Africa, Egypt, Turkey, Poland, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Croatia, Serbia and Israel.

Assistant Director Melanie Maron recently spoke at a ceremony commemorating the 10-year anniversary of the massacre of over 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

*The Chicago Chapter wishes you
and your family
a happy and healthy 5766.
Shanah Tovah!*

Interreligious Affairs Remains Chapter Focus

Chicago Hosts International Interfaith Conference

The International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ), an umbrella organization of 38 Jewish-Christian dialogue groups, held its international conference in Chicago in July. Co-sponsored by the AJC, the conference featured leading figures in the interfaith world, including AJC International Interreligious Affairs Director Rabbi David Rosen, left, and US Director of Interreligious Affairs David Elcott, second from right, pictured with Chapter director Emily D. Soloff and assistant director Jonathan Schwartz.



Interreligious Coalition Continues Effort at Teaching Guidelines

While in Chicago for the ICCJ conference, David Rosen and David Elcott attended a meeting of the “Chicago Coalition for Interreligious Learning: Catholics, Jews and Muslims Working Together,” an interfaith effort initiated by the Chapter to create guidelines for teaching about other faith traditions. Elcott, with from left, Mazher Ahmed of the Islamic Society of Batavia, and Laleh Bakhtiar of Kazi Publications, hailed the group’s efforts at promoting tolerance and understanding of other religions.



Chapter Educates Camp Ramah Staff on Interfaith Dialogue Efforts

Senior staff members from Camp Ramah in Wisconsin were trained to teach campers about interfaith dialogue and Catholic-Jewish relations thanks to a new initiative between the Chapter and Camp Ramah. Assistant director Jonathan Schwartz and Sr. Mary Ellen Coombe, director of the Institute for Catholic-Jewish Education, led workshops on local interfaith efforts. For the second year, Sr. Mary Ellen, right, and Chapter director Emily Soloff lead sessions on Catholic-Jewish relations at the camp.



AJC Hurricane Relief Fund to Help Repair Houses of Worship

AJC’s senior interreligious affairs adviser Rabbi James Rudin is overseeing AJC’s Hurricane Katrina assistance efforts, which include a long-term reconstruction and repair project for damaged or destroyed houses of worship.

AJC has disbursed millions of dollars in short-term relief efforts and long-term reconstruction projects, both in the U.S. and overseas, benefiting people of many races, religions and ethnic backgrounds.

“Each of us is potentially vulnerable to the fury of Mother Nature, irrespective of where we live, the religion we practice, or the lifestyle we lead,” said AJC executive director David Harris.

To donate to the AJC Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, visit www.ajc.org, or contact the Chapter office.

Recent AJC Publications

Jewish Distinctiveness in America By Tom Smith

A fascinating analysis of 30 years of statistical research shows that Jews are the most distinctive ethnic and religious group in America.

We Must Halt the Genocide in Darfur, Sudan Now

A Human Rights Discussion Paper prepared by AJC’s Jacob Blaustein Institute.

Hizbollah: A Mega-Terrorist Organization By Yehudit Barsky

AJC’s director of the Division on Middle East and International Terrorism examines Hizbollah’s role in global terror.

Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict:

A Brief Guide for the Perplexed By David A. Harris

Newly revised and updated, this booklet is essential reading for Israel advocates.

All Quiet on the Religious Front? By Jack Wertheimer

A look at current interdenominational ties and tensions.

These and other titles are viewable at www.ajc.org.

CHAPTER SNAPSHOTS

Mikva on Church-State Separation



Judge Abner Mikva, second from left, spoke on current issues in the field of church-state separation and civil liberties. With Mikva, from left, David W. Inlander, Barbara and Howard Gilbert.

German Delegation in Chicago



AJC Berlin Office director Diedre Berger, center, with Chapter leaders, a member of the German Bundestag and representatives of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

AJC's Transatlantic Institute Director



Karen Weisblatt, director of AJC's Transatlantic Institute in Brussels, briefed Chapter leaders on her work fostering ties among the EU, Israel, and the United States. Pictured, from left, David W. Inlander, Weisblatt, and Walter Nathan.

Interdenominational Issues Examined



Dr. Steve Bayme, national director of AJC's Contemporary Jewish Life department, left, board member Scott Heyman, and Rabbi Vernon Kurtz, analyzed interdenominational ties and tensions at a special event for board and Jewish communal leaders.

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