



The American Jewish Committee

Advancing democracy, pluralism and mutual understanding

AJC UPDATE

WINTER 2004

Save the Date

Victor L. Marcus Honored with Distinguished Leadership Award

On Tuesday, December 16, 2003 at the Four Seasons Hotel, AJC Board member Victor L. Marcus was presented with the 2003 Distinguished Leadership Award. Victor was honored for his life long commitment to good works, particularly in the Jewish community. Among Victor's numerous other activities, he has been active in AJC for over 40 years, served as president of the Jewish Home, and was a founding member of the Fromm Institute.



Victor L. Marcus

In a special tribute, Ron Wornick, who also served as dinner chair, Adele Corvin, Doug Shorestein, Frannie Green, Robert Fordham, Ernie Weiner, and Kenneth Marcus all spoke to Victor's unwavering dedication to the Jewish people, his impeccable taste, and his high class standards in every aspect of life.

Judge Daniel Weinstein Presented with Judge Learned Hand Award



In an evening marked by high spirits and joviality, Judge Daniel Weinstein was presented with the distinguished Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award at the Four Seasons Hotel on October 29, 2003.

Judge Daniel Weinstein Family, friends, and colleagues of Judge Weinstein, along with chapter members, gathered together to honor Weinstein for his lifelong commitment to protecting the rights of the individual and demonstrating the importance of democratic values in an orderly society.

Among his many credits, Judge Weinstein recently helped found the JAMS Foundation, a mediating service; he was Chief District Attorney of San Francisco; and served on the both the Municipal and Superior Courts of San Francisco. Jerome B. Falk served as dinner chair.

January

- 20 *Understanding Jewish History Series*
- 21 *Business and Technology Committee meeting*
- 22 *ACCESS tour of the Asian Art Museum*

February

- 8 *"What's Jewish about the Sopranos®?" Lunch and Discussion*
- 17 *First session of spring semester of "Seeds of Renewal: the Heritage of the Jewish Diaspora" class taught by Ken Cohen*

AJC Deplores Cowardly Terror Attacks on Istanbul Synagogues

The American Jewish Committee deplored the double terrorist bombings of synagogues in Istanbul.

"To target Jews, peacefully at prayer on the holiest day of the week is an act of cowardice and depravity," said Jason Isaacson, director of AJC's Office of Government and International Affairs. "Our hearts go out to the families of all victims, many of whom were not Jewish, in these horrific terror attacks."

The twin bombings at the Neve Shalom and the Beth Israel synagogues during Shabbat services left at least 20 dead and more than 250 wounded.

Barry Jacobs, AJC's director of strategic studies, traveled to Turkey to represent AJC at the funerals. AJC has close ties to the Turkish Jewish community, whose leader addressed the AJC Annual Meeting last year in Washington.

The bombings in Turkey come just six months after a series of bombings against Jewish targets in Casablanca, which killed more than 40. Isaacson recently visited Morocco to continue AJC discussions with the government and the Jewish community regarding continuing concerns about security.

"The attacks in Istanbul give little comfort to the small Jewish communities in Muslim countries that have existed peacefully for centuries, but are increasingly anxious of their vulnerability," Isaacson said.

The American Jewish Committee

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**We're on
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Vincent B. Feher named Comay Fellow

Congratulations to Vincent B. Feher, chapter Treasurer, who was awarded the prestigious Sholom D. Comay "Leadership for the Future" Fellowship for 2003-2004. The fellowship was established in the memory of Sholom Comay who died while serving as national president of the American Jewish Committee in 1991.

As part of the Comay Fellowship, Vince will begin a year of active involvement with the National Board of Governors, the chief policy-making body of the AJC. Vince and the other fellows will join the national leadership in their experiences, deliberations, and decision-making process concerning a variety of issues facing AJC today.

This experience will reinforce Vince's understanding of how AJC works—locally, nationally, and globally—enabling him, through AJC, to help address the chal-

Give the gift of AJC

- Gift memberships for birthdays, holidays or any occasion are a wonderful way to help the next generation of Jewish leaders get involved in the good work and stimulating interactions of AJC, locally and around the world. Give your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or friends age 35 or younger a membership for only \$35.00 or 35 and older for only \$100.



Tunisian Ambassador to the United States Hatem Attallah met with representatives of the International Relations Committee on Thursday, November, 20 to discuss Israel-Tunisian relations.

ACCESS Season Opener Huge Success

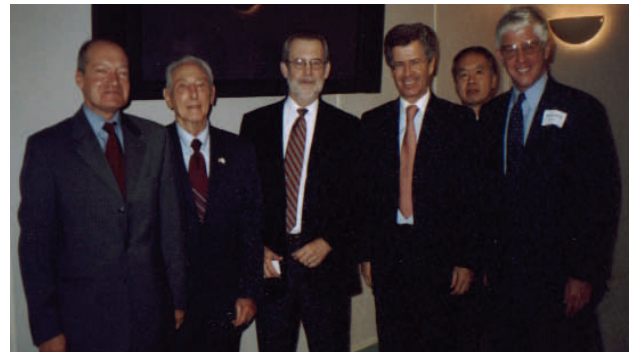
On November 13, ACCESS held its annual Season Opener. Young Jewish professionals from all over the Bay Area gathered at the Potero Hill home of Steve Katz to learn more about ACCESS and AJC. Rabbi Sydney Mintz of Congregation Emanu El entertained the group with her inspiring storytelling and witty sense of humor about the importance of being actively involved in the San Francisco Jewish community. A record number of new members joined AJC at the Season Opener.



ACCESS member Ben Walter dances with a resident of the Jewish Home for the Aged during an ACCESS volunteer day on October 19.

Board Diplomatic Series Continues

The International Relations Committee is sponsoring an incredibly successful diplomatic initiative to bring local and national foreign diplomats to board meetings to address the board. The diplomats analyze their country's relationship to Israel and their country's Jewish communities. Past diplomatic speakers have included Consul-General of Japan Shigeru Nakamura, Consul-General of Greece Dimitrios Touloupous, Ambassador of France to the US Jean-David Levitte, and Consul-General of Ireland Donal Denham.



French Consul-General Desagneaux, Executive Director Ernest H. Weiner, President Richard S. E. Johns, French Ambassador Levitte, French Consul Chen, and National Executive Committee member Richard Sideman



Board member Albert Hassid, Greek community representative Byron Yoanidis, Vice President Milton Jacobs, Greek Consul-General Touloupous, and President Richard S.E. Johns