



The American Jewish Committee

Advancing democracy, pluralism and mutual understanding

AJC UPDATE

President's Column

The strength of the American Jewish Committee has been the relationships its members have with each other and with community leaders, across the bay and around the world. When an issue presses for decision, a problem calls for solution, or new aspirations cry out for recognition, the AJC opens the connections its members have already made with those who can influence the outcome. In seeking new members, we look to their involvement in the community and their ability to connect where a connection can make a difference. This approach sets the AJC apart from other organizations. Every member of our chapter has valuable contacts now, the opportunity to make new ones, and the responsibility to share and strengthen them. Each member can and should grow through the AJC, and it can, and must, grow through you.

At our Annual Meeting last June we welcomed eight new members of the Board of Directors: **Stuart Berman, Mark Bostick, Norman Epstein, Jerry Ganz, Anne Gyemant, Leon Mayeri, Fran Quitel,** and **Al Simon.** These are men and women of ex-

ceptional ability and stature. I will be asking each of them to join those already on the chapter board to help focus on how to link our membership, within the context of the AJC's goals and programs, to areas of particular interest.

The opportunity to be president of a chapter so soundly nurtured by **Susan Osher Epstein** is a remarkable piece of good fortune. We face huge issues: preservation of liberty in the face of terrorism whether real or perceived, energy self-sufficiency to moderate the enormous anti-Semitic power of the oil-producing minority, the perception of Israel as a bully, the unintended consequences of Jews unfettered access to American society, and the ever-changing and ever-touchy subject of racial groups and their rights, "to name just a few." We face huge challenges: how do we link the best minds to work for solutions good for society, and good for Jews? How do we overcome the perceived differences among Jews so that we see solutions and not only stumbling blocks? How do we include other groups, but not get lost when critical mass has been achieved? How do we fund it all? How



Richard S.E. Johns

do it all, and still have fun?

To live is to share the action and passion of our time. Every member of the chapter is an asset, and valuable resource, in keeping the AJC a vehicle for expressing ourselves and making the world safe for our ideals. I will ask every member to help every other member share in our mission. Our goal is not to preserve an organization; it is to use the AJC to carry our voices to important ears lest a flood of sophistry overwhelm their hearing. Although AJC's head may be on East 56th Street, the heartbeat comes from its chapters. We are farthest from New York, but our pulse is strong, and the vibrancy with which we pursue our goals will overcome the miles.

The messenger waits, but we must send the message. Each of you must help to write it.

SUMMER 2003

Save the Date Upcoming Events

July

- **29** *Making the Case for Israel—interactive workshop for Pro-Israel advocacy.*

August

- **7** *ACCESS event—Private tour of Chagall exhibit.*
- **26** *The Road Map Analysis*
Dr. Eran Lerman

September

- **12** *French Ambassador Breakfast*
- **17** *Business & Technology Film Panel featuring Tiffany Shlain*
- **30** *Understanding Jewish History Series*

October

- **18** *ACCESS Fall opener*
- **29** *Judge Learned Hand Award honoring the Honorable Daniel Weinstein (Ret.)*

November

- **10** *Contemporary Jewish Life Sopranos Dinner and Discussion.*

The American Jewish Committee

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**We're on the
Web
www.ajc.org**

"Seeds of Renewal: the Heritage of the Jewish Diaspora"

In September 2004, we will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the North American Jewish community. An extraordinary monthly class, co-sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and Lehrhaus Judaica, will commemorate this milestone during 2003/04, and examine the meaning of the Diaspora throughout Jewish History.

Ken Cohen returns this fall with a powerful class, and an extraordinary new educational technology.

Using the multi-media power of the Heritage: Civilization and the Jews Interactive DVD-ROM, we will explore how life in the Diaspora has shaped Judaism throughout our history and how those first immigrants, three and a half centuries ago, shaped America.

Many of us are familiar with Abba Eban's magisterial PBS series "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews." Ken will be using a new software package based on the original series, recently supplemented by a mass of additional material of dazzling variety.

Judaism is a religion rooted in a particular place -- the land of Israel. Yet Jews have only had dominion and primary residence in Israel for historically brief periods. For most of recorded history, most Jews have lived in dispersion from their land, inhabiting lands which were ruled by Christian, Islamic and secular powers.

This course will explore the highs and lows of Diaspora existence, from ancient communities in Babylonia, Turkey and North Africa -- to the Golden Age of Spain and the crucible of medieval Europe -- to shtetl life, Emancipation and America. We will address both the historical meaning of Diaspora, and the meaning and implications of the Jewish Diaspora today in relation to the State of Israel.

The 10-session course will be divided into two semesters. The fall semester will cover the early days of Diaspora until the Spanish Inquisition of 1492 and the spring semester will address the time for the Inquisition until the modern day Diaspora.

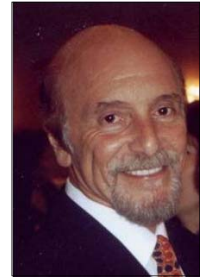
Please contact the AJC office for more information about registration and fees. 414 777-3820, fax 415 777-1018, email—sanfrancisco@ajc.org

This program made possible through grants from The Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies Foundation of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund and the Charles H. Revson Foundation

FISHMAN HONORED AT 58TH ANNUAL MEETING

Chapter members and guests gathered at the Four Seasons Hotel on June 19 to see **Sam Fishman** receive the 2003 Lloyd R. Sankowich Leadership Award for his outstanding dedication and service to AJC and the Jewish Community.

The Annual Meeting, chaired by **Albert Hassid**, also featured the installation of a new chapter president, **Richard S.E. Johns** and vice presidents: **Myra Berkowitz, Andrew M. Colvin, William D. Epstein, Samuel A. Fishman, Milton Jacobs, Harry Kirsch, Steven Kornetsky, Robert S. Stein and Daniel L. Weiner. Treasurer, Vincent B. Feher, Secretary Rachel E. Teisch. and Susan Osher Epstein**, Chair, executive Committee were also nominated. New board members are: **Stuart Berman, Mark Bostick, Norman Epstein, Gerald Ganz, Anne Gyemant, Leon Mayeri, Frances Quittel and Alan Simon.**



Sam Fishman

Robert Rosenthal, Managing Editor and Vice President of the San Francisco Chronicle was the guest speaker.



Volunteers from ACCESS, AJC's young leadership forum, served Easter lunch to the homeless on April 20th at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco.

ACCESS

ACCESS, the emerging leadership division of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, seeks to create a vibrant sense of Jewish identity, expand Jewish knowledge and foster a deep and abiding commitment to the young adult Jewish community. ACCESS focuses on identifying and responding to the social, political, career, and religious issues that challenge young adults today.

Programs include volunteer days at local organizations, joint programming with both secular and non-secular young adult groups, visits with Consuls General, and social events including networking brunches and cocktail receptions.