

## Monthly Highlights

June 2013

### *International Interreligious Affairs*

#### USA: Washington, Philadelphia and Baltimore

At the ACCESS summit and the Global Forum, in addition to speaking at sessions/meetings on relations between Jews and Muslims, Jews and Catholics, the Vatican and Israel, Judaism and Interfaith relations; I also had the pleasure of hosting the dinner with the Irish Ambassador to the US, Michael Collins.



With Ambassador  
Michael Collins

From Washington I went on to Philadelphia where I serviced the Regional Office. In addition to two public addresses (one on Religious Pluralism and Interfaith relations in Israel and the other on Pope Francis and Catholic-Jewish Relations); an AJC dinner event; and a breakfast discussion with AJC leaders, Professor Leonard Swidler of Temple University and the senior personnel of the Dialogue Institute (that Swidler founded at Temple); I also met with the head of the local Catholic Church Archbishop Charles Chaput who I have known for some fifteen years.



With Marcia Bronstein, AJC  
Philadelphia Director and  
Archbishop Charles Chaput

From Philadelphia I travelled to Baltimore where I was the featured speaker at the major annual event of the Institute for Christian–Jewish studies.

<http://www.icjs.org/news/2013/rabbi-david-rosen-discusses-interfaith-relations>

My presentation may be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/67995874>



With Dr. Chris Leighton,  
ICJS Director



Speaking in Baltimore

### Haifa

The Anglican-Jewish Commission of the Anglican Communion and the Chief Rabbinate of Israel met in Haifa at the invitation of the Mayor of Haifa, Mr. Yona Yahav and the Haifa Religious Council.

The chief rabbi emeritus of Haifa Rabbi She’ar Yashuv Cohen is the co-chair of the bilateral commission together with Archbishop Michael Jackson, the Archbishop of Dublin.

This eighth meeting of the Commission, focused on the relationship between Religion and Science. Papers were presented by Rabbi Professor Avraham Steinberg of Shaarei Tzedek hospital and an Israel prize laureate, and Bishop Michael Ipgrave of Woolwich.

The bilateral commission was formally welcomed by the mayor of Haifa at the Municipality where the commission’s deliberations took place.

Field visits included Haifa University and the Rambam Health Care Campus where the participants received presentations on cutting edge genetic science as well as innovative cancer care for the Israel and the Palestinian territories



left to right: Rabbi David Brodman, Chief Rabbi of Savyon, Revd. Dr. Toby Howarth, Secretary for Interreligious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury; Dr. Michael Igrave, Bishop of Woolwich; Rabbi Avraham Weizman, Haifa Religious Council Chairman ; Prof. Myriam Ben-Arush, Director of Hemato-Pediatric Oncology; Mr. Oded Wiener, Director General of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel; Dr. Clare Amos, WCC Director of Ecumenical Relations; Dr. Esty Golan, COO of the Rambam Health Care Campus , Mr. David Metzger, Secretary General of the Religious Council in Haifa;Dr. Jane Clements, Director of FODIP; Dr. Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin Rabbi; Rabbi Dr. David Rosen, International Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee; Rabbi Dr. Rasson Arousi, Chief Rabbi of Kiryat Ono and member of the Council of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, Prof. Karl Skorecki, Director of Health Management and Research.

See:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=592950280729052&set=a.201448466545904.50409.199662550057829&type=1&theater>

## Istanbul

I spent the weekend of June 15<sup>th</sup> in Istanbul at the invitation of The Performance Theatre.

See <http://www.theperformancetheatre.com/>



Left to right: Robert Tenzin Thurman; Abbas Shamel; Bawa Jain; David Rosen; Yogesh Sharda .

and the Turkish Jewish community. At the former's annual gathering I spoke on a panel "Back to the Future" on the role of religion in society today.

I addressed a special meeting of the Istanbul Bnai Brith organization on "Jewish perspectives on Interfaith Relations" and spoke to the community at Ortokay synagogue on Jewish Ethics.

Etz HaChayim Synagogue,  
Ortakoy



## Auschwitz

Pursuant to the successful memorial concerts to the victims of the Shoah, the international Catholic movement, the Neocatechumenal Way, held a special memorial concert in Auschwitz/Birkenau attended by over ten thousand persons including eight Cardinals, some twenty bishops and about the same number of rabbis and Jewish leaders from Israel and around the world.

This moving orchestral/choral performance was rendered all the more emotional and powerful by the location and the attendance.

As at the concert at the Lincoln Center, Rabbi Yitz Greenberg and I addressed the gathering on behalf of the Jewish community.



Video from Polish TV <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFelQqBuaMM> , proceedings begin from 0.05:45

Additional photos at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism/9169644416/in/photostream/>

## The Vatican

From Poland I continued to Rome to participate in Pope Francis' first official audience to representatives of world Jewry that constitute IJCIC (the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations) that is the official dialogue partner of the Holy See's Commission for Religious Relations with Jewry. AJC is a founder of this umbrella organization and has chaired it over the years since the days of Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum and then during the tenure of Rabbi James Rudin. I was privileged to be the chairman at the last IJCIC Papal audience shortly after Benedict XVI became Pope. The IJCIC delegation also held meetings with other Church leaders.

AJC had the largest delegation at the audience, which consisted of the Interreligious Affairs Relations Commission chair David Inlander, Rabbi Noam Marans, and Lisa Palmieri Billig, our Rome liaison to the Vatican. The AJC delegation took the opportunity to hold its own meetings with Vatican leaders and held consultations with key staff in the Curia



AJC Delegation presents gift to Pope Francis:  
David Rosen, Noam Marans, David Inlander



Greeting Pope Francis

The audience received substantial media attention as in the following urls:-

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/06/24/5519554/ajc-at-pope-francis-first-audience.html>

<http://www.ita.org/2013/06/24/news-opinion/world/pope-francis-meets-for-first-time-with-jewish-delegation-at-vatican>

<http://www.haaretz.com/jewish-world/jewish-world-news/pope-at-vatican-meeting-with-jewish-delegation-slams-anti-semitism-1.531837>

<http://vaticaninsider.lastampa.it/en/world-news/detail/articolo/jewish-rosen-ijcic-26058/>

<http://www.jpost.com/Jewish-World/Jewish-News/Pope-Francis-takes-first-audience-with-Jewish-leaders-317573>

## Jerusalem

Shortly after returning home, we in Jerusalem had the honor of receiving the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, on his first visit to the Holy Land since taking office some months ago.

It was a great pleasure for me to meet up again with him, as we have been acquainted some fifteen years.



Meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and the Bishop of Jerusalem Suheil Dawani

I participated both in a meeting of the Archbishop with members of the Jewish delegation of the Anglican-Jewish dialogue with the Chief Rabbinate of Israel (referred to above) and also for a luncheon meeting with leaders from the Israel Council of Religious Leaders representing the spectrum of officially recognized religious faiths and denominations in Israel.



Left to right: Armenian Archbishop Aris Shirvanyan; Greek Orthodox Archbishop Aristarchos; Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal; Yakov Salame, Ministry of the Interior; Rabbi Prof. Daniel Sperber; Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilos III; Khadi Iyad Zahalka; Rabbi Rasson Arousi; Rabbi David Rosen; Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby; Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem Suheil Dawani; Amb. Bahig Mansour, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Oded Weiner, Secretary General, Chief Rabbinate of Israel

The visit was covered in the following media :-

<http://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/109221/archbishop-israel-remarkable-success%E2%80%99>

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/archbishop-of-canterbury-israel-the-center-of-the-world/>

<http://www.ins.org/latest-articles/2013/6/27/archbishop-of-canterbury-affirms-israels-right-to-exist-in-security-and-peace>