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ICCI INSIGHTS & INFORMATION

August 12, 2010 | 2 Elul, 5770 | 2 Ramadan, 1431

Dear friends,

Once again the Muslim and Jewish calendars coincide in a remarkable way, reminding us of how much Judaism and Islam have in common. At the same time that we Jews begin the Hebrew month of Elul this week, the Muslims begin their holy month of Ramadan.



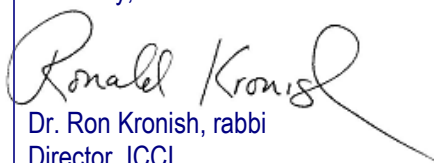
Both periods in our respective religious calendars are times of retrospection and intensive introspection. We think about the year that has passed and look forward to the coming year with renewed hope.

In the Jewish tradition, we begin saying special prayers of forgiveness (*slichot*) and we start sounding the *shofar* (the ram's horn) to awaken us to *teshuva* (repentance) in Elul. Similarly, during this month, Muslims engage in prayer, study of the Koran, fasting and good deeds on their path to renewal.

Perhaps this year we can use this time to reflect not only on our common traditions but also on our shared hopes for peaceful coexistence, in this land, in this region and in the world.

At this time, we wish our Jewish friends in Israel and around the world a *Shanah Tovah u'metukah*, a good and sweet year, and to our Muslim friends wherever they are we say *Ramadan Karim*—may you have a blessed Ramadan.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ron Kronish, rabbi
Director, ICCI
rkronish@icci.org.il

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

ICCI blog updates

The following is a list of recent updates to the ICCI blog (<http://icciblog.wordpress.com>):

- [The experiences in the Face-to-Face/Faith-to-Faith Israeli-Palestinian group](#) - by Thilo Schöne
- [Changes in Jewish-Polish Relations](#) - by Thilo Schöne
- [An Eye-Opening Discussion with Muslim Women in Abu Ghosh](#) – by Ron Kronish

- [Seeing, Hearing and Witnessing Palestinian Israeli Narratives in Kafr Kassem](#) – by Ron Kronish
- [Another View of Islam in Israel: A Visit to Al Qasemi Academy](#) – by Ron Kronish
- [An Amazing Art Gallery in an Israeli Arab Town](#) – by Ron Kronish

During this summer, ICCI Director Dr. Ron Kronish has written a series of postings on the theme of "Islam in Israel". For any of you interested in this subject, you will find these postings of great interest (and they represent stories that you probably won't read about in the mainstream media!). <http://icciblog.wordpress.com/category/islam-in-israel/>. We welcome your comments to postings on our blog, now and in the future.

ICCI's Annual Activity Report for 2009 now available!

ICCI has just released its **Annual Activity Report for 2009**. The report describes the activities of ICCI's events and ongoing programs for religious leaders, youth and young adults, women and the general public, during the past year. Special highlights, such as the **Face to Face / Faith to Faith** program's photo exhibition in February 2009 and the delegation of the **Jerusalem Interreligious Young Adult Forum** to a special conference of **World Religions for Peace** in Paris during the Gaza war, are portrayed in more detail. Additionally, ICCI's activities for visiting groups in Israel and tours abroad are described. **We thank our supporters and sympathizers for making these activities possible!** The report is available at: http://icci.org.il/downloads/ICCI-Annual_Activity_Report-2009.pdf



Iftar Seminar: August 25, 2010

ICCI and **The Konrad Adenauer Foundation** will hold a special Iftar seminar (*iftar* is the name of the evening meal with which Muslims break their fast during the month of Ramadan) on August 25, 2010. The seminar will take place at the **Konrad Adenauer Conference Center** in **Mishkenot Sha'ananim**, Jerusalem. It will include a lecture by **Kadi Muhammed Zibdeh**, the **kadi of Yaffo**, on "**The Moral and Social Implications of the Fast of Ramadan**", as well as responses from **Rabbi Yehuda Gilad**, Co-founder and Rosh Yeshiva at **Yeshivat Ma'aleh Gilboa** and Rabbi of **Kibbutz Lavi**, and **Archbishop Aris Shirvanian** of the **Armenian Patriarchate** in Jerusalem. **Attendance is by invitation only.**

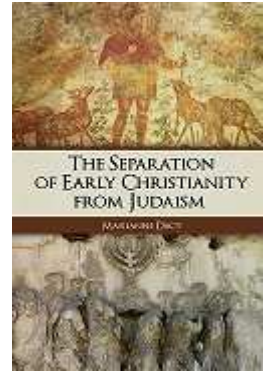
Third ICCI/JCJCR/Yedidya Study Tour of the Old City: August 27, 2010



ICCI invites the public to a unique study tour of the Armenian and Christian Quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem, entitled "**Get to Know Your Christian Neighbors and the Problems They Face**". The tour will take place on Friday, August 27, 2010, from 09:00 to 13:00, starting just outside Jaffa Gate. A third in a series of similar tours, it is jointly sponsored by **The Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI)**, **The Jerusalem Center for Jewish-Christian Relations (JCJCR)** and **Kehillat Yedidya**, and will be led by **Hana Bendcowsky**, **Program Director** at **JCJCR**. The program set to include visits to a variety of Christian institutions and meetings with Church leaders, notably the **Archbishop Aris Shirvanian of the Armenian Patriarchate** in Jerusalem (pictured). **Registration deadline is August 23, 2010.** For further details and registration, contact **02-5611899** or communications@icci.org.il. The tour will be held in HEBREW and is not suited for children.

Book launch: *The Separation of Early Christianity from Judaism*, September 6, 2010

A book launch event in honor of "**The Separation of Early Christianity from Judaism**", a book by **Marianne Dacy**, will take place in the presence of the author, on Monday, September 6, 2010, at 17:00, at ICCI's Educational Center (43a Emek Refaim St., Jerusalem). The program includes an introduction by **Dr. Debbie Weissman**, co-vice-chairperson of ICCI and President of **ICCJ**, greetings by **Ms. Peta Pellach**, Educational Director of the **Elijah Interfaith Institute**, remarks by **Rabbi Raymond Apple**, former rabbi of the **Great Synagogue in Sydney, Australia**, and member of the board of ICCI, and the response of **Dr. Marianne Dacy**, the author. We will also raise a toast for the new Jewish Year. The event is co-sponsored by ICCI and **The Congregation of Notre-Dame de Sion**. For more information, please see the invitation flyer at http://icci.org.il/downloads/book_launch_invitation.pdf. Please confirm your participation via email to communications@icci.org.il



Dialogue in the Midst of Conflict: ICCI training workshop for facilitators, September 14-15, 2010

On September 14-15, 2010, ICCI will be holding a two-day workshop (9:00-17:00 each day) in Jerusalem, entitled "**Dialogue in the Midst of Conflict – Reflective Training for Facilitators**". The workshop will feature a staff of international professionals in the field of group facilitation, hailing from:

- **St. Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace**, London (<http://stethelburgas.org>)
- **The Corrymeela Community**, Northern Ireland (<http://www.corrymeela.org>)

Working together, ICCI, St. Ethelburga's and Corrymeela have developed a training methodology representing the commonalities in our three approaches. For information about course contents and costs, please see the course flyer on ICCI's website:

[http://icci.org.il/downloads/ICCI_Training_Workshop_in_Jerusalem_September_2010\(ENG\).pdf](http://icci.org.il/downloads/ICCI_Training_Workshop_in_Jerusalem_September_2010(ENG).pdf)

Space is limited and reservations are required. Please email communications@icci.org.il to register.

SPECIAL EVENT

ICCI/AEI staff retreat, July 19-20, 2010

ICCI is partnering with the **Arab Educational Institute (AEI-Open Windows)** of Bethlehem to plan and implement a series of youth and young adult programs dealing with non-violence education, as part of the "**Arms Down**" youth campaign of the **World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP)** for shared security. The collaboration has commenced with a special **Training for Trainers (TfT)** seminar in the content and methodology of non-violence education, attended by the facilitation staff of both organizations, on July 19-20, 2010 in Bet Jalla, near Bethlehem. In addition to training, ICCI and AEI staff members got the chance to share methods and materials developed by both organizations, to acquire new tools and strategies that these trainers will be able to use in their ongoing educational work in the field of dialogue and reconciliation, and to create trust relationships and shared professional outlook and terminology, providing the basis for a successful long-term Israeli-Palestinian partnership. For more information about AEI, please see their website at: <http://www.aeicenter.org>.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Face to Face / Faith to Faith

Face to Face/Faith to Faith (Middle East), a multi-faith youth leadership program facilitated by ICCI in partnership with **Auburn Theological Seminary**, brings together Jewish and Palestinian (Muslim and

Christian) youth from East and West Jerusalem to engage in dialogue and action programs relating to issues of peace, violence and social responsibility.

The 2010 group of program participants recently returned from a summer intensive experience of two weeks (June 28th-July 11th) in Holmes, New York, with peers from South Africa, Northern Ireland and the U.S.A. While at the intensive summer program, participants learned more about their own faith and the faiths of others, via daily workshops featuring dialogue and communication skills, leadership skills, peace building activities and interfaith learning. The experience proved to be transformative for many of the participants. For more information about the summer intensive experience, from the point of view of program coordinators **Maisa Zoabi** and **Alex Kusner**:



<http://icciblog.wordpress.com/2010/08/12/the-experiences-in-the-face-to-facefaith-to-faith-israeli-palestinian-group/>

Selected images on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=194782&id=327112936650>

In addition to the current cycle of program participants, three alumni of previous cycles were given a unique opportunity to strengthen their communication, dialogue and leadership skills via participation in Auburn Seminary's **Leadership in Training (LIT)** program. Furthermore, ICCI staff members Maisa and Alex, who served as home group leaders and facilitators, were joined by three additional alumni of ICCI's youth and young adult programs and of the LIT program, who served as cabin counselors and dialogue facilitators.

Special tour of Poland as part of ICCI's course on relations between Jews and Poles

As part of ICCI's special course about "**Encountering Poland: Relations between Jews and Poles – Religious, Historical and Social Dimensions**", course participants were given the opportunity to go on study tour to Poland (Warsaw-Lublin-Kielce-Krakow) between July 22-29, 2010. The tour's purpose was to show Jewish educators and journalists from Israel a side of Poland that they don't know, the face of Modern Poland, including the revival and commemoration of Jewish heritage in Poland. The participants in the tour, which included members of the course and other educators, as well as a journalist, were impressed with the new reality they discovered in Poland and with the special experiences they underwent together, such as spending the Sabbath in Warsaw as the guests of the **Chief Rabbi of Poland, Rabbi Michael Schudrich**. During the Shabbat dinner, they met with representatives of the **Polish Council of Christians and Jews** and were able to get a behind-the-scenes look at the new **Museum of the History of Polish Jews**, currently under construction. Additionally, they met with one of the organizers of the annual **Jewish Festival** in Krakow, and with **Mr. Bogdan Białek** of **The Jan Karski Association**, as well as with other local activists in Polish-Jewish Relations today. Furthermore, they visited tourist attractions such as the renewed **Chopin Museum** in Warsaw and the new **Schindler Museum** in Krakow.

Avigail Moshe coordinated this program for ICCI. The course was a collaboration between ICCI and the **Polish Institute**, with added support from **Ms. Luna Kaufman** of New York. See also an interview with Avigail at <http://icciblog.wordpress.com/2010/08/10/changes-in-jewish-polish-relations>.

VISITING GROUPS

Coexistence as seen through Film - Israeli and Palestinian Perspectives

Amy Kronish, film historian, reviewer and commentator, offered a presentation to a group of Mennonites in their 20's from the Netherlands. The presentation, which took place on July 22, 2010 at

ICCI's Educational Center, offered the screening and analysis of film clips and short films on the subject of "Coexistence as seen through Film - Israeli and Palestinian Perspectives".

Coexistence in the Middle East course completed



In cooperation with the **International Institute of Leadership**, the **Rothberg International School** of the **Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, and the **Israel National Commission for UNESCO**, ICCI completed the implementation of a course on "**Coexistence in the Middle East**" at the end of July. Twenty-four students from North America, South America and Europe participated in this exciting and innovative course, which successfully combined lectures and study tours all over Israel. ICCI director **Dr. Ron Kronish**, who coordinated and taught parts of the course, was gratified by the high level of participation by the students and by their keen interest in learning about the complexity and diversity that make up Israeli society and that characterize efforts at coexistence in Israel and in the region.

ICCI IN THE MEDIA

The Jerusalem Report published an article by ICCJ president and ICCI co-vice-chairperson **Dr. Debbie Weissman** (right), on August 2, 2010. In the article, entitled "To Meet or Not to Meet", Debbie describes her thoughts and experiences as an Israeli Jewish woman in Istanbul, organizing and attending the ICCJ's international conference there in difficult times for Israel-Turkey relations. She pushes for engaging in dialogue, rather than boycotting.
[http://icci.org.il/downloads/To Meet or Not to Meet \(Debbie Weissman\).pdf](http://icci.org.il/downloads/To Meet or Not to Meet (Debbie Weissman).pdf)



Focus, the newsletter of **The Hebrew University's Rothberg International School**, published a student profile on Omar Smiley, who interned at ICCI in 2009 (Issue 37, page 10). Among other things, Omar speaks of his interfaith internship experiences.
[http://overseas.huji.ac.il/Uploads/dbsAttachedFiles/Focus\(1\).pdf](http://overseas.huji.ac.il/Uploads/dbsAttachedFiles/Focus(1).pdf)

THANKS AND FAREWELL

ICCI would like to express its gratitude to two student interns who are completing their service this month.



Zuza Radzik, a graduate student of Ancient Judaism at the Rothberg International School of **The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, has been with us for the past three years. She proved invaluable in helping us develop innovative programs in Jewish-Catholic and Polish-Israeli Relations. Zuza became a welcome addition to the ICCI family, and we wish her well in her return to Warsaw, where she will be pursuing her doctoral degree.



Thilo Schöne, a senior at **Dresden University**, Germany, majoring in Political Science and History, was here with us for a summer internship of six weeks. Despite the brevity of this time, he was able to significantly advance our web presence and our social networking capacity via Facebook and our new blog. Upon his return to Germany to continue his studies, we wish him continued success.