

ICCI Education Center
43 Emek Refaim, Suite 22-23 POB 8771, Jerusalem 91086
Tel: 972-2-561-1899, Fax: 972-2-563 4148
E-mail: communications@icci.org.il, Web: www.icci.org.il

ICCI INSIGHTS & INFORMATION
October 1, 2009 | 13 Tishrei, 5770 | 12 Shawwal, 1430

Dear friends,

In Israel and the Jewish world, we are in the midst of our intensive Fall holiday season. We just finished celebrating Yom Kippur and the pilgrimage festival of Sukkot is already upon us! In Jerusalem, one sees thousands of small sukkot (booths) built and stationed in every imaginable place all over the city, and I will finish putting up my sukkah tonight at home in order to be able to welcome guests into it tomorrow night.



Within ICCI, we will be celebrating Sukkot this year with a Sukkat Shalom (Booth of Peace) event at Kibbutz Lavi in the Lower Galilee, to be held next week. At the event, religious leaders from Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Druze communities from all over the North of Israel will gather in the beautiful large sukkah of this wonderful modern Orthodox religious kibbutz to learn about the customs and values of the holiday as well as to discuss ways and means of promoting peaceful coexistence among the leaders and followers of the major faith communities in Israel.

We are grateful for our partnership with the Division of Religious Communities of Israel's Ministry of Interior, led by Mr. Yakub Salame, in planning and implementing this project with us. It is an important step forward in preserving and enhancing good interreligious relations among Jews, Christians, Muslims and Druze who live in the Galilee.

At this special time of year, we want to wish all our Jewish friends in Israel and abroad Moadim L'simchah (Happy Holidays) for Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret (the Eighth Day of Assembly) and Simchat Torah (the Day of Rejoicing in the Torah), holidays to come during the upcoming 10 day period. And, as we do so, we are mindful of the prayer that we say in synagogue every Friday night: "Blessed are You, God, Guardian of Israel, whose shelter of peace is spread of us, over your people Israel, and over Jerusalem" and to this we add "and over all peoples".

L'shalom,

Dr. Ron Kronish, rabbi
Director, ICCI

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

ICCI delegation to Poland

An ICCI delegation of religious leaders will visit Poland (Warsaw, Lublin and Kielce) for a reciprocal visit hosted by the **Council of Christians and Jews of Poland** during October 14-18, 2009. The delegation will include ICCI Director, **Rabbi Dr. Ron Kronish**, ICCI's Director of Youth and Young Adult Programs, **Ms. Avigail Moshe**, **Rabbi Prof. Yehoyada Amir**, of the **Hebrew Union College**, **Rabbi Shlomo Brin** of **Yeshivat Har Etzion** and the **Yaacov Herzog Teachers' College**, and **Rabbi Yehuda Gilad**, the Founder and Head of **Ma'ale Gilboa Yeshiva** and Rabbi of Kibbutz Lavi.

On October 16-17, 2009, the delegation members will take part in a special Shabbaton in the city of Kielce, in which there was an anti-Jewish pogrom in 1946. This will be an extraordinary religious and cultural event, which will include prayer in the old synagogue of the Jewish Community, part of which will be returned to the community on this weekend. During these days, Kielce will become a place of prayer, discussion, exhibitions, concerts and plays dedicated to Jewish culture. To learn more and/or to register for this event, please **contact Mr. Andrzej Białek**, at andrzej.bialek@charaktery.com.pl, and/or visit the event website at the following URL:

<http://www.szabaton.kielce.eu>

ICCI Director and Kadi Mohammad Zibdeh's upcoming North-American lecture tour

On 21-29 October, 2009, **Dr. Kronish** and **Kadi Mohamad Zibdeh** (pictured here alongside Dr. Kronish), the Kadi (Islamic judge) of Jerusalem, will visit the U.S. and Canada for a special lecture tour. The purpose of this tour is to discuss issues, challenges and achievements relating to "The Other Peace Process: Interreligious Dialogue in Israel in the Service of Peace." Dr. Kronish and Kadi Zibdeh will address Jewish, Muslim and mixed audiences in Ottawa, Canada, hosted by **Rabbi Steve Garten/Temple Israel**, at the **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the **Indiana University-Purdue University**, Indianapolis, Indiana, and at the **Westchester Reform Temple**, Scarsdale, New York (invited by **Rabbi Richard Jacobs**).



New ICCI course for Israeli Educators

A special course about "**Encountering Poland: Relations between Jews and Poles – Religious, Historical and Social Dimensions**" will open on October 26th, 2009, with a lecture by the ambassador of Poland to Israel, Her Excellency Mrs. Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska. The course, which is a collaboration between ICCI and the **Polish Institute**, will deal with the Polish internal debates about Jewish history in Poland, the living Jewish community in today's Poland, and current Polish-Jewish / Catholic-Jewish relations. This innovative and contemporary new course is aimed at Israeli educators who are involved in teaching these issues both in the formal and informal educational systems. **For more information, contact Ms. Avigail Moshe** at youth@icci.org.il.

Religious Leaders of the Galilee - 'Sukkat Shalom' event

On October 6, 2009, during the Jewish festival of Sukkot, the participants of ICCI's **Religious Leaders of the Galilee** program (in partnership with the **Division of Religious Communities of Israel's Ministry of Interior**) will take part in a special '**Sukkat Shalom**' event. During this event, which will be hosted by Rabbi Yehuda Gilad in the sukkah of the **Kibbutz Lavi Hotel**, the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Druze religious leaders will study and discuss Sukkot traditions, tour the kibbutz and have dinner together in the sukkah.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Face to Face / Faith to Faith

On September 1, 2009, the 2008-2009 alumni of the Face to Face / Faith to Faith met with program's recruitment coordinators, **Ms. Hiba Alayan** and **Ms. Yaala Mazor**, to plan their role in the recruitment process for the next cycle of the program. The group members enjoyed a joint "iftar" meal (breaking the Ramadan fast), and were glad to be able to catch up with each other after the summer vacation.



ICCI is currently **searching for suitable candidates** from high schools in the Jerusalem area for the 2010-2011 activity cycle of the Face to Face / Faith to Faith program, which will begin in January 2010. Participants must be entering 10th grade in September 2009. The program is comprised of several phases in which 12-14 participants will engage in dialogue sessions and volunteer projects twice a month.

The objectives of this program are to:

- Expose the participants to the Other (Palestinian, Israeli, Jewish, Muslim, Christian)
- Empower the participants to become agents of social change in their own societies/communities
- Develop within the participants skills and tools for dialogue
- Familiarize the youth with organizations that support social justice
- Bring the message of Face to Face to the participants' schools and communities

The Face to Face program is a partnership between ICCI and the **Auburn Theological Seminary** in New York. **For more information and application forms, please contact the recruitment coordinators, Ms. Hiba Alayan and Ms. Yaala Mazor, at yaalac@gmail.com or via fax: 02-5634148.**

The Jerusalem Interreligious Young Adult Forum (JIYAF)

ICCI is currently **searching for suitable candidates** to participate in the 2009-2010 activity cycle of the Jerusalem Interreligious Young Adult Forum (JIYAF). Eligible candidates must be young adult (ages 20-27) residents of Jerusalem, who are interested in encountering the Other in their own city. The participants will engage in dialogue about issues related to their religions, communities and personal lives, and will initiate social activism projects in Jerusalem. Candidates must be highly motivated to work together as a team on such projects.

The Jerusalem Interreligious Young Adult Forum is partially funded by grants from the **World Conference of Religions for Peace** and the **Pontifical Mission**. We are currently seeking

further funding options. For more information and application forms, please contact Ms. Mariam Abad Alda'im and Ms. Yael Yecheili, at iccistudents@gmail.com.

ICCI meetings with U.S. Ambassador

On September 16, 2009, Rabbi Dr. Ron Kronish attended a special Iftar dinner at the Herzliya residence of the **Hon. Mr. James B. Cunningham, Ambassador of the United States**. Some 100 Muslims and non-Muslim friends attended this dinner, which has become an annual tradition of the ambassador of the U.S.A. to Israel in recent years.



In addition, a leadership team of ICCI consisting of **Dr. Debbie Weissman, Fr. Michael McGarry, Mr. Issa Jaber, Mr. Abdessalam Najjar, Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman, and Rabbi Dr. Ron Kronish** met with the ambassador at the **American Center** in Jerusalem on September 29th, to present the highlights of ICCI's mission and programs to him face to face. Also at the meeting on behalf of the U.S. Embassy were: **Mr. Alex Daniels**, Director of the American Center,

and **Ms. Linda Slutzky**, Deputy Director of the American Center.

ICCI IN THE MEDIA

The website of the **Forum for Discussion of Israel and Palestine (FODIP)** published an article by Joshua M. Stanton on September 3, 2009. The article, entitled "After School: A Chance to Study Face to Face", elaborates on some of the author's observations and insights regarding ICCI's Face to Face / Faith to Faith program.

<http://www.fodip.org/frontpagearticle%203rd%20September.html>

The **Jerusalem Post** published an article by Dr. Ron Kronish on September 24, 2009. The article, entitled "We have sinned", focuses on the notion of collective sin in Judaism and is part of a series of articles for Yom Kippur, written by Jewish, Christian and Muslim authors.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1253627557119&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

An article by Mr. Abdessalam Najjar, an educator, one of the founders of **Neveh Shalom / Wahat al-Salam** and ICCI vice-chairperson, was published by the **Jerusalem Post** within the same series of articles. The article, entitled "Atonement in Islam", examines the meaning of atonement as it is reflected in various stories and verses in the Koran.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1253627556894&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

VISITING GROUPS

ICCI delegation meets with Presbyterian Church USA leadership

On August 24th, a delegation of Jewish leaders who are active in interreligious dialogue and education met with a leadership group of the **Presbyterian Church (USA)**, led by **Rev. Gradye**

Parson, stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and by **Rev. Dr. Ron Shive**, chair of the church's General Assembly's newly established **Committee to Prepare a Comprehensive Study Focused on Israel-Palestine**.

The Jewish leaders who attended this lunch discussion included **Rabbi Naama Kelman**, the newly appointed Dean of the Jerusalem campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Reform/Progressive), **Mr. Stuart Schoffman**, a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute and a member of the Board of ICCI, **Mr. Ophir Yarden**, Director of ICCI's Center for Interreligious Encounter with Israel, **Rabbi Shelly Donnell**, a member of ICCI's Board of Directors, **Rabbi Moshe Silberschein**, the new dean of the rabbinical program of the Schechter Institute (Masorti/Conservative), **Rabbi Navah Hefetz**, Director of Education, Rabbis for Human Rights, and **Rabbi Dr. Ron Kronish**, Director of ICCI.

Over lunch at the beautiful Anna Ticho Café in the center of Jerusalem, a spirited discussion was held about the possibilities of peace and about ICCI's peace-building programs, which promote peaceful coexistence among faith communities in Israel and the region.

Representatives St. Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation visit ICCI

On September 13-17, 2009, **Ms. Justine Huxley** of the **St. Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation** of London and **Ms. Jane Clements** of the **Forum for Discussion of Israel and Palestine (FODIP)**, visited Israel and met with ICCI staff and board members. The purpose of this visit was to share methods of Interreligious dialogue and facilitation and explore ways and means of cooperation between ICCI and St. Ethelburga's Centre in the years to come.

NEWS & UPDATES FROM MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



ICCI member organization **Nes Ammim** has recently launched a new website at: <http://www.nesammim.org>. Nes Ammim is a Christian village community in the Western Galilee. The community, founded by European Christians as a sign of solidarity with the Jewish People after the Holocaust, emphasizes the need for interreligious dialogue and understanding.



The **Galilee Foundation for Value Education – Shorashim** will be holding a festive first anniversary gathering for its Hebrew-Arab internet community newspaper **Dugrinet** (<http://www.dugrinet.co.il>). The gathering will take place on November 5th at Yuvalim, as part of the annual **Olive Festival**, featuring a performance by the foundation's **Galilee Jewish-Arab Circus** and a panel of media leaders. **Dugrinet** seeks to be a source of local news and information, and a platform for civil public discourse on issues of interest to the region – politics, education, environment, culture, economic development, etc.

ICCI members, please send your news & updates to communications@icci.org.il!

INTERRELIGIOUS INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ICCI's Center for Interreligious Encounter with Israel is offering **programs to participants of visiting and long-term groups/programs in Israel**. Our programs are offered to both **high school and university students** and all of them involve a short presentation, informal conversation and group discussions. Visitors will meet with alumni and current students from

ICCI's Youth & Young Adult programs. Our programs are interactive and flexible, and we will work with interested groups on tailoring the program to their size, needs and schedule. Programs involving **lectures and traditional panel discussions** are also available for **visiting/long term groups**. For more information and/or to book a program, please contact communications@icci.org.il or 972-2-561-1899.

Our center also prepares and implements **full study tours of 10-14 days for university students and interreligious groups from abroad**. For more information about this, see our website (<http://www.icci.org.il>) or contact Mr. Ophir Yarden, education@icci.org.il.

ICCI STAFF

Rabbi Dr. Ron Kronish, Director
Sarah Bernstein, Director of Women's Programs
Ophir Yarden, Director of ICCI's Center for Interreligious Encounter with Israel
Avigail Moshe, Director of Youth and Young Adult Programs
Rakheli Hever, Communications and Development Coordinator
Yael Yechieli, Project Coordinator and Facilitator, JIYAF
Mariam Abad Alda'im, Project Coordinator and Facilitator, JIYAF
Ya'ala Cohen, Project Coordinator and Facilitator, Face to Face
Hiba Alayan, Program Coordinator, Youth Programs
Zuzanna Radzik, Student Intern for Special Programs
Omar Smiley, Student Intern, Youth and Young Adult Programs

ICCI serves as the Israel chapter of Religions for Peace (WCRP) and is a member of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ).

INVEST IN PEACE – SUPPORT ICCI

To support the groundbreaking and innovative programs of ICCI which bring people together from many sectors of Israeli and Palestinian society to learn to live together in peace, to engage in reconciliatory dialogue and education, and to prepare the way for a better future for all citizens of Israel and the surrounding region,

contact us at: communications@icci.org.il.