

The Milwaukee Area Jewish Committee (MAJC) builds bridges of understanding for action and advocacy. Focusing on community engagement in the Milwaukee area, with other ethnic and faith groups, educational institutions, government and media, in the promotion of Jewish values, including tolerance-building, anti-bias programming and Israel advocacy. MAJC is an independent affiliate of the American Jewish Committee.

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Milwaukee Area Jewish Committee
759 N. Milwaukee Street, Suite 622
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
(414) 291-2140

Harriet McKinney,
Executive Director

Tamiko Dargan,
Administrative Assistant

Timothy Walter,
Public Ally

Milwaukee@MAJConline.org
www.MAJConline.org



Year in Review 2008-2009



MAKING REAL RELATIONSHIPS TO STRENGTHEN PLURALISM



Our 14th annual African American / Jewish Seder was held at All Saints Catholic Church. Using our own Haggadah reflective of both the Jewish and African cultures, the seder serves as a way for Jews and Africans in America to explore the issues of slavery and freedom, while committing to dismantling oppression.

Hands Across the Campus, MAJC's tolerance building and leadership development program is active in Milwaukee, Cedarburg, West Allis and East Troy high schools.

This year at Milwaukee's Rufus King High School, members of our Hands program, the Jew Crew and the Friends of Islam, engaged in a thoughtful and uplifting interfaith dialogue on Gaza.



ADVANCING THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

As a member of the Milwaukee Human Rights Coalition, MAJC was successful in getting Milwaukee to revitalize and re-establish its Human Rights Commission.

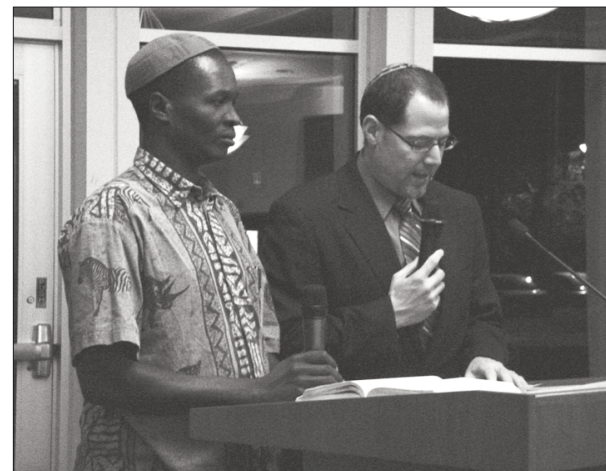
Continued the efforts for the advancement of fair and comprehensive immigration reform through advocacy, the publication of articles and contact with elected officials.

Co-sponsored the creation of a Jewish presence in the New Sanctuary movement named Miklat: The Jewish Response to Displacement

JEWISH VALUES FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND PRIVATE ACTIONS

Our 10th annual monthly Jewish Literacy Series led by Jody Hirsh featured "Jewish Short Stories". Co-sponsored with the JCC.

For an entire year MAJC has worked on the teaching of Social Studies in the Milwaukee Public Schools. In 2008, textbooks being purchased by Milwaukee Public Schools were at best, inadequate in educating about racism, anti-Semitism, Holocaust, slavery and at worst full of lies, myths and misinformation. As a member of the Social Studies Task Force, we successfully lobbied the district to stop that purchase and instead to purchase a more inclusive as well as factual series. Because of this ongoing effort, the discussion and the relationships built, MPS is now putting the issue of race, class, ethnicity and language at the top of its agenda for improving learning and has earmarked \$500,000 of stimulus funds for this effort. Supervising these actions will be the newly formed MPS Multi-cultural Council of which MAJC is a member.



MAJC welcomed Israel Siriri of the Abayudaya Jewish community in Uganda, and arranged a full schedule for him to share the story of this community. Mr. Siriri visited MATC, the JCC Gan-Ami preschool, Milwaukee Jewish Day School, Rufus King and Nicolet High Schools. A special evening was held at Congregation Beth Israel, whose Rabbi, Jacob Herber had visited the community the previous summer as part of the religious court overseeing conversions. Over 350 people attended.



6th Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds to share and celebrate the contributions of immigrants and our common American identity. Held at the UWM School of Continuing Education the assembled were led by Dr. Patricia Arredondo, The Honorable Rebecca Dallett, Dr. Enrique Figueroa and Milwaukee Police Captain Gregory Moore in reading from "America's Table: A Thanksgiving Reader" and in recounting the stories of their own ancestors' encounters with the United States.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR ISRAEL AND A BETTER WORLD

Political forum with the candidates for the Wisconsin 22nd Assembly seat attracted over 150 participants at the Whitefish Bay Library.

Hosted representatives of the Moscow Bureau for Human Rights at the MAJC offices for a discussion of anti-Semitism in the Former Soviet Union.

Co-sponsored Yom HaAtzmaut, Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaShoah, Kristallnacht Commemoration, Jewish Women's Seder, March 22, 2009 Immigration Hearing, Community Solidarity Rally and Wisconsin political forums for State Senate and Assembly seats.

Responding to requests, MAJC gave presentations on Judaism and Jewish History at the Milwaukee Area Technical College and the Mount Mary Women's Leadership Institute.

MAJC mentored emerging leaders through Public Allies and the Latino Nonprofit Leadership Institute. MAJC provided staffing and program assistance to Everytown Youth Leadership Conference.

MAJC IS A MEMBER OF...

- Equality Wisconsin Faith Roundtable
- FBI Community Engagement Council
- Greater Milwaukee Human Rights Coalition
- Milwaukee Commission on Police and Community Relations
- Milwaukee Ethnic Council
- Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations
- Milwaukee Public Schools Multicultural Council
- NonProfit Center of Greater Milwaukee
- Social Studies Task Force
- Wisconsin Character Education Council

THIS YEAR MAJC PARTNERED WITH THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

- All Saints Catholic Church
- Congregation Beth Israel Social Action Committee
- Educator's Network for Social Justice
- Harry and Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center
- Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee
- MIKLAT
- Milwaukee Ethnic Council
- Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations
- Milwaukee Jewish Day School
- Milwaukee Urban League
- NAACP
- Public Allies Milwaukee
- UWM School of Continuing Education
- Voces de la Frontera
- YWCA of Greater Milwaukee