

Second Annual Palm Beach Summit on Countering Antisemitism



(L-R) AJC Palm Beach Director Laurence Milstein; West Palm Beach Mayor Keith James; State Attorney Dave Aronberg

AJC Palm Beach director Laurence Milstein moderated a panel discussion on local efforts to combat antisemitism with West Palm Beach Mayor Keith James and State Attorney Dave Aronberg. The panel was part of the Palm Beach Synagogue's Second Annual Palm Beach Summit on Countering Antisemitism. The timely and multi-dimensional summit included nearly 200 guests and provided an important forum to discuss rising antisemitism and how best to combat it. We extend our gratitude to the Palm Beach Synagogue for convening this important program. In one powerful moment, [the mayor discusses how his recent trip to Israel with AJC altered his view on the dangers of antisemitism.](#)

AJC Palm Beach Advocacy in Action



(L-R) Boca Raton City Council Members Marc Wigder, Yvette Drucker; Mayor Scott Singer; AJC Palm Beach Board President Lisa Beers; AJC Palm Beach Board Member and past president, Dr. Steven Stein; Deputy Mayor Monica Mayotte; AJC Palm Beach County Regional Director Laurence Milstein; Council Member Fran Nachlas.

AJC Palm Beach leadership extends its gratitude to Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer and the Boca Raton City Council for unanimously adopting the [IHRA working definition of antisemitism](#). Following the vote, Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer thanked AJC for its continued advocacy and work on this important initiative.

In delivering remarks to the City Council, AJC Palm Beach president Lisa Beers stated: “Given the alarming increase in antisemitism in South Florida, where anti-Semitic incidents reached record levels in 2022, we are encouraged by the city’s decision to define antisemitism in its increasingly complex forms—which include hatred of Jews, conspiracy theories, and delegitimization of Israel, among others. To effectively fight antisemitism, we must first be able to clearly define it.”

Palm Beach Director Joins Town Hall Panel to Address Rising Antisemitism



Palm Beach County Community Leaders Discuss the Recent Surge in Antisemitism

AJC Palm Beach Director Laurence Milstein was [honored to serve on a panel](#) of community leaders for a town hall meeting to discuss the recent rise of antisemitism in Palm Beach County. The town hall, convened by Palm Beach County Mayor Gregg Weiss and moderated by WPTV NewsChannel 5 anchor Michael Williams, was attended by three hundred people, and live streamed to thousands by NBC NewsChannel 5. We extend our gratitude to Mayor Weiss for hosting this important forum. [AJC's Call to Action Against Antisemitism](#) and [State of Antisemitism in America Report 2022](#) were featured throughout.

[An abbreviated compilation of Laurence's remarks can be viewed here.](#)



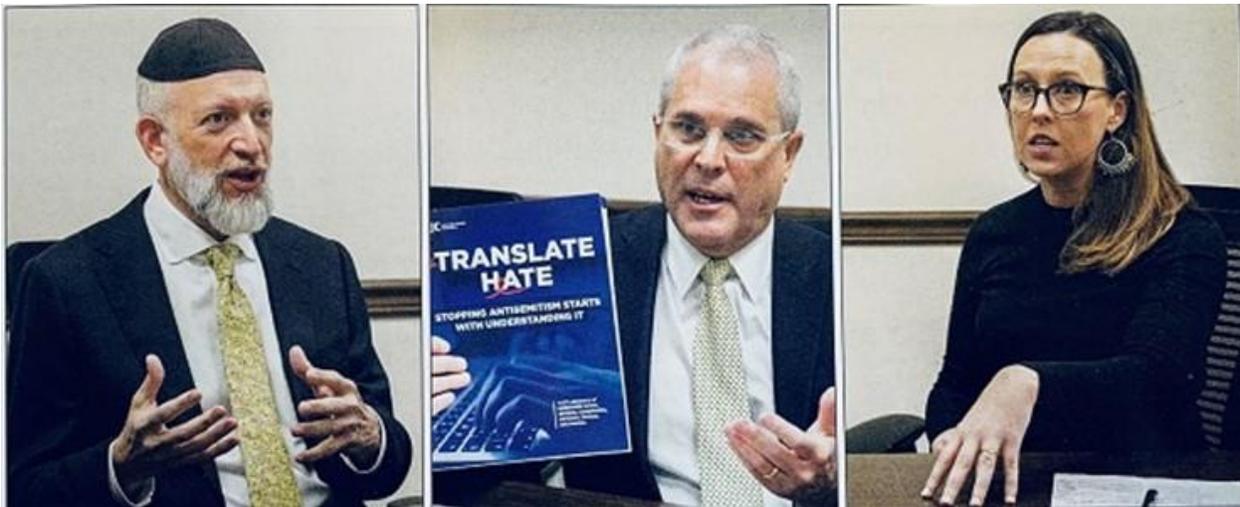
AJC-Mimouna Michael Sachs Fellowship for Emerging Leaders

Widening the Circle of Peace in the Middle East—A Michael Sachs Legacy Conversation

AJC Palm Beach National Leadership Council hosted an exclusive reception and program at Woodfield Country Club featuring young professional Moroccans, Israelis, and Americans. The group, alumna of a [new initiative sponsored by AJC and the Mimouna Association of Morocco](#) in honor of former AJC Palm Beach leader Michael Sachs, were brought together last year to deepen understanding and build cooperative relationships.

The program culminated with a 10-day joint delegation to cities throughout Morocco and Israel for consultations with senior government and civil society officials. The group reunited in Boca Raton for a fascinating conversation about what they discovered, including the importance of direct people-to-people interactions. It was an evening of optimism and hope. American Jewish Committee (AJC) is shaping the future!

Jewish Leaders Speak Out



Rabbi Efrem Goldberg, Senior Rabbi, Boca Raton Synagogue; Laurence Milstein, AJC Palm Beach Regional Director; Sarah Emmons, ADL Florida Regional Director

In response to the alarming rise in local antisemitic activity, Boca Raton magazine convened a roundtable with three leaders of the Jewish community to discuss why it's happening, how its manifesting and what can be done about it. "The Jewish community is really feeling this," said AJC Palm Beach Director Laurence Milstein. "That's why it's so important that public officials, at a minimum, need to speak up against it. We need to keep it on the fringes of society as best we can." The complete conversation, entitled *Defenders of the Faith*, was featured in [Boca Raton magazine](#).

Palm Beach County Proclaims May as Jewish American Heritage Month



AJC Palm Beach leadership extends its gratitude to Palm Beach County Mayor Gregg Weiss and the entire Board of County Commissioners for honoring our request to proclaim May 2023 as Jewish American Heritage month in Palm Beach County. At a time of rising antisemitism when much of the Jewish community is feeling vulnerable, there is no better time to celebrate 369 years of American Jewish history and to encourage awareness of the many Jewish contributions to our culture, military, science, economy, government, artistic life--and so much more. Following the meaningful proclamation presented by Mayor Weiss, [AJC Palm Beach Director Laurence Milstein](#) offered brief remarks to commemorate the occasion.



State Attorney Briefs AJC Palm Beach Leadership



AJC Palm Beach leadership welcomed State Attorney Dave Aronberg for an informative and meaningful discussion regarding the recent surge of antisemitic activity in our community. Several Palm Beach County neighborhoods were targets of vile antisemitic actions, including hateful flyers that were hurled into driveways in Boca Raton, West Palm Beach, and the Town of Palm Beach. A Nazi swastika and antisemitic language were projected onto a building in downtown West Palm Beach. More than 120 participants joined our interactive program and learned about the recent incidents, current hate crime laws, and proposed legislation designed to enhance the penalties of future antisemitic activity in Florida.



(L-R) Gary Walk, AJC Palm Beach Board; Palm Beach County Mayor Gregg Weiss; Emily Glassman, AJC Palm Beach Board; Laurence Milstein, Director, AJC Palm Beach

Confronting Antisemitism at Home

AJC Palm Beach met with Palm Beach County Mayor Gregg Weiss for a productive conversation on the recent antisemitic incidents in our community. We are grateful for the mayor's leadership and unequivocal condemnation of antisemitism. We look forward to working together to combat the troubling rise of the world's oldest hatred in our neighborhoods. Innovative measures to counter antisemitism and [AJC's Translate Hate](#) were among the topics discussed.

Dialogue with West Palm Beach Mayor



(L-R) Lisa Beers, President, AJC Palm Beach; Mayor Keith James; Jo Renee Fine, AJC Palm Beach Board & National Board of Governors

AJC Palm Beach Board members engaged in a constructive conversation with West Palm Beach Mayor Keith James. Additional measures to combat antisemitism—including [AJC's Call to Action Against Antisemitism](#) and opportunities for interfaith/inter-ethnic collaboration were discussed. We are grateful to Mayor James for his unambiguous rejection of antisemitism and hate.

Congressional Gold Medal Awarded to Ben Ferencz— Last Surviving Nuremberg Prosecutor



AJC Palm Beach President, Lisa Beers, pays tribute to Congressional Gold Medal recipient Ben Ferencz

AJC Palm Beach paid tribute to Benjamin Ferencz, the last surviving prosecutor from the Nuremberg trials, who was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony in Delray Beach. We extend our gratitude to Congresswoman Lois Frankel for introducing the Benjamin Ferencz Congressional Gold Medal Act, which authorized the award.

American Jewish Committee (AJC) advocated diligently for its bipartisan support. Lisa Beers, President of AJC Palm Beach, delivered remarks praising the incredible life and legacy of Ben Ferencz. At age 27, Ben was appointed Chief Prosecutor in the Einsatzgruppen Trial—a trial the Associated Press called “the biggest murder trial in history.” All 22 defendants were convicted. They were responsible for the murder of more than one million Jews.

Palm Beach Leadership Welcomes AJC's New CEO



It was a privilege for AJC Palm Beach leadership to host our new CEO (and long-time neighbor) Ted Deutch. Our interactive dinner briefing focused upon core AJC priorities, including advocating for Israel and combating antisemitism. We look forward to working together.

Dinner with a Diplomat



AJC Palm Beach leadership launched its Dinner with a Diplomat series by hosting [Israel in Miami](#) Consul General Maor Elbaz-Starinsky. The interactive briefing focused upon a host of critical issues affecting the Jewish state, including the Iran nuclear threat, U.S.-Israel relations, and the widening circle of peace in the Middle East. We thank the consul general for his informative and insightful analysis.

Building Bridges Between Israel and Palm Beach County



(L-R) Gary Walk; AJC Palm Beach Regional Director, Laurence Milstein; Israel Consul General, Maor Elbaz-Starinsky; Emanuel Gottenger

Thank you, Israel Consul General Maor Elbaz-Starinsky, for an important conversation with AJC Palm Beach leadership. We look forward to further exploring innovative ways to strengthen the social and economic bonds between Israel and Palm Beach County, including future partnerships in the areas of agriculture, water and climate technology, smart cities, healthcare, and policy and innovation.

West Palm Beach Adopts IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism



(L-R) Gary Betensky, AJC Palm Beach Board; Mayor Keith James; Nancy E. Yanofsky, Immediate Past President, AJC Palm Beach Board

Thank you Mayor Keith James and West Palm Beach City Commission for adopting the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\) working definition of antisemitism](#). The city's decision to define antisemitism in its increasingly complex forms is an important tool in the battle against rising incidents of Jew hatred. As the former Chief Rabbi of the UK, Jonathan Sacks, poignantly stated, "The hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews." Gary Betensky, AJC Palm Beach Board member, delivered remarks moments after the resolution passed.



(L-R) Laurence Milstein, Director, AJC Palm Beach; Gilad Erdan, Ambassador of Israel to the United Nations; Ben Plotkin, Chair, AJC Jerusalem; Avital Leibovich, Director, AJC Jerusalem.

Exclusive Dinner With Israel's U.N. Ambassador

It was an honor to host Gilad Erdan, Ambassador of Israel to the United Nations, at American Jewish Committee's intimate Advocacy in Action Dinner—a key component of [AJC Global Forum in NYC](#). We thank the Ambassador for joining us and we look forward to our continued partnership in enhancing Israel's security and well-being.

Robust Congressional Advocacy



(L-R) Daniel Armas; AJC Palm Beach Regional Director, Laurence Milstein; Congressman Brian Mast

It may have been congressional recess, but AJC Palm Beach advocacy was in full swing. Thank you [Congressman Brian Mast](#) for your work on the Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism, for your outspoken voice against hate, and for your steadfast support of the U.S.-Israel relationship.



(L-R) David Schwartzfarb; Congresswoman Lois Frankel; Gary Walk; Susie Schwartzfarb; Sam Fisher

AJC Palm Beach leadership discussed several key legislative items with Congresswoman Lois Frankel. Thank you, Representative Frankel, for utilizing your powerful social media presence to share important AJC messages on combating antisemitism and for co-signing a bipartisan letter to Secretary Mayorkas calling for a national strategy to address antisemitism.

U.S. Mayors Travel to Israel with AJC



Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer Proclaims May as Jewish American Heritage month
at AJC Palm Beach leadership meeting

AJC Palm Beach leadership extends its gratitude to Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer for sharing insights and lessons learned from his recent trip to Israel. The mayor joined a bipartisan delegation of U.S. mayors who visited Israel with Project Interchange, an educational institute of American Jewish Committee, in partnership with The U.S. Conference of Mayors. The seminar included intensive sessions and visits throughout the country, which offered first-hand understanding of Israel's vibrant democracy, innovative technologies, diverse society, and regional challenges. We look forward to exploring opportunities to build deeper economic ties between the "start-up nation" and the burgeoning Boca Raton high-tech community.

We also thank Mayor Singer for proclaiming May as Jewish American Heritage month in Boca Raton. Our board of directors was honored to share this special occasion with him.



On a day when hundreds of terrorist rockets were launched against Israel, it was more important than ever to stand with Israel. Congratulations Consul General Maor Elbaz-Starinsky and [Israel in Miami](#) for a wonderful celebration of Israel's 75th anniversary. AJC Palm Beach Director Laurence Milstein and Board President Lisa Beers were honored to attend this special program.



A robust AJC Palm Beach delegation joined more than 1,500 participants from over 60 countries and six continents for #AJCGloFo 2023 in Tel Aviv, the premier global Jewish advocacy event. We honored Israel's 75th anniversary and reaffirmed our commitment to shaping a brighter future for Israel and the Jewish people.

