

TZEDECK JUSTICE

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PACIFIC NEWS

Jewish Christian Dialogue Invites Members of the Muslim Community



Last month, CJ CPR co-hosted the latest meeting of the Christian Jewish Dialogue – a 6-year-old initiative of deepening friendship and improved understanding across faiths and cultural traditions. At the latest meeting, the Jewish Christian Dialogue invited friends from the Muslim

community to participate.

More than 40 participants came together at the Vancouver School of Theology for a rich conversation led by dialogue the Reverend Richard Leggett, a co-chair of the Jewish Christian Dialogue. Reverend Leggett helped to launch a thoughtful and respectful discussion with his introductory remarks about the Abrahamic tradition viewed through the Christian lens.

Given the centrality of Abraham as a key figure in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the dialogue was lively, thought-provoking, and rewarding.

Security in the Jewish Community

Toward the end of May, CJ CPR staff was fortunate to spend a week with Doron Horowitz, Director of Community Security for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Over the course of his stay in Vancouver, we visited schools, synagogues and other community institutions with a view to ensuring that we continue to provide the most secure and safe environment possible for our community.

Together with Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region will continue this work in the weeks and months ahead.

VIEW POINTS

IN PROFILE

Tami Michaelson King



We are pleased to extend our congratulations to Tami Michaelson King, an officer-at-large of Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region for being named the recipient of the Monroe and Minnie Abbey Award for the upcoming Canadian Jewish Congress Triennial Plenary (2007). The award is named in honour of a distinguished former CJC president and his late wife and recognizes past involvement and encourages ongoing and future participation of young leaders in the activities of CJC and the organized Jewish community.

Tami brings a great deal of insight and experience to her work with CJ CPR – not least of which is rooted in her recently completed M.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Her volunteer and professional non-profit agency work with organizations like PLEA, March of the Living, the Red Cross and CJC make her well deserving of this national award.

WORTH READING

NDP Official Opposition
May 8, 2007

Statement Read by Carole James in the Legislature Honouring Jewish War Veterans

<http://www.leg.bc.ca/>

Selected portions of Gerry Cuttler's address as incoming Chair of CJC, Pacific Region

Gerry Cuttler, Chair CJC Pacific Region



I am honoured and humbled to be with you as the incoming Chair of CJC, Pacific Region.

On behalf of Canadian Jewish Congress and our local and extended community, I want to thank Mark Weintraub and express appreciation for his tireless work over the

last three years as Chair of CJC, Pacific Region. Mark has shown great leadership and determination and his efforts have led to concrete accomplishments, both locally and nationally.

In 2007, CJC, Pacific Region is a strong, pro-active and forward-looking organization, blessed with dedicated volunteers and staff. Joining me on the new CJCP Executive are Vice Chairs Mindi Cofman, Richard Kurland and Mark Wexler; Secretary-Treasurer David Schwartz and Honorary Legal Counsel Steve Shactcher. CJC is fortunate to have their experience and skill to help guide us.

I am also pleased that our incoming board includes persons from Port Moody, Bowen Island, West Vancouver, Richmond, Victoria and Vancouver, allowing us to benefit from some geographic diversity within our province. More importantly, over 30% of our new board members are women and our ages span 40 years. Ensuring that CJC is inclusive and balanced is an ongoing work in progress.

We are all grateful to live in a beautiful land that is filled with abundance. However, we know that we can not take the relative harmony in which we live for granted. That is why one of CJC's core roles is to be vigilant and to take appropriate measures whenever antisemitism, racism, hate crimes, discrimination or intolerance are experienced.

We do this for reasons that are self-evident: such acts are never "okay." They are never justified. They must always be confronted and denounced.

But, of course, if we must react to such outrages, it necessarily means that they have already occurred.

CJC's central objective has always been to work with all people of good will to promote and build a tolerant and understanding society.

Without lessening the importance of reaching out to the many religious and ethnic communities in our province, I would like to take note of the work that has been done to build a strong relationship with First Nations people. We have taken steps to build understanding between our communities. We have offered support and experience on issues of language preservation, advocacy on missing women and antiracism initiatives.

In addition to the cornerstones that form the foundation of CJC's mandate, we recognize that our community and nation are constantly evolving. CJC must be flexible in order to meet these challenges. And part of that evolution will require our involvement in issues that affect all communities in our region and throughout Canada. There are many such challenges, but tonight, I would like to mention two that are especially

[hansard/38th3rd/H70508p.htm](http://www.hansard38th3rd/H70508p.htm)

I am very proud that my constituency of Victoria Beacon Hill is home to the oldest synagogue in continuous use in Canada and the oldest house of worship in British Columbia.

Congregation Emanu-El has served the Jewish community on Vancouver Island since 1862.

This week the Congregation is honouring Jewish Canadian veterans who served their country in World War II.

Today I rise to recognize the Congregation's efforts and join with all British Columbians to honour the service and sacrifice of these Jewish Canadians...

Jewish Independent

May 18, 2007

Cuttler takes over as Pacific Region chair

<http://www.jewishindependent.ca/archives/May07/archives07May18-02.html>

By Katharine Hamer

There was a changing of the guard for Canadian Jewish Congress Pacific Region (CJCPR) at its triennial meeting last week.

After three years as chair, Mark Weintraub passed the baton to a new leader, former CJCPR honorary legal counsel Gerry Cuttler. Weintraub will be running for the position of national CJC chair at the Congress plenary in Ottawa June 17.

Cuttler, a partner in the Vancouver law firm Getz Prince Wells, will lead a new slate of officers that will serve CJCPR for the next two years. He is a litigator with expertise in administrative law and dispute resolution and has worked with nonprofit organizations for many years...

Canadian Jewish News

May 25, 2007

Congress headed for joint presidency

<http://www.cjnews.com/viewarticle.asp?id=11893>

By Paul Lungen

pressing.

It is well known that Vancouver and other communities in B.C. face an affordable housing crisis that appears to be growing as we approach the Olympics.

The lack of affordable housing affects many people, including members of the Jewish community. CJC Pacific Region believes that decent and affordable housing is a human rights issue. It cannot be seriously argued that housing is not a basic requirement in order to lead a life that is safe and secure.

While small and welcome steps have recently been taken on this front, a great deal more needs to be done and CJC Pacific Region will join with other groups to advocate strategies to achieve this objective.

Another issue that is very much on peoples' minds today is the environment. From climate change to air quality to clean drinking water to transportation choices, there is much to be done. CJC Pacific Region hopes to make a positive contribution with regard to these vital issues.

Environmental degradation does not discriminate. Sooner or later, pollution and climate change will affect all of us.

This fact should be a wake up call for everyone, that when it comes right down to it any differences between us are, at most, merely superficial.

It is our similarities, far more than our differences, which define us. We are all living, breathing, made of flesh and bones. We need clean air, food and water to survive. We all want the same things for ourselves and our children – to live peaceful and meaningful lives. Perhaps the environmental crisis our world faces will finally teach us this simple truth.

Thank you.

For the first time in its history, Canadian Jewish Congress will be led by two presidents.

Sylvain Abitbol, the candidate put forward by Congress' nominations committee, and Rabbi Reuven Bulka, a competing candidate who claims grassroots appeal, will share the presidency over a two-year term. Negotiations to create a joint presidency were under way when The CJN went to press and were not completely finalized.

However, Abitbol and Rabbi Bulka issued a joint release late last week announcing that the co-presidency "makes sense at the current time of transition at CJC and given the advocacy challenges we face as a community. This alliance will productively unite our own partisans through a renewed Canadian Jewish Congress in support of the larger Jewish agenda upon which we both agree."...

CJC NATIONAL EVENT

Plenary Assembly

The Canadian Jewish Congress 28th Triennial Plenary Assembly will be held in Ottawa at the Agudath Israel Synagogue, 1400 Coldrey Ave. on June 17, 9:15 am - 4:30 pm. See www.cjc.ca for more information.