

# 2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT



## Greater Seattle Chapter



The Seattle Jewish Film Festival is the Seattle AJC's major community event, drawing some 7,500 people from all walks of life through its doors annually. This year marked SJFF's 12<sup>th</sup> year of operation. With its staffing restructured, the Festival was both an artistic and financial success, and it celebrated a record year in ticket sales and in the number of community partners/sponsors. Its first foray into bringing "talent" to the festival was a resounding success. Special guest actor Judd Hirsch was chatty, witty and gracious, hanging out with guests at the Tom Douglas Opening Night Party until the very end. Another eight guest artists participated in pre and post film discussions, adding depth to the film-viewing experience. Mid-week attendance was at an all-time high, with over 200 attendees at each weeknight screening. Thanks to KUOW and the Seattle P-I, public awareness of our festival was higher than ever.



SJFF Co-Chairs Michael Levin and Michele Tesler with actor Judd Hirsch  
(Photo by Dani Weiss Photography)

### A Special Thanks to our Sponsors:



**Martin Selig & Catherine Mayer**



# 2006 Human Relations Award Dinner



L to R: David Harris, Fred Tausend, Deborah Rosen, Bill Neukom, Bill Gates, Sr.  
(Photo by Gail Frank Photography)

Last year, our Human Relations Award Dinner honored Bill Neukom, and it was the highest grossing event in the Chapter's history and a picture-perfect evening. Bill Gates Sr. was the honorary chairman. Another highlight, of course, was having AJC National Director David Harris visit Seattle for the first time in many years. Not only was he the keynote for our HR Dinner, he also spoke to several small groups of donors and potential donors, and also at a community breakfast briefing.



L to R: David Harris, Senator Maria Cantwell, & Karen Mayers Gamoran  
(Photo by Gail Frank Photography)

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Stephen Zack

# Human Relations & Diplomacy

## Diplomatic Outreach



Members of Foreign Consulates gathered for a Hanukkah Celebration at the home of

The Chapter had opportunities to hear from a number of diplomats during the past year: the Czech ambassador, the French vice-consul, the German consul general and the Azerbaijani consul general. Our second annual Hanukkah reception for the Seattle Consular Association brought ten local consuls and spouses to the home of Jon and Bobbe Bridge, where they met and interacted with members of the local AJC Board.

## Max H. Block Student Human Relations Awards

Thirteen schools nominated students for the Max H. Block Student Human Relations Awards, which award scholarships to high school juniors or seniors for outstanding work in improving human relations in their schools or communities. This year, five finalists each received a \$500 higher education scholarship and spoke about his or her work at the AJC Salutes event. Union Bank of California and the Block Family Endowment underwrite the scholarship program.



Block Award Winners with AJC President Moshe Dunie. (Photo by Dani Weiss Photography)

## AJC Salutes Past Presidents

"AJC Salutes" celebrated the conclusion of AJC's centennial and also marked the Greater Seattle Chapter's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary by honoring all of our past presidents. A panel of past presidents reviewed each decade in the chapter's life, Seattle City Librarian Deborah Jacobs spoke on the theme of leadership, and presentations by the Block Award finalists demonstrated the abilities of future leaders. Over one hundred people attended this special evening event.

## Israel Advocacy

AJC continued its work on constructive investment in support of Israel by bringing together local Jews, Christians and Muslims to research and support several NGOs in the Holy Land that build bridges between Israelis and Palestinians. The Chapter also participated actively in the communal response to the 2006 Lebanon war and to the Rep's showing of "My Name is Rachel Corrie." Both the Executive Director and the President had articles in the Seattle Times in support of Israel during the past year. At this summer's Jewish Community Festival, AJC's booth focused on energy independence from petro-fuels and featured an electric car and a "Smart" car.



AJC Executive Director Anson Laytner at the Jewish Community Festival

## *The Shemanski Trust*

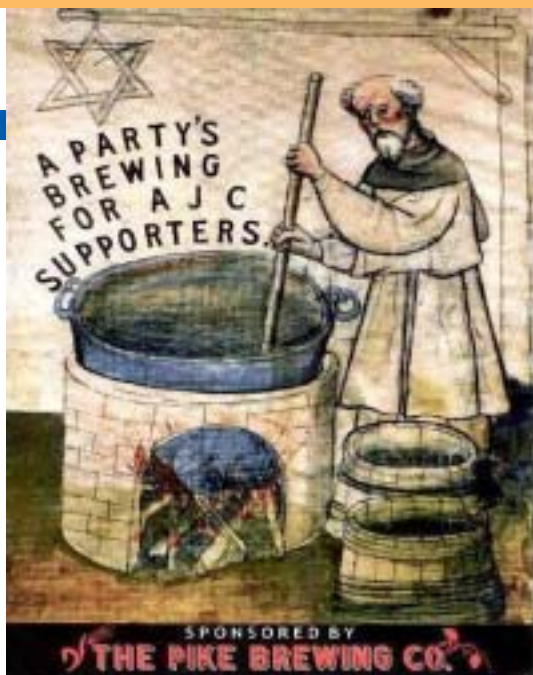


FilmTalks, our day-long film-based program to promote the appreciation of diversity among high school students, drew about 150 students from 10 different schools in the region. This year's film was "Tsotsi", a story about a violent South African young man whose life is transformed by being forced to care for a stolen baby. Students were broken into mixed groups of ten to discuss the implications of the film for their own lives. FilmTalks is underwritten by the Shemanski Trust and our sponsors:

**Bank of America**



# Thank You One and All!



American Jewish Committee Greater Seattle Chapter

A successful year of operation depends on many people: staff, volunteers, donors, participants and more. We marked the conclusion of the programming year with a donor appreciation event at the **Pike Brewing Company**, graciously donated by owners Charles and Rose Ann Finkel.

#### AJC Staff:

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Kathleen Crowell Development Director	Satina Smith Office Operations Manager

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