



AJC

American Jewish Committee
A Century of Leadership

From Immigration and Resettlement to Integration and Engagement

**First National Conference of
Russian-American Jewish Lay Leadership**

**May 5-7, 2006
Washington, D.C.
Capitol Hilton Hotel, 1001 16th Street NW**

Conference Program

Friday, May 5, 2006:

- 12:00 – 3:00pm¹ Arrival and Registration – Capitol Hilton Hotel
- 12:30 – 2:30pm² Plenary Luncheon of 100th Annual Meeting
Charting the Future: Visions of the Next Generation
- 3:00 – 4:00pm Tea and Coffee Reception – Lobby Restaurant
- 6:00pm³ Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner
- 10:00pm **Tusovka (Hang-out)**

Saturday, May 6, 2006:

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:00am (optional) Shabbat Services and Study with International Leadership Conference
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:15 – 2:00pm **Welcoming Remarks:** Robert Goodkind, AJC President; Dr. Misha Galperin, Executive Vice President, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
- 2:00 – 3:15pm David Harris, AJC National Executive Director: **Keynote Address & Discussion.**
- 3:30 – 4:30pm Dr. Sam Kliger, AJC Director of Russian Jewish Community Affairs:
Sociological Portrait of Russian-American Jews: What are the roots of political and ideological similarities and differences between Russian Jews and mainstream American Jewish establishment?
- Response:** Phil Schatten, President of JCH of Bensonhurst, Chair of the Board of Jewish Education, New York
- 4:45 – 6:30pm **Towards One Community - What is the Impact of Russian-American Jews on the American Jewish community? What are the Benefits and Challenges of Bringing New Perspectives and Cultural Differences to the American Jewish Community?**
- Panel discussion
Moderator: **Leonard Petlakh**, Vice-President, Russian American Jews for Israel
Panelists:
Boris Gorbis (L.A.)
Alex Koifman (Boston)
Alena Tsimis (Chicago)
- 8:00pm **Havdalah and Dinner Party** with International Leadership Conference

¹ If you are staying at the Marriott, please check-in at the Marriott first, then walk to the Capitol Hilton to register.

² If you arrive before 12:30pm, we encourage you to participate in the 100th Annual Meeting Plenary Luncheon Program.

³ You can choose either an egalitarian or traditional Shabbat service.

Sunday, May 7, 2006:

8:00 – 8:30am Breakfast

8:30 – 10:00am **Jewish Identity for Russian Americans: How do Russian Americans connect with their Jewish identities? What is the place of religion? Where does Israel and Israel advocacy fit? What are the best ways of transmitting Jewish knowledge to this and the next generation?**

Panel Discussion

Moderator: **Dr. Cheryl Fishbein**, Co-Chair, AJC National Committee on Russian Jewish Community Affairs

Panelists:

Alex Budnitsky (New York)

Alex Goldin (New York)

Lenny Gusel (San Francisco)

10:15 – 11:45am **Political Involvement of Russian American Jews: What impact do they have on the local or national level? How can Russian voices be strengthened?**

Panel Discussion

Moderator: **Philippe Radley**, Co-Chair of City Advocacy Committee, AJC New York Chapter

Panelists:

Daniel Barenboym (Boston)

Gary Light (Chicago)

Elie Rubinstein (New York)

Remarks: Sergey Bologov (Boston) and Igor Golubchik (Chicago)

12:00 – 1:30pm **Engagement in Jewish Communal Life: What is the status of philanthropic involvement, volunteerism and Board membership in American Jewish organizations? What can the American Jewish community offer? What obstacles currently exist and how can they be overcome?**

(Buffet lunch will be served during this panel.)

Panel Discussion

Moderator: **Marvin Israelow**, AJC Westchester Chapter President

Panelists:

Gene Rahmansky (New York)

Edward Renko (Chicago)

Margo Volftsun (Washington)

1:30 – 2:30pm **Closing Remarks**
Dr. Igor Branovan, Co-Chair, AJC National Committee on Russian Jewish Community Affairs