

A Program on Interreligious Dialogue in Cooperation with ACCESS: AJC's New Generation Program & AJC's Interreligious and Intergroup Relations Department

May 6–16, 2010

Established in October 2007, *Germany Close Up – American Jews Meet Modern Germany* provides Jewish American students and young professionals in their twenties and early thirties with an opportunity to experience modern Germany up close and personally. Program participants will visit the actual sites of historical events, partake in various aspects of contemporary Jewish life in Germany and will meet with Germans of all backgrounds. The purpose of the program is to allow participants to gain their own perspective on Germany through individual experience. Academic lectures and distinguished guest speakers will engage participants in discussion about the Shoah and Germany's Nazi terror, in issues of memory and Germany's continuing effort to come to terms with this terrible past, as well as Germany's transformation in the last 60 years into a modern, reunified, and democratic country in the heart of the European Union which is home to the third-fastest growing Jewish community worldwide. Furthermore, observance of both kosher diet and the Sabbath is possible on the trips.

The May 6th-16th program will focus on the following topics:

- Interreligious dialogue and seminar with students of Berlin's Humboldt University
- Visit the Oberammergau Passion Play
- Workshop at the Ecumenical Kirchentag in Munich (a gathering of some 100,000 young German Protestants and Catholics)
- Berlin and united Germany
- The Holocaust and the Nazi Era including a visit to a former Concentration Camp
- Transatlantic/German-American relations (incl. a meeting with officials of the Federal Foreign Office)
- Integration of new members of the Jewish community

During the 11-day program, participants will have a seminar with students of the Faculty of Theology at Berlin's Humboldt University with a focus on interreligious dialogue. Later they will visit the Oberammergau Passion Play in Bavaria and have a workshop at the Kirchentag in Munich. Participants will encounter Berlin's multicultural life, visit the Jewish Museum in Berlin, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, as well as experience other key historical sites and cultural venues. The group will meet with German opinion-makers, grass root movements, faculty and students of the Humboldt University Berlin, the Jewish community and German contemporaries.