



AEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

May 25-26, 2016

The Hamilton Crowne Plaza Hotel
Washington, DC

Objectives

1. To communicate the AEN mission and message to members and other participants.
2. To mobilize a core group of active faculty able to reach and teach other members.
3. To socialize and establish personal relations through our network (a) to permit Board and AEN members to meet, and (b) to facilitate robust conversation among and between members, generating ideas and linkages to help develop AEN's work.
4. To generate ideas and share perspectives on contending with BDS and with anti-Semitism and on defending academic freedom and free speech today, especially concerning Israel.
5. To encourage members to develop action plans and strategies considering local realities.
6. To educate on issues relating to BDS, academic freedom, free speech, and Israel; to highlight varying successful initiatives and modes of work; and to share information about specialized services from cooperating organizations (e.g., IAN, ADL, AJC, Hillel, Brandeis Center, JCRC).

Program

Tuesday, May 24

Attendees Staying at The Hamilton Crowne Plaza Hotel arrive for check in. No planned events.

Wednesday, May 25

8:30 am

Breakfast & Meet-and-Greet; Packet Pick-Up

Pre-Function Area (Lower Lobby Level)

9:30 am

Opening & Welcome

Hamilton Ballroom (Lower Lobby Level)

Mark G. Yudof, Chair, Board of Advisors, and Ken Waltzer, Executive Director, "Welcome," and "Goals and Ethos of Our Conference"

Lisa Eisen, Vice President, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

10:00 am

Opening Roundtable with AEN Members, "Situating Ourselves: Fighting against BDS and for Academic Freedom and Free Speech on Campus Today"

Hamilton Ballroom (Lower Lobby Level)

Convenor: Ken Waltzer, AEN

Moderator: Rachel S. Harris, University of Illinois

Participants

Cary Nelson, University of Illinois, Ed Beck, Walden University, Josef Olmert, University of South Carolina, Miriam Elman, Syracuse University, Thane Rosenbaum, Distinguished Fellow, NYU School of Law, Brit Kirwan, Chancellor Emeritus, University of Maryland System, and David Hirsh, University of London

11:40 am

Break before Lunch

12:00 pm

Lunch and AEN Speaker, "American Campus Currents: What Fuels the Hothouse Politics of BDS?"

Hamilton Ballroom (buffet lunch served in Pre-Function Area)

Todd Gitlin, Professor of Journalism and Sociology, Columbia University

1:30 pm

Panel Discussion, "Exploring Recent and Ongoing Engagements Against BDS"

Hamilton Ballroom

Moderator: Riv-Ellen Prell, University of Minnesota

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Judith Jacobson, Columbia University
Rachel S. Harris, University of Illinois (MLA)
Jeffrey Herf, University of Maryland (AHA)

1:30 pm

AEN Advisory Board Meeting (concurrent with panel)

Board Room

Mark. G. Yudof, presiding

3:00 pm

Break, Refreshments

Pre-Function Area

3:30 pm

First Keynote, "The Emergence of Conspiracy Pedagogy on Campus: The Relationship Between BDS Advocacy and Academic Freedom"

Hamilton Ballroom

Cary Nelson, Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts and Professor of English Emeritus, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

5:00 pm

Free Hour

6:00 pm

Cocktail Reception

Pre-Function Area

6:45 pm

Dinner

Hamilton Ballroom

Sanford R. Cardin, President, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and Eric Fingerhut, President and CEO, Hillel International

Melissa Landa, University of Maryland, Shahar Sadeh, Columbia University and JCRC-NY, Robert Lieber, Georgetown University

Thursday, May 26

8:30 am

Breakfast

Pre-Function Area

9:00 am

Second Keynote, "BDS and Anti-Semitism"

Hamilton Ballroom

David Hirsh, Lecturer in Sociology, Goldsmith's College, The University of London

10:15 am

Break

Pre-Function Area

10:30 am

Concurrent Workshops

- (1) **Discussion and Breakout Sessions: Participants discuss strategic planning and then explore in groups developing preliminary action plans for organizing on campus, contending with BDS, and generating robust conversation about Israel.**

Hamilton Ballroom

Moderators: Ken Waltzer, Shahar Sadeh

(2) Student Panel: Four veteran students talk about the fight against BDS and for free speech and the roles faculty can play in mentoring and helping students oppose BDS on campus.

Farragut Square (Lower Lobby Level)

Moderator: Jacob Baime, Israel on Campus Coalition (ICC)

Participants: Rebecca Wertman, Columbia U., Mica Laber, Claremont McKenna College, Kelsey Kimmes, California State University – Long Beach, Dore Feith, Columbia U.

12:15 pm

Lunch and Speaker, "The First Amendment on Campus Today"

Hamilton Ballroom

Marc D. Stern, General Counsel, American Jewish Committee

1:30 pm

Short Break

1:45 pm

Concurrent Panels

(1) "Disruption, Defamation, and Self-Protection: Faculty as Targets"

McPherson Square (Lower Lobby Level)

Moderator: Rabbi David Ellenson, Acting Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University

Robert Abzug, University of Texas-Austin, Andrew Pessin, Connecticut College, Riv-Ellen Prell, University of Minnesota

(2) "What are the Uses and Abuses of the Law in Opposing Israel Delegitimization and Campus Disruptions?"

Farragut Square

Moderator: Diane B. Kunz, Center for Adoption Policy

Steven Freeman, Anti-Defamation League, Ken Marcus, Brandeis Center, and Ken Stern, Justus & Karin Rosenberg Foundation

3:00 pm

Closing Session: What Have We Learned? Where Do We Go From Here?

Hamilton Ballroom

4:00 pm

End

Travel safely....