



Outline for AEN National Workshop **A Working Gathering of AEN Members to Discuss Strategic Issues**

Tuesday, May 22nd to Thursday, May 24th, 2018 at the Washington Marriott Georgetown

Overview and Objectives

Shifting landscapes in American and international politics, changing realities in the transforming Middle East, and the contemporary dynamics of social relations, culture, and politics on American campuses present both challenges and opportunities for AEN and its members in our shared work on campus.

The goals for this first National Workshop are to mobilize a related set of topical discussions that asks the following: what strategic questions do such changes pose for AEN faculty members in our work opposing BDS and antisemitism and supporting academic freedom, free speech, and robust dialogue about Israel on campus? How can AEN members best position their arguments and most effectively present their views on matters related to AEN's mission?

Participants will address four sets of intertwined issues over 1 ½ days and discuss the implications. The program will open Tuesday evening, May 22, with a welcome and keynote; continue Wednesday with three participatory sessions, a brief second keynote and an optional book talk on Jews and human rights; and conclude Thursday in the late morning with a session on antisemitism and anti-Zionism and silencing activities on campus. We will also celebrate the appearance of a new edited volume about faculty experiences with BDS completed with an AEN subvention by two AEN members, Andy Pessin and Doron Ben-Atar. Many AEN members are in the volume.

Tuesday, May 22nd

4:00 – 7:30 pm **Arrival and Registration; Participants Have Dinner on Own**
Foyer – Metropolitan Galleries (Level 2)

7:30 – 9:00 pm **Workshop Welcome and Opening Keynote**
Metropolitan Galleries 1-3

Welcome: Ken Waltzer, Executive Director, Academic Engagement Network, and Sandy Cardin, President, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation

Keynote: Tamara Cofman Wittes, Senior Fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution, “The United States and the Changing Geopolitics of the Middle East.”

9:00 – 9:30 pm **Coffee and Dessert Reception**
Foyer - Metropolitan Galleries

Wednesday, May 23rd

- 8:00 – 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast:**
Foyer - Metropolitan Galleries
- 8:30 – 10:00 am **Session #1: Confronting New Realities in the Middle East**
Metropolitan Galleries 1-3
- 8:30-8:45 am **Cary Nelson**, Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: “Two States, One State, Annexation, Confederation?”
- 8:45-9:00 am **Donna Robinson Divine**, Morningstar Professor Emerita of Jewish Studies and Professor Emerita of Government: “Israel in a Changing Middle East”
- 9:10 – 10 am **Breakout Discussion Groups**
- Group #1: **Lisa Eisen**, Vice President, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation – *Metropolitan Galleries 1-3*
 - Group #2: **Avi Weinryb**, Director of National Strategy, Israel Action Network – *Metropolitan Gallery 4*
 - Group #3: **Asaf Romirowsky**, Executive Director, Scholars for Peace in the Middle East – *Thomas Room*
- 10:00 – 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:30 am-12:00 pm **Session #2: Faculty Work with Students on Campus**
Metropolitan Galleries 1-3
- 10:30 – 11:00 am **Roundtable: Rachel S. Harris**, Associate Professor of Israeli Literature and Culture, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; **Jaime Grinberg**, Professor of Educational Foundations, Montclair State University; **Benjie Kaplan**, Executive Director, Minnesota Hillel; **Eliana Kohn**, Undergraduate Student, Oberlin College
- 11:05 am – 12:00 pm **Breakout Discussion Groups with Students**
- Group #1: **Dan Schwartz**, Professor of History and Director, Program in Judaic Studies, George Washington University – *Metropolitan Galleries 1-3*
 - Group #2: **Raeefa Shams**, Senior Communications Associate, Academic Engagement Network – *Metropolitan Gallery 4*
 - Group #3: **Lauren Morgan**, Midwest Regional Director, Israel on Campus Coalition – *Thomas Room*
- 12:00 -1:00 pm **Lunch Buffet**
Foyer - Metropolitan Galleries

1:00-2:00 pm	<p>Networking Break and Book talk: James Loeffler, Professor of History, University of Virginia: <u>Rooted Cosmopolitans: Jews and Human Rights in the Twentieth Century</u> (Yale University Press, 2018) Metropolitan Galleries 1-3</p> <p>Loeffler will discuss his new book which focuses on how the Zionist pursuit of Jewish statehood contributed to the creation of modern human rights in the form of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the UN Commission on Human Rights, the International Refugee Convention, the Nuremberg trials, the Eichmann trial, etc. This is a self-consciously revisionist work challenging many myths that continue to shape how the international human rights community views Israel, Zionism, and international law.</p>
2:00-3:30 pm	<p>Session #3: The Changing Climate on American University Campuses Metropolitan Galleries 1-3</p>
2:00–2:15 pm	<p>David Greenberg, Professor of History, Rutgers University: “The Impact and Challenges of the Current US Presidential Administration on Campuses”</p>
2:15-2:30 pm	<p>Jonathan Marks, Professor of Political Science, Ursinus College: “Identity Politics, Intersectionality, and the Campuses”</p>
2:35–3:30 pm	<p>Breakout Discussion Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group #1: Janet Freedman, Women’s Studies Research Center, Brandeis University – Metropolitan Galleries 1-3 - Group #2: Jonathan Skolnik, Associate Professor of German Studies, University of Massachusetts-Amherst – Metropolitan Gallery 4 - Group #3: Melissa Landa, Senior Associate for Membership and Diversity, Academic Engagement Network – Thomas Room
3:30 - 5:00 pm	<p>Break</p>
5:00-6:00 pm	<p>Keynote #2 and Comment Metropolitan Galleries 1-3</p>
5:00 – 5:20 pm	<p>Keynote: Mark G. Yudof, Chair, Academic Engagement Network, “The First Amendment on Campus: Reflections on a Challenging Year and the One Ahead”</p>
5:20 – 5:40 pm	<p>Comment: Seth Grossman, Chief of Staff and Counselor to the President at American University</p>
5:40 – 6:00 pm	<p>Q&A</p>

- 6:00 – 7:00 pm **Cocktail Reception**
Foyer – Metropolitan Gallery
- 7:00-8:30 pm **Workshop Dinner**
Metropolitan Galleries 1-3
- 8:00 – 8:30 pm **Faculty Roundtable: What Can Be Done with AEN Support and Resources?**
Select AEN members who received micro-grants and took part in the new AEN Regional Short Courses initiative describe their projects and experience
- Yaron Ayalon**, Ball State University (micro-grant); **Kent Harber**, Rutgers University (micro-grant); **Jennifer Albro**, University of Maryland (micro-grant); participants (TBD) from the AEN Short Course in Cleveland (May 14-17, 2018)

Thursday, May 24th

- 8:00 – 9:00 am Continental Breakfast
Foyer – Metropolitan Galleries 1-3
- 9:00 – 9:30 am **Book Celebration:** Andrew Pessin (Connecticut College) and Doron Ben-Atar (Fordham Univ.), eds., Anti-Zionism on Campus: The University, Free Speech, and BDS (Indiana U. Press, 2018). Pessin statement to be read by Ben-Atar.
Metropolitan Galleries 1-3
- 9:30 – 11:00 am** **“Antisemitisms of the Left and the Right, Anti-Zionism, and Silencing”**
Metropolitan Galleries 1-3
- 9:30 – 10 am **Panel:** **Linda Maizels**, Senior Research Associate, AEN (Antisemitism of the Left and Right on Campus); **Doron Ben-Atar**, Professor of History, Fordham University (Dealing with Anti-Israelism: Is there a stealth boycott on campus?); **Ken Waltzer**, Executive Director, AEN (moderator)
- 10:00 – 11:00 am Discussion
- 11:00 – 11:30 am Workshop Survey
- 11:30 am Box Lunches / Checkout and Depart

Travel Safely!