

A COMMUNITY ENGAGED

ANNUAL REPORT FY2018 | 5778



JCRC 
JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

MOBILIZING | ADVOCATING | EDUCATING



MOBILIZE ADVOCATE EDUCATE

DEAR FRIENDS

In these polarized times, it is challenging to serve as the strong, unified voice of the Jewish community in Greater Washington. Yet, the JCRC continues to meet that challenge with civility, integrity, creativity and grit. We had a stellar year with meaningful accomplishments in all of our advocacy work including combatting anti-Semitism, supporting Israel, nurturing understanding with all groups, and securing nearly \$4 million dollars in government support for our agencies and to help meet escalating institutional security costs.

The JCRC is an incubator of ideas and a place of action, recognized not just for **what** we do, but **how** we do it. Before the JCRC takes a step forward to serve our community, it always takes time to analyze and strategize. This approach demonstrates how the JCRC passionately represents our community and effectively navigates delicate situations. We turn potential crises into teaching moments. For example, when a D.C. Councilmember espoused anti-Semitic remarks, we denounced it, but then planted a seed for interfaith growth and dialogue. Similarly, when singer Roger Waters supported the BDS movement, we produced a video stating music should unite us, not divide us. Equity, mutual respect and the pursuit of social justice are at our core. We work hard to channel positive energy into community building at home and peace building in Israel.

In addition to handling immediate crises with calm, the JCRC proactively works day in and day out to meet the needs of our community. Our lobbying efforts at the state and local level have secured millions of dollars in support of critical social services that benefit our entire community and keep Jewish institutions safe. Together with our strategic partner Tzedek DC, we worked to secure passage of legislation reforming municipal policies that unduly burdened low-income District residents battling chronic debt. And in Virginia, we lobbied for Medicaid expansion for hundreds of thousands of low-income residents to receive affordable health insurance.

The dramatic increase in anti-Semitic incidents in our region underscores why the JCRC must continue its vital Holocaust remembrance and education work. We are proud of our


ongoing programming which annually introduces Holocaust survivors to five thousand students and adults to share their testimonies. We also are excited about two new educational initiatives: *Zikaron B'Salon/Remembrance in the Living Room*, which brings survivors into private homes to share their stories, and *Student to Student*, which brings high school students into classrooms to explain what it means to be Jewish.

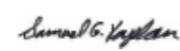
The JCRC's comprehensive and cutting-edge Israel engagement work remains stronger than ever. We regularly call upon leading experts to brief our community about Israel-related headlines, we have continued our successful Israel Engagement Fellowship program reaching more than 700 teenagers to date, and once again we sponsored the annual Scholar-in-Residence program, *WePower*, which encourages women to run for office. Additionally, we worked closely with Governor Larry Hogan's office in Maryland to help draft an executive order banning companies that boycott Israel from entering into contracts with the state.


Finally, we at the JCRC understand that our local rabbis are central to our mission of Jewish strength and community cohesion. Thus, we were thrilled to become the fiscal sponsor of the Washington Board of Rabbis, relieving its financial administration burden and strengthening the partnership between us..

For the progress we have made in the community, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our board, donors and staff, as well as our partners inside and outside of the Jewish community. Together, we have created a true vehicle to engage, educate and empower our community. Our work though is never done. Challenges persist and our path to success requires fortitude, vision, energy and strength. We embrace this path and look forward to the future with optimism.

B'Shalom,


Michael Friedman
President, 2016-18


Sam Kaplan
President, 2018-20


Ron Halber
Executive Director



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

As the leading voice for the Jewish community in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, the JCRC successfully lobbies lawmakers to enact legislation that is important to its constituents and the larger community. Through our advocacy efforts we have educated and mobilized thousands of people, positively impacting the Greater Washington area.

District of Columbia

- **In an effort to implement debt relief for low income district residents**, the JCRC joined with strategic partner, Tzedek DC, to end the harsh practice of automatic driver's license suspensions for unpaid traffic ticket debt.
- **Co-chaired coalition efforts to address prohibitive water fees levied** on houses of worship and cemeteries. Secured \$13 million relief fund including \$4 million for synagogues, churches and nonprofits to help pay 2019 water bills.

Maryland

- 🗺️ **Successfully lobbied the General Assembly to strengthen laws** protecting domestic violence victims.
- 🗺️ **Pushed for passage of new Hate Crime law to prohibit** a person from committing certain acts against a group due to race, color, religion, sexual orientation, etc.
- 🗺️ **Secured \$2.4 million from Maryland and \$1.2 million from Montgomery County for FY2019.** These funds will go to safety net services, security for Jewish institutions and multiple partner agencies to improve residents' lives.
- 🗺️ **Secured \$1 million in grant funds for schools and child care centers** at risk of being targeted for hate crimes. For the first time, funding covers both operating and capital security needs.



LEGISLATIVE RECEPTIONS
IN VIRGINIA & MARYLAND
80 LEGISLATORS
300 ATTENDEES

Virginia

- 🗺️ **Advocated to protect immigrant communities from discrimination** and fought against measures that would discourage undocumented people from reporting crimes and seeking out protection from abusers.
- 🗺️ **Responded swiftly and effectively to anti-Semitic comments** by a member of the Virginia Republican Party Central Committee, who was subsequently forced to resign.
- 🗺️ **Secured \$200,000 grant for Jewish Social Service Agency's Holocaust Survivor Program** to help provide in home care for elderly low-income Holocaust survivors.
- 🗺️ **In coalition with multiple other advocacy organizations, lobbied General Assembly for Medicaid expansion** which resulted in affordable health insurance for 400,000 low-income Virginians.



CANDIDATE DEBATES/ FORUMS
550 ATTENDEES



MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES DEBATE



JCRC RECOGNIZES MARYLAND GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN DURING SUKKOT



ADVOCACY DAYS
IN ANNAPOLIS, RICHMOND & ROCKVILLE
315 ATTENDEES
67 MEETINGS



NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

Thanks for the amazing opportunity to be a part of this year's Israel Engagement Fellowship. The different speakers really made the concept of narratives come into play when thinking about Israel. When we go off to college we feel prepared to proudly share our stance on Israel, and the program really equipped us with the tools necessary to combat the BDS movement and other challenges related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

PARTICIPANT, ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP



ISRAEL ACTION CENTER

The JCRC is unwavering in its commitment to Israel. Our agency empowers community members to advocate for the State, oppose delegitimization efforts and champion a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. We are recognized for our nuanced approach to understanding Israel's geo-political complexities.

1200
CALLERS EDUCATED
IN 7 BRIEFINGS BY
TOP ISRAELI AFFAIRS
EXPERTS

5000
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
SIGNED PETITION
for direct
Dulles-Tel Aviv flights

Hosted joint Israeli-Palestinian peace-building initiatives including Project Rozana, which helps bring Palestinians to Israel for medical care; Roots Project, which brings together Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank; and Kids4Peace, the largest interfaith movement that brings together kids across divides in and around Jerusalem.

Produced an enormously successful video criticizing Roger Waters' support of BDS by emphasizing that dialogue and engagement, not BDS, will achieve peace. The video was viewed 40,000 times on line and garnered tremendous media coverage.



Worked with the Baltimore Jewish Council to help draft Governor Larry Hogan's Executive Order prohibiting companies that boycott Israel from getting procurement contracts from the state of Maryland.

In partnership with the Israeli-American Council, designed a successful advocacy campaign to urge the airline industry to introduce direct flights between Dulles and Tel Aviv. Flights begin May 2019.

Played a leading local role in addressing Israel's proposed plan to deport asylum seekers from Sudan and Eritrea. The JCRC issued a statement about the proposed policy and convened a meeting between rabbis and diplomats at the Israeli Embassy.

Served as top advisor to Geshet leadership program which works to bridge gaps between Israeli and American Jews. Helped coordinate DC meetings for high level Israeli leaders.



WEPower SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM WITH DR. MAZAL SHAUL (C) AND ANN LEWIS (R) MODERATED BY RUTH MARCUS (L)

WePower Scholar-in-Residence program* to increase the number of women running for office in Israel and the U.S.

* Sponsored by Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen Foundation

3 | 7
DAYS | EVENTS
HUNDREDS REACHED



PROUD ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP GRADUATES

TEEN ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS REACHED**

700 STUDENTS AND PARENTS SINCE INCEPTION	88 SCHOOLS AND SYNAGOGUES/ YOUTH GROUPS
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** Funded by Margo and Yoram Cohen Family & Co-sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

Continued participation in the Greater Washington Forum on Arab-Israeli issues, including co-sponsoring Annual Community Education Day on Arab Citizens of Israel.



COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM AT WASHINGTON HEBREW CONGREGATION



INTER-GROUP RELATIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The JCRC is one of the leading advocates for equity, justice and inclusion in the Greater Washington area. We are the Jewish community's central voice for relationship building between Jews and other faith, ethnic, and minority groups. Given the disturbing 57 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. in 2017*, the JCRC's commitment to combatting all forms of hatred and promoting tolerance and empathy is more important now than ever.

* Source- ADL



Spearheaded 3-part identity and racial justice series called "Having the Conversations": *Let's Talk Among Ourselves; I've Always Wanted to Ask; and What's Next for the Jewish Community and Racial Justice.* These highly-attended discussions were held in partnership with the Jewish Study Center.



Brought together the Jewish community and the D.C. Council to combat anti-Semitism involving D.C. government officials. The JCRC convened a breakfast meeting for rabbis to express their concerns about D.C. Councilmember Trayon White's anti-Semitic remarks. The JCRC denounced White's conspiracy theories while re-committing to engage in dialogue and education whenever possible.



KIDS4PEACE MEETING WITH THE JCRC



Worked closely with Montgomery County Human Rights Commission, The Black Ministers' Conference of Montgomery County and Interfaith Works to nurture meaningful personal relations.



Hosted Professor Amy-Jill Levine to address the Washington Board of Rabbis about Christian theology and challenges facing the two communities.



Participated in Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council's Interfaith-Interracial Dialogues to build understanding and bring communities together.



HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE AND EDUCATION

The JCRC takes enormous pride in its annual *Yom Ha'Shoah* commemorations and ongoing Holocaust education. As the number of survivors continues to dwindle, it is our imperative to share their living testimony and find avenues to continue to inspire future generations to absorb the lessons of the Holocaust.




HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS JANINE BLAND (C) AND COL. FRANK COHN (R) LIGHT THE FIRST CANDLE AT THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA YOM HA'SHOAH COMMEMORATION



We were so honored Ruth Kohn came to speak to us. Her story was a wonderful testament to the strength of the human spirit and the importance of courage. She definitely meets the Navy standard for toughness!

ELIZABETH MCKAY, WASHINGTON NAVY YARD




120
REACHED
 AT ZIKARON B'SALON/
 REMEMBRANCE IN THE
 LIVING ROOM GATHERINGS*
 FOR MORE PERSONAL
 INTERACTION WITH SURVIVORS
 IN PRIVATE HOME SETTINGS
 * Partnered with The Jewish Federation
 of Greater Washington


300
 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
 AT SIXTH & I
 FOR NEW YOM HA'SHOAH
 PROGRAM, 3GDC**
 ** Co-sponsored by the JCRC


1000
ATTENDEES
 AT MARYLAND AND
 NORTHERN VIRGINIA
 COMMEMORATIONS


5000
STUDENTS/ADULTS
REACHED
 THROUGH
 HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS'
 SPEAKERS BUREAU



EDUCATION OUTREACH

A core part of the JCRC's mission is to ensure that all children feel safe, welcomed and accepted in their learning environment. Our multi-pronged approach reaches students, parents, teachers and school administrators. In addition to serving as a resource for Jewish parents and school officials, the JCRC intervenes to address specific anti-Semitic incidents at schools, working closely with law enforcement as necessary.



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR IRENE REBECK WITH VIRGINIA STUDENTS



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR JOAN DA SILVA SACKS ADDRESSES VIRGINIA STUDENTS



Presented summer workshops for 100+ Social Studies teachers in Baltimore, Fairfax, Arlington and Montgomery counties. These training sessions focused on Judaism, Jewish history, anti-Semitism and Holocaust commemoration.



Distributed hundreds of our annual multi-faith holiday calendars to local schools and community institutions. The calendar serves as a planning tool to help educators continue to respect and accommodate the religious observances of all students, teachers and staff.



Piloted *Student to Student* high school peer education program which puts a human face to Judaism to reduce prejudice, bigotry and anti-Semitism. Following a successful pilot program that engaged 200 students and teachers, the JCRC received funding from The United Jewish Endowment Fund of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington to fully launch the program in the 2018-19 academic year.



A meaningful experience that I remember is our trip to Annapolis. We met the Governor of Maryland. We asked him many questions and I learned about his plans for the future. I also learned how the government works. This will help me influence my community as a citizen when I am older.

5TH GRADER, CHARLES E. SMITH JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

JCRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RON HALBER GIVES AN INTERVIEW WITH NBC'S CHRIS GORDON



JCRC IN THE NEWS

When it comes to critical analysis of issues facing the Jewish community, the media regularly turns to the expertise of the JCRC. Our professionals are sought after and regularly quoted by a range of local, national and Israeli outlets. Additionally, on social media, our JCRC is one of the most followed Jewish organizations in the nation.



Hate-based incidents surge in suburban school system in Maryland https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/hate-based-incidents-surge-in-suburban-schoolsystem-in-maryland/2017/07/11/8e0059ca-4d4e-11e7-bc1b-fddb8359dee_story.html, July 11, 2017



Trump's Medicaid Cuts Would Decimate Jewish Social Services, Putting the Most Vulnerable at Risk <http://www.haaretz.com/us-news/premium-1.802022>, July 18, 2017



Why One Jewish Group Protested a Rock and Roll Icon <http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2017/august/why-one-jewish-group-protested-a-rock-and-roll-icon>. August 6, 2017



Hate on the far left is just as dangerous as hate on the far right, *The Forward*, August 10, 2017



Jewish groups enraged as Trump axes migrant 'Dreamers' program <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jewish-groups-enraged-as-trump-axes-migrant-dreamers-program>, Sept 5, 2017



The greatest Jewish crisis: Growing estrangement from Israel <https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5050109,00.html>, November 30, 2017



Virginia Republicans call for ouster of party official who said only Christians should run for party positions, *JTA*, February 13, 2018



Condemning anti-Semitism should not be difficult for women's march leaders, *Washington Jewish Week*, March 14, 2018



DC council member espoused antisemitic theory at least twice <http://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/dc/dc-council-member-espoused-antisemitic-theory-atleast-twice/65-529988470>, March 19, 2018



Bagels, lox and apologies at breakfast to discuss D.C. lawmaker's anti-Semitic comments, *The Washington Post*, March 27, 2018



DC Council member meets with Jewish leaders, colleagues over anti-Semitic remarks <https://wtop.com/dc/2018/03/dc-council-member-jewish-leaders-anti-semitic-video/> March 27, 2018



Qatar must stop supporting terrorists, *The Jerusalem Post*, April 16, 2018



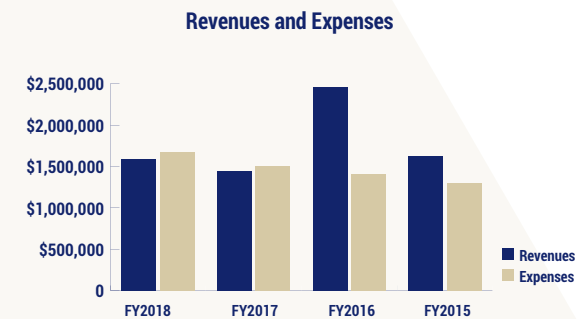
REMEMBERING RON GLANCZ, z"l & JUDY FLIPPEN-ANDERSON, z"l

The JCRC mourned the loss of two cherished agency leaders, **Ron Glancz** and **Judy Flippen-Anderson**. Ron, an exemplary leader in the Jewish community, died on August 14, 2018, after a long battle with cancer. He had a brilliant mind and tireless work ethic and led a life of humility and compassion guided by Jewish values. Ron served on the JCRC's board and executive committee for many years, and as our President from 2008-2010. He also served as president of the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH) and on the Board of Directors of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. In 2017, Ron and Margie received JFGH's Melvin S. Cohen Community Service Award. Ron also received JCRC's 2015 Breslau Goldman Award and was a recipient of Congregation Har Shalom's *Hakarat Tov* Honor.

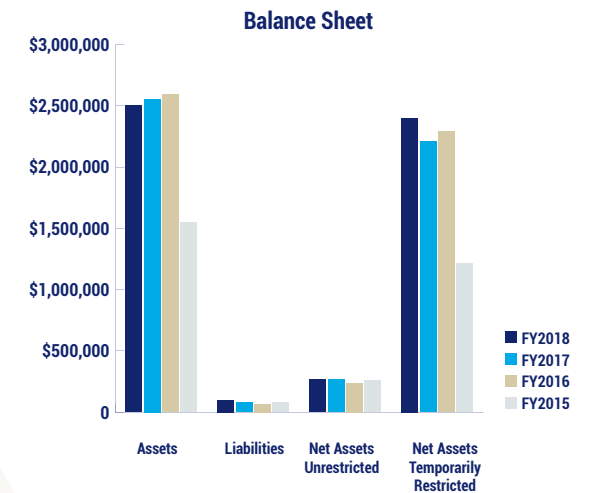
Judy, co-chair of the Virginia Holocaust Commemoration Commission, died on March 31, 2018, one week before she would have helped lead our Virginia *Yom Ha'Shoah* Commemoration. Since 2011, Judy was an integral part of the *Yom Ha'Shoah* commemoration events, often making tremendous contributions behind the scenes with little fanfare. She was devoted to our survivor population and to the sacred mission of Holocaust commemoration and education. She inspired all those who were fortunate to work with her. With her wisdom, kindness, dedication and dignity, Judy left an indelible mark on the Jewish community.

Te'hi zichronam le'vrachah—may Ron and Judy's memories forever be a blessing.

FINANCIAL REVIEWS



During the last four years, the JCRC's annual budget has increased dramatically and should sustain this trend as the JCRC continues to grow its operations to meet our community's future needs. The significant increase in revenues in FY16 results from the conclusion of fundraising for the Campaign for the Future (Campaign), which has provided necessary funding for the JCRC's growth over the last two years. In FY17, the JCRC began to use the funds from the Campaign. As a result, expenses have exceeded revenues in the past two years.



The JCRC's balance sheet continues to be strong. Assets consist mainly of cash and receivables from The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington for the FY19 Allocation, pledges from the June 2018 gala and the Campaign. Assets will decrease during the next few years as funds from the Campaign are used to cover the expanding budget. Liabilities consist of currently due bills. Net Assets Temporarily Restricted represent funds to be used in the coming years or for a specific purpose.

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of Greater Washington
Charles E. Smith Jewish Day
School
Charles E. Smith Life Communities
Edlavich DC Jewish
Community Center
Friends of the Israel
Defense Forces
Garden of Remembrance
Gesher Jewish Day School
Israel Bonds
Jewish Community Center
of Northern Virginia
Jewish Council for the Aging
Jewish Foundation for
Group Homes
Jewish Foundations of
North America
William Schneider
Jewish Social Services Agency
Jewish Women's
Renaissance Project
Melvin J. Berman
Hebrew Academy
Milton Gottesman Jewish Primary
Day School
Orthodox Union
Sagel Bloomfield Danzansky
Goldberg Funeral Care
The Jewish Federation of
Greater Washington
Torah School of
Greater Washington

SYNAGOGUES

Adas Israel Congregation
Adat Shalom Reconstructionist
Congregation
Agudas Achim Congregation
Beth Chaverim Reform
Congregation
Beth El Hebrew Congregation
Beth Sholom Congregation
and Talmud Torah
Bethesda Jewish Congregation
B'nai Shalom of Olney
Congregation Adat Reyim
Congregation Beth El of
Montgomery County
Congregation Beth Emeth
Congregation B'nai Israel
Congregation B'nai Tzedek
Congregation Har Shalom
Congregation Olam Tikvah
Congregation Or Chadash
Kehilat Pardes,
The Rock Creek Synagogue
Kehilat Shalom
Kemp Mill Synagogue
Ohr Kodesh Congregation
Shaare Tefila Congregation
Shaare Torah
Temple Beth Ami
Temple B'nai Shalom of
Fairfax Station
Temple Emanuel
Temple Micah
Temple Sinai in DC
Tifereth Israel Congregation
Washington Hebrew Congregation



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Adas Israel Congregation
 Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation
 Agudas Achim Congregation
 Alpha Omega International
 Am Kolel Judaic Resource and Renewal Center
 American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists
 America-Israel Cultural Foundation
 AJC, Washington, DC
 American ORT- National Capital Area
 American Red Magen David for Israel
 American Society for Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Washington Chapter
 Anti-Defamation League, Regional Office
 Association of Child Survivors of the Holocaust in the Washington/Baltimore Area
 Association of Reform Zionists of America, Mid-Atlantic Region
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 Hebrew Day Institute
 Hebrew Free Burial Society
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 HIAS
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 Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
 Jewish Council for the Aging, Inc.
 Jewish Federations of North America
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 Jewish Funeral Practices
 Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington
 Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington
 Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Friends of Greater Washington
 Jewish Labor Committee Washington, DC Chapter
 Jewish National Fund of Greater Washington

Jewish Residents of Leisure World
 Jewish Social Service Agency
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 Jewish Women International
 Jews United for Justice
 JWRP
 Kehilat Pardes - The Rock Creek Synagogue
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