

# A Steadfast Community

Annual Report FY 2020 | 5780

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**Unify. Mobilize. Advocate.**





## Unify. Mobilize. Advocate.

▲ Brought three buses of activists from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia to New York for a major rally against antisemitism.

Dear Friends:

There is no doubt this extraordinary year presented new and unexpected challenges and opportunities. But even in times of flux—perhaps **especially** in times of flux, the JCRC’s commitment to fulfilling its mission remains constant, the JCRC’s actions remain strong and swift, and our positive impact on the Greater Washington community remains unmatched.

This year, our agency turned on a dime to respond to the changing needs of the Greater Washington community. While shifting our advocacy and educational programs to online formats, we found innovative ways to mobilize more activists and community members than ever before. The changes swirling around us brought the JCRC’s many critical achievements for our community to new heights.

Throughout the global health crisis and economic downturn, the JCRC helped Jewish agencies and local non-profits secure critical federal, state and local grants. We combatted rising COVID-related food insecurity, homelessness, and economic devastation. We helped elected officials craft emergency responses.

And we decried racism targeting the Asian American community.

And during the simultaneous resurgence of the movement for racial justice, the JCRC galvanized the Jewish community of our region to stand with the African American community. We committed to dismantling racism and advocated for equality in education, healthcare and housing for our region’s most vulnerable members.

At the same time, the JCRC’s commitment to our core mission never wavered. We stayed true to our mandate to create consensus in our diverse community and advocate for the collective needs and priorities of Jewish Greater Washington. We held fast to our commitment to nourish and protect Jewish life and combat antisemitism. And we remained dedicated to striving for justice for all in our region.

The JCRC in 2020 was always strategic, driving towards our vision with thoughtful determination. We strengthened relationships with elected officials, bolstered partnerships in the interfaith

community, advocated on behalf of Israel, and took steps to keep our community safe and secure.

In the pages of this report, you will read about the resolve, steadfastness, and care that drove the JCRC’s work this year.

Together, we endeavored to achieve the JCRC’s vision of a Greater Washington without antisemitism or injustice. A region where the policy priorities of the Jewish community are implemented and where public schools are welcoming spaces for Jewish students and all students. A region where Jewish social service agencies are well-funded, and where everyone feels a positive affiliation with Israel.

Thank you to every JCRC activist, friend, partner, donor, volunteer, and leader who helped us achieve the remarkable results outlined in this report.

B'Shalom,



RON HALBER  
Executive Director



SAMUEL KAPLAN  
President

# Adapting to a Changing World

“Being a part of the JCRC makes me proud. All of you move faster than ‘Superman’ when getting involved with and helping so many of our community causes, both Jewish and non, which is especially so in these difficult days. Please pass on my thanks and appreciation.”

A GRATEFUL COMMUNITY MEMBER



Residents of the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes wear Personal Protective Equipment secured by the JCRC.

When our region’s schools, institutions and agencies began shutting down in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the JCRC sprang into action. We responded to immediate needs, advocated for the ongoing priorities of our community and allies, and pivoted to bring our community together virtually and keep the region informed. When the movement for racial justice sprang to the forefront of our nation’s awareness, we found ourselves unable to take to the streets in peaceful protest as we would normally have done. Instead, we channeled our community’s pain and desire to make a difference to physically distanced platforms.

**At times of stress, community relations are more important than ever, and the JCRC remained a steady community champion throughout this uncertain year.**

Jewish Foundation for Group Homes CEO David Ervin receives PPE secured by the JCRC.

**Assisted** non-profit agencies in securing federal, state and local grants and Personal Protective Equipment.

**Supported** elected officials crafting emergency safety net responses.

**Advocated** for immediate protections to address burgeoning food insecurity and homelessness for vulnerable residents of Greater Washington.

**Helped** Jewish schools and synagogues navigate local requirements for re-opening.

**Led** Jewish community advocacy efforts to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color in education, housing and debt relief.



LISTEN, LEARN, & ACT  
ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY  
[Click here to access toolkit](#)

◀ **Mobilized** the diverse Jewish community in support of racial equality and justice and provided an online anti-racism toolkit utilized by synagogues throughout the region.

◀ **Encouraged** our community to come together in spirit one year after the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting by taking #11Actions to honor the memory of those who were killed and stand against hate, in partnership with The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.



The JCRC engaged more than **31,000 VIEWERS** and **8,000 SOCIAL MEDIA USERS** with original digital content.

SHIFTING TO ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

**5**

VIRTUAL EVENTS

& **6**  
ZOOM WEBINARS

REACHED **30,124** PEOPLE

**13,912** UNIQUE VIEWS

**416** VIEWS ON YOUTUBE

**1,015** COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONNECTED

**876** POST ENGAGEMENTS

# Legislative Advocacy & Government Affairs



The JCRC serves as a united voice for the diverse Jewish community of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Our agency pinpoints which issues are most critical to address and mobilizes grassroots activists to advocate for policy changes and government funding that reflect our collective values and needs. Together, we build relationships with elected officials and ensure the continued strength and vibrancy of our community.



**LEFT:** JDS students and families in the secure entry vestibule.  
**ABOVE:** RespectAbility President Jennifer Laszlo-Mizrahi, JCRC Associate Director Guila Franklin Siegel and JCRC Board Member Stefanie Sanders Levy lobby on Capitol Hill at Jewish Disability Advocacy Day.

“The new entry vestibule is a significant enhancement to our security at the Lower School and has been in development for over a year. ... Many thanks to the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) for their support, strategic guidance and advocacy in accessing this funding and moving our strategic security program forward.”

RABBI MITCHEL MALKUS, CHARLES E. SMITH JEWISH DAY SCHOOL HEAD OF SCHOOL



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**Successfully advocated**, with partner Tzedek DC, for emergency legislation in the D.C. Council to protect low-income families from debt collection or garnishment of COVID-19 emergency stimulus funds.

**Advised** Jewish community philanthropists on COVID-era emergency support.

**Helped** The George Washington University Hillel mobilize grass-roots activists in response to the appointment of a BDS supporter to the position of Interim Dean of the university's Elliott School of International Affairs.

**Successfully advocated** to prevent the D.C. Council from passing legislation that would have prevented Montgomery County Police Department from traveling to Israel to participate in critical cooperative training.



▲ JCRC Scholar-in-Residence Beit Shemesh Mayor Aliza Bloch meets with DC Mayor Muriel Bowser.



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Members of the JCRC board tour the newly renovated Edlavitch DCJCC entry hall with Executive Director Carole Zawatsky; Mayors Bloch and Bowser with JCRC Executive Director Ron Halber and JCRC Vice President Thorn Pozen.

**Successfully advocated** for legislation in the Maryland General Assembly to:

- **Combat domestic violence** by expanding definitions and strengthening penalties.
- **Reduce hate crimes** by increasing legal protections and providing training for law enforcement.

**Secured \$5 million in available state grants that Jewish agencies can access for critical security needs** at schools, childcare centers and faith-based institutions at risk for hate crimes; and **\$2.35 million in capital and operating funds** to help local agencies improve the lives of our citizens.

**Successfully advocated** for inclusion of community priority funding in the Governor’s Budget, including \$7.4 M for Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST), a school choice scholarship program for low-income students to attend nonpublic schools, including Jewish day schools.

**Advocated** for the expansion of Maryland’s Holocaust education requirements, which now mandate improved Holocaust instruction in public schools.

The JCRC helped secure government funding for The University of Maryland Hillel, the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School; the Jewish Social Service Agency, The Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, the Charles E. Smith Life Communities’ ElderSafe program, and the Maryland Israel Development Center.



▲ Maryland Senator Ben Cardin, JCRC Executive Director Ron Halber, and Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen at Schmooze and Nosh. More than 250 activists met with 60 federal, state, county, and municipal elected officials in advance of the legislative session.


**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Community members meet with local elected officials at the JCRC’s fourth annual Schmooze and Nosh Legislative Breakfast; Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks speaking to JCRC leadership; JCRC leadership and partners lobby Congressman David Trone on community priorities.


“The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”


LEVITICUS 19:34


## WELCOMING THE STRANGER

In an era of intensified xenophobia, the JCRC continued to mobilize our community to advocate for immigrant rights.

 Together with fellow nonprofits, local municipalities and elected officials, filed a federal lawsuit challenging the U.S. government’s “public charge” rule, which penalizes immigrants who lawfully access essential public benefits such as food stamps and health care, severely restricting their ability to attain permanent legal status.

 Opposed proposed federal rules that would diminish our national asylum program, including denying protection to women fleeing gender-based persecution, increasing fees for naturalization and permanent residence applications, and eliminating fee waivers for immigrants who can’t afford them.

 Co-organized a rally to defend immigrants and refugee neighbors together with Jews United for Justice, CASA, and other local groups; the Rockville counterdemonstration against local xenophobic protestors was attended by the Montgomery County Executive and hundreds of members of the community. ▶

 Nurtured a new alliance with Identity, Inc., a non-profit serving thousands of Latino youth and their families in Montgomery County that is focused on advocacy coordination and grass-roots support for clients.



# VIRGINIA

Successfully advocated for legislation in the Virginia General Assembly to:

- Combat bias and hatred with stronger **hate crimes laws**;
- Protect members of the LGBTQ community in **employment and housing**;
- Became the 38th state to ratify the **Equal Rights Amendment**, raising the conversation about women's rights to national attention;
- Strengthen **gun violence protections**;
- Expand **voting rights** by implementing "no excuse" absentee ballots;
- Protect the environment with gains in the fight against **climate change**;
- Safeguard the **separation of religion and state** by opposing a bill that would have required schools to offer Bible courses;
- **Reduce poverty** by raising the minimum wage and combatting predatory loan practices; and
- Uphold **reproductive choice** by repealing mandatory waiting periods and other restrictions on abortion access.

Successfully advocated to increase to \$150,000 a year grant funding for JSSA to **meet the needs of Holocaust survivors**. Advocated for:

- The establishment of **\$3 million in state grants** over two years to fund critical security needs for faith-based institutions at-risk for hate crimes. The fund was successfully created, although funding was delayed due to COVID-19 related budget deficits and will remain on the JCRC agenda in the coming year.
- A two-year **\$125,000 grant** to expand the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes' MOST program to serve young adults aging out of entitlements in Loudon County, which was not included in the revised budget due to COVID-19 related deficits and will remain on the JCRC agenda.



Successfully advocated in the General Assembly for the creation of a new task force to **strengthen state Standards of Learning** regarding **Holocaust education**.



**ADVOCACY DAYS**  
**MARYLAND & VIRGINIA**  
**220** met **41**  
**COMMUNITY** with **ELECTED**  
**ADVOCATES** **OFFICIALS**

to advocate for the Jewish community's funding and legislative priorities.



JCRC activists lobby in Richmond on Advocacy Day.



JCRC Virginia Commission Co-chair Beth Mitchell, JCRC Executive Director Ron Halber, JCRC past-president Cookie Hymer Blitz, Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates Eileen Filler-Corn, JCRC Virginia Commission Co-chair Bob Budoff, and JCRC Associate Director Guila Franklin Siegel join more than 200 Jewish activists and dozens of federal, state, and local elected officials at the second annual Northern Virginia Lox and Legislators Breakfast.



Speaker of the House and former JCRC board member Eileen Filler-Corn speaks at the Lox and Legislators Breakfast.

## COVID RESPONSE

Together with Tzedek DC, and other anti-poverty allies, advocated to protect Virginia, Maryland and D.C. residents from evictions, debt collection, and impaired credit reports during the public health emergency.

Kept community members connected and informed with webinars featuring local officials and experts: ▶

Leading Virginia through the COVID-19 Pandemic with Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn, Secretary of Health and Human Resources Dr. David Carey, and Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran

The Crisis and the Campaign with political commentator Dr. William Schneider

Leading Montgomery County through the COVID-19 Pandemic with Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich

Racial Justice and Equity for All Begin with Our Children: Academic Costs of the Pandemic with chair of the Montgomery County Council's Education & Culture Committee Craig Rice, Deputy Superintendent of MCPS Dr. Monifa McKnight, and Executive Director of Identity Diego Uriburu.

Successfully advocated with the Montgomery County Council for the creation of a \$2 million relief fund to aid "unleased" renters living in informal situations and not eligible for other state and local eviction protections.

Helped Jewish Day Schools communicate with government officials and advocate for clear standards for reopening.



# Israel Action Center



Central to the JCRC's mission is mobilizing the diverse community of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia to deepen relationships with Israel through grassroots advocacy, education, and cultural experiences. The JCRC strengthened connections between Greater Washington and Israel even when a global pandemic limited travel between the two. This year, the JCRC lived-up to its eight-decade legacy of learning about Israel with openness, questioning with respect, listening with care, and defending Israel with strength and determination.

▲ JCRC Scholar in Residence Dr. Aliza Bloch, Mayor of Beit Shemesh and the city's first woman mayor, interviewed by community leader Jocelyn Krifcher at Beth Sholom Congregation and Talmud Torah. *Photo credit Anthony Marill Photography*



◀ Mayor Bloch meets with the 2020 senior class of the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy. During her three-day visit, Mayor Bloch met with 480 members of the Greater Washington community, Ambassador Ron Dermer, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and members of the press at community forums, private events, and school and synagogue meetings.



◀ Israel Action Center Director, Alexis Schwartz, moderated a panel at the JCPA 2020 conference: *Campus Climate: Israel, Antisemitism and the Challenges They Pose.*



**Mobilized** our community and the majority of the Montgomery County Council to oppose Takoma Park government's screening of a one-sided, anti-Israel and antisemitic film.

Together with Israeli NGO Geshet, **convened** a discussion about Jewish education between a delegation of 30 senior educators from the Israeli Ministry of Education's Society and Youth Administration and Washington area educators and leaders.



**Hosted** 200 community members for expert analysis of the second Knesset election of 2019 with Israel Policy Forum Policy Director Michael Koplow and Brookings Institution scholars Tamara Cofman Wittes and Natan Sachs.

▲ 250 community members attended a book signing featuring Ambassador Dennis Ross and David Makovsky, authors of *Be Strong and of Good Courage: How Israel's Most Important Leaders Shaped Its Destiny*, moderated by Pulitzer Prize winning *New York Times* Columnist Thomas Friedman.

**Hosted and co-sponsored public briefings and conference calls for 1,730 community members with experts** including Dr. Sara Yael Hirschhorn, *Walla! News'* Tal Shalev, Yossi Klein Halevi, and former Mayor of Haifa Dr. Mohammed Alnabari on topics ranging from the Implications of Annexation on the U.S.-Israel Relationship, to Democracy in Israel, Israel and COVID-19, Bedouin Society in the Negev, and Politics Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Hosted off-the-record briefings for community leaders with speakers** including Israeli Minister of Defense Naftali Bennett, Israel's National Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Mariam Kabaha, Esq., former CEO of National Council of Jewish Women Nancy K. Kaufman and CEO of Commanders for Israel's Security Dan Rothem discussing the US-Israel relationship, diversity hiring and employment opportunity in Israel, and Israel's proposed annexation. ◀





▲ Brought to Greater Washington Kids4Peace International, an interfaith movement of young Israeli, Palestinian and American peacemakers, for a discussion with the senior class at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School.



**GRADUATED**  
**57**  
**FELLOWS**

in the 12th and 13th cohorts of the

**ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP,**

the JCRC's signature Israel engagement and advocacy training program for students from more than

**40** **50**  
**HIGH** **SYNAGOGUES**  
**SCHOOLS** **& YOUTH**  
**PROGRAMS**

in Greater Washington. In its seventh year, the IEF completed its largest cohort to date, with

**45**  
**PARTICIPANTS**

across 3 locations during Spring 2020.



UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM:

**92%**

**OF PARTICIPANTS** feel more confident and prepared to advocate for Israel in their own personal way

**93%**

**would recommend the program to their friends or peers**

**96%**

**said the program was "awesome. I'm glad I did it" or "I liked most of it"**



◀ Kids4Peace Executive Director Father Josh Thomas speaks at art exhibit "Raising Generation Peace" at the Bender JCC.

# Intergroup Relations



**"The JCRC's honesty and speaking out on issues concerning citizens in Fairfax County has allowed the greater community to hear the Jewish voice in bringing justice and equity to Northern Virginia."**

HURUNNESSA FARIAD, ALL DULLES AREA MUSLIM SOCIETY (ADAMS)

During challenging times, strong relationships with friends and allies grow in importance. This year, as long-standing racial injustices rose to the public's awareness, the JCRC nurtured robust relationships with Greater Washington's diverse faith and ethnic communities. We take seriously our commitment to advocate for equity and justice for all members of our region—both Jewish and non-Jewish. And we work with leaders from within and beyond the Jewish community to meet the needs of our community members, friends and intergroup coalition partners.

**TOP:** Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council meets with Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich.





**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Fairfax County Faith and Equity Committee meets at Bethlehem Baptist Church; Fairfax County Community Interfaith Coordinator Ramona Carroll, JCRC Director of Intergroup Relations and Rabbi in Residence Abbi Sharofsky and Office of Community Partnership Interfaith Community Liaison Rev. Mansfield “Kasey” Kaseman; Rabbi Sharofsky speaks for immigrants at a community rally.

**Mobilized** more than 100 synagogues and organizations in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia to issue a statement of solidarity with the Black community following the murder of George Floyd, reiterating our commitment to taking concrete action to dismantle institutionalized racism.

**Created** a comprehensive anti-racism toolkit and provided personal consultations to a wide range of Jewish institutions seeking to mobilize their constituents in the pursuit of racial justice in the United States.

**Served** on the Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Equity and Equality in Montgomery County, testifying before the Board of Education about pandemic-related academic loss experienced by minority and disabled students.

**Engaged** 15,000 viewers of the JCRC’s new “Two Minutes of Torah” video series that shares social justice insights about topics including immigration, racism, domestic violence, and food security.

**Hosted** a five-month, community-wide book group as part of the Candid Conversations on Race initiative of the Montgomery County Faith Community Working Group.

**Provided** anti-bias consulting for Jewish community organizations following JCRC training by the D.C. Office of Human Rights and the National Coalition Building Institute.

**Convened, supported and advised** coalitions of synagogue social action chairs in Northern Virginia and Maryland focused on community outreach and engagement.



A Letter of Support to Our Friends in the Chinese American and Chinese Communities

Regional Director, AJC Washington Alan Ronkin, JCRC Executive Committee Member Albert Bloomfield, JCPA President and CEO David Bernstein, and JCRC Director of Intergroup Relations and Rabbi in Residence Abbi Sharofsky present the Chinese Ambassador a present letter of solidarity with Chinese communities experiencing racism at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak.



JCRC Director of Intergroup Relations and Rabbi in Residence Rabbi Abbi Sharofsky reached more than 300 leaders from different faith communities: offered the benediction at the National Cathedral’s Gun Violence and Houses of Worship program; spoke on a Catholic University panel about Jewish-Catholic relations; addressed antisemitism and deepening relationships between the Jewish community and the Black Christian community at D.C.’s John Wesley AME Zion Church; shared a prayer for healing at the Fairfax County National Day of Prayer; and moderated an InterFaith Council of Metropolitan Washington discussion with law enforcement and community leaders entitled Keep Hate Out of the DMV.

# Holocaust Remembrance & Education

“Thank you for coming to speak out and share your story with my fellow classmates and me. I was so honored listening to you, and I cannot imagine the pain or fear that you went through at such a young age. It’s important to hear these kinds of stories because we do not want history to repeat itself. It made me think that we need to diminish hate in the world and learn to love all kinds of people no matter their race or religion. Once again, I thank you for coming and telling us your story.”

A STUDENT WHO HEARD A SURVIVOR SPEAK



Cantors from Greater Washington join in singing *Hatikvah* at the JCRC’s virtual *Yom Ha'Shoah* commemoration.

The JCRC has led our region in Holocaust commemoration and education for six decades, drawing more than one thousand people annually to remember, mourn, and honor the memory of the *Shoah*. This year, when the COVID-19 pandemic prevented in-person events, the JCRC remained committed to remembering, to ensuring local survivors and their families felt embraced, and to helping our community unite on this solemn day. We quickly reimagined longstanding traditions and met our sacred duty to mark *Yom Ha'Shoah* with reverence and honor.



**Brought together** the Greater Washington community to commemorate *Yom Ha'Shoah* virtually, empowering thousands of additional members of our community to remember, mourn, and honor the legacy and the heroes of the *Shoah*.

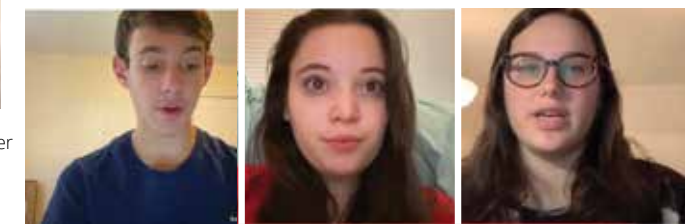
**Hosted** *Zikaron BaSalon* events with three local *schlichim* to virtually bring Holocaust remembrance into smaller venues and intimate home settings.



**From top to bottom:** *Yom Ha'Shoah* keynote speaker Louise Lawrence-Israels; 3G Zachary Hirsh lights a candle with his mother, 2G Dena Hirsh; Holocaust survivor Claude Kacser lights a memorial candle.

**▲ Connected** survivors with middle and high school students on **11** video calls for the first-ever Zoom *Dor L'Dor* program with more than **1,100** teens and their families from **15** synagogues, religious schools and interfaith youth groups.

**▼ Reached** more than 500 young people in an online Voices of History program with 3GDC, a group for grandchildren of survivors, and *Unto Every Person There is a Name*, a virtual public name reading program.



The JCRC’s online *Yom Ha'Shoah* program was viewed by

**MORE THAN 12,000 PARTICIPANTS**

and reached another **38,013 PEOPLE**

on social media



**ABOVE BUBBLES:** Survivor Irene Weiss speaks at Lake Braddock Secondary School in Fairfax.

Survivor Josie Traum speaks at Tilden Middle School in Rockville.

**Right:** Brought Holocaust survivors to speak to students at regional schools before transitioning to online visits during the pandemic.

**MORE THAN  
15,000  
READERS**  
viewed coverage of the JCRC's virtual *Yom Ha'Shoah* programs in the *Jerusalem Post* and the *Washington Jewish Week* and read a JCRC op-ed about the importance of hearing survivors' stories even while isolated.

# Education Outreach



**"It was extremely beneficial for our students to connect what they've started to learn about the Holocaust and antisemitism and connect it with the present day. When we talk about the Holocaust, it seems very far away to the students, but when they realize that hateful things are still happening directed at Jewish people, it makes it seem more real and helps them realize the importance of learning about the Holocaust. The students loved getting to hear from other kids, since they're so used to hearing from adults."**

LIZ KROTCHKO, ENGLISH TEACHER,  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MIDDLE SCHOOL

The JCRC of Greater Washington advocates for Jewish students and families in public and private schools throughout our region. Our efforts ensure that educators and school administrators have the skills and tools they need to create a safe, welcoming learning environment for Jewish students and all students. We work with schools and interfaith partners to address the concerns of Jewish and other minority students in our diverse region.

**ABOVE:** Students at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda listen to Student to Student Peer Educators.



**Trained** 400 new teachers, new counselors, and mental health professionals from Montgomery County Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools, and Loudon County Public Schools to meet the needs and challenges of Jewish students amid rising school-based antisemitism.

**Responded** to incidents of antisemitism and bias in private and public elementary, middle and high schools; advocated for families whose children were experiencing antisemitism in their schools.

**Helped** Montgomery County Public Schools develop new protocols to improve the climate for Jewish students and address hatred and bias in schools.

**Hosted** three Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) town hall meetings for 300 concerned Jewish parents to share their frustrations with school leaders and discuss a more equitable school system in which Jewish families feel welcomed.

**Represented** the Jewish community on the FCPS Religious Observances Taskforce to improve accommodations for students from diverse faiths, and made recommendations to the Fairfax Board of Education to close schools on days coinciding with religious holidays.



## STUDENT TO STUDENT PEER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Trained 60 Jewish High School Students to talk about their lives as Jewish teens at public and private schools and houses of worship. This year, we introduced Interfaith Dialogue training to the program, preparing teens for meaningful conversation with Sikh and Church of Latter-Day Saints peers.

66 Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist & unaffiliated juniors & seniors from

D.C., MARYLAND, & VA  
33 HIGH SCHOOLS  
NFTY, USY, NCSY, BBYO  
& JSU

39 DISCUSSIONS  
WITH MORE THAN  
2,100 STUDENTS,  
TEACHERS & CLERGY



▲ Students at regional public and private schools learn about Jewish life, kosher foods and ritual objects from Student to Student peer educators.

# The JCRC in the News



The achievements and broad impact of the JCRC are frequently recognized by local, national and international media outlets.



## COVID-RESPONSE

- D.C. faith leaders commiserate on virus, compare strategies for healing during pandemic March 31, 2020
- US Jewish Groups Issue Communal Call for 'Kindness and Solidarity' Amid Worsening Coronavirus Crisis April 1, 2020
- As Coronavirus Spreads in N.Y., These U.S. Jewish Communities Pray They're Not Next April 1, 2020
- Essential But Cautious U.S. Synagogues Unimpressed by Trump's Pressure to Reopen May 27, 2020

## SECURING OUR COMMUNITY & COMBATTING ANTISEMITISM

- DC-Area Jewish Communities Head to NYC for Anti-Hate March January 4, 2020
- Bowser, faith leaders focus on combating antisemitism January 7, 2020
- Hundreds gather in support of Jewish community January 9, 2020
- County Awards \$200,000 in Security Grants to Faith-based Groups March 22, 2020

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

- Outcry After Virginia GOP Candidate Posts 'Concentration Camp' Joke July 2, 2019
- JCRC to push liberal issues with new Democratic legislature in Virginia November 7, 2019
- Maryland politicians strive for increased security as hate crimes continue to rise December 12, 2019

## ISRAEL ACTION CENTER

- County Officials Scold Takoma Park Over Screening of Anti-Israel Film July 22, 2019
- Four months after the Tlaib & Omar ban, have U.S.-Israel ties suffered? December 16, 2019
- Mayor of Israel's Fastest Growing City Brings Leadership Vision to Washington, DC January 16, 2020

## INTERGROUP RELATIONS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Here's why some DC residents won't be attending the 2020 Women's March January 17, 2020
- MLK Day Injects Historic Urgency to Bond Between African Americans and Jews January 20, 2020
- Jewish groups show solidarity with Chinese Americans amid coronavirus scare March 1, 2020
- Police brutality and racism are problems. Where should our energies go to address them? June 2, 2020
- COVID-19 impacts shine a spotlight on inequity in the classroom June 8, 2020

## HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE & EDUCATION

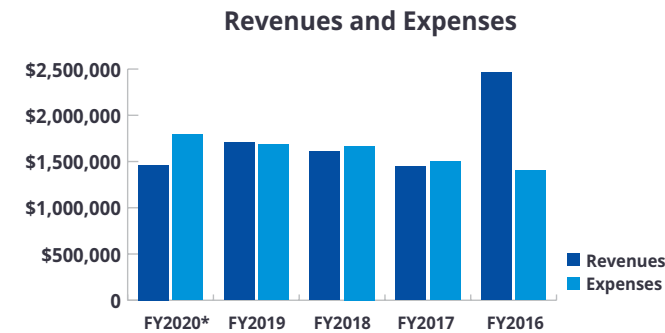
- School officials in Maryland strengthen requirements for Holocaust education October 23, 2019
- Even in enforced isolation, we must hear survivors' stories April 15, 2020
- Amid coronavirus, Holocaust day across the US taking place online April 21, 2020

## EDUCATION

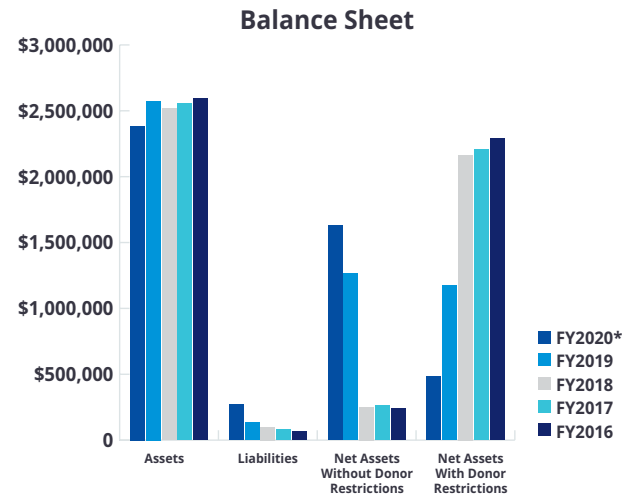
- Charles County Government announces Nov. holiday schedule October 30, 2019
- MCPS plans to enhance Holocaust education November 6, 2019
- Montgomery Co. Schools Announces Plan to Fight Hate and Bias January 8, 2020
- MCPS implements new initiatives to fight hate March 2, 2020
- 'Like Judaism 101': To fight antisemitism, program sends Jewish teens into classrooms March 8, 2020

# Financial Reviews

Over the last five years, the budget has increased, and we anticipate that it will continue to do so as the JCRC expands. The significant increase in revenue in FY16 results from the completion of the Campaign for the Future to provide necessary funding for JCRC growth; in FY17, the JCRC began to use the funds from the campaign. FY20 revenue at audit time did not include The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington (JFGW) allocation for FY21. Due to COVID, JFGW allocated funds on a month-to-month basis for the first quarter of FY21. In September 2020, the JCRC received a commitment for funding from JFGW for the remaining three quarters of FY21.



\*FY20 figures are per FY20 audited financial statements and are pending Board approval in Jan 2021



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The JCRC's Balance Sheet continues to be strong. Assets consist mainly of Cash, Investments, Pledge Receivables for the September 2020 gala, and the Campaign for the Future. Assets will decrease over the next few years as funds from the campaign are used to cover the expanding budget. Liabilities consist of currently due bills and the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program loan, for which the JCRC will apply for forgiveness in FY21. Net Assets With Donor Restrictions represent funds to be used in the coming years or for specific purposes.

# Sponsors

## GALA GIBORIM

### FOUNDERS

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 Toni & Ronald A. Paul, MD  
 Leslie & Samuel Kaplan  
 Ellen & Stuart Lessans  
 Manette & Louis Mayberg  
 June & Congressman David Trone

### SUSTAINERS

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 Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation  
 Adas Israel Congregation  
 Agudas Achim Congregation  
 AIPAC  
 Am Kolel Jewish Renewal Community  
 of Greater Washington  
 B'nai B'rith International  
 B'nai Israel Congregation  
 B'nai Shalom of Olney  
 Beit Mishpacha  
 Bender JCC of Greater Washington  
 Beth El Hebrew Congregation  
 Bethesda Jewish Congregation  
 Beth Sholom Congregation and Talmud Torah  
 Capital Camps and Retreat Center  
 Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School  
 Charles E. Smith Life Communities  
 Congregation B'nai Tzedek  
 Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County  
 Congregation Beth Emeth  
 Congregation Har Shalom  
 Congregation Olam Tikvah  
 Edlavitch DC JCC  
 Geshur Jewish Day School  
 Haberman Institute for Jewish Studies



Israel Bonds  
 Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse  
 Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
 Jewish Council for the Aging  
 Jewish Foundation for Group Homes  
 Jewish Funeral Practices Committee  
 Jewish Social Services Agency  
 Jewish Women International  
 Kehilat Pardes - The Rock Creek Synagogue  
 Kehilat Shalom  
 Kemp Mill Synagogue  
 Keshet Israel Congregation  
 Kol Shalom  
 Magen David Sephardic Congregation  
 Maryland/Israel Development Center  
 Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy  
 Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School  
 of the Nation's Capital  
 Momentum  
 National Council of Jewish Women  
 Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation  
 Ohr Kodesh Congregation  
 Pozez Jewish Community Center of  
 Northern Virginia  
 Agudas Achim Congregation  
 Shaare Tefila Congregation  
 Shaare Torah  
 Temple B'nai Shalom  
 Temple Beth Ami  
 Temple Emanuel  
 Temple Rodef Shalom  
 Temple Shalom  
 Temple Sinai  
 Temple Solel  
 The Friendship Circle  
 The Jewish Federation of  
 Greater Washington  
 Brit Tzedek v'Shalom  
 Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School  
 Charles E. Smith Life Communities  
 Congregation B'nai Tzedek  
 Congregation Ner Shalom  
 Congregation Olam Tikvah  
 Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County  
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 Congregation Har Shalom  
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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  
 Bender Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington  
 Bet Mishpachah  
 Beth Chai  
 Beth El Hebrew Congregation  
 Beth Sholom Congregation & Talmud Torah  
 Beth Sholom Temple  
 Beth Torah Congregation  
 Bethesda Jewish Congregation  
 Bikur Cholim of Greater Washington  
 B'nai B'rith Chesapeake Bay Region  
 B'nai Israel Congregation  
 B'nai Shalom of Olney  
 Brit Tzedek v'Shalom  
 Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School  
 Charles E. Smith Life Communities  
 Chesapeake Area Reconstructionist Council  
 Congregation Adat Reyim  
 Congregation B'nai Tzedek  
 Congregation Beit Chaverim  
 Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County  
 Congregation Beth Emeth  
 Congregation Etz Hayim  
 Congregation Har Shalom  
 Congregation Har Tzeon-Agudath Achim  
 Congregation Ner Shalom  
 Congregation Olam Tikvah  
 Congregation Sha'are Shalom  
 Congregation Shaare Tikvah  
 Council of Area Reform Presidents  
 Edlavitch DCJCC  
 Ezras Israel Congregation of Rockville  
 Fabrangen  
 Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park  
 Geshur Jewish Day School of Northern Virginia  
 Hadassah: Greater Washington Area Chapter  
 Hadassah: Northern Virginia Chapter

Hebrew Free Burial Society  
 Hebrew Free Loan Society  
 Hevrat Shalom Congregation  
 HIAS  
 Hillel at American University  
 Hillel at George Mason University  
 Hillel at George Washington University  
 Hillel at University of Maryland  
 Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse  
 Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia  
 Jewish Council for the Aging, Inc.  
 Jewish Federations of North America  
 Jewish Foundation for Group Homes  
 Jewish Funeral Practices  
 Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington  
 Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington  
 Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Friends of Greater Wash-  
 ington  
 Jewish Labor Committee Washington, DC Chapter  
 Jewish National Fund of Greater Washington  
 Jewish Residents of Leisure World  
 Jewish Social Service Agency  
 Jewish Study Center  
 Jewish War Veterans  
 Jewish Women International  
 Jews United for Justice  
 Kehilat Pardes - The Rock Creek Synagogue  
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 Mishkan Torah Congregation  
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 Nevey Shalom, The Jewish Congregation of Belair  
 Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation  
 Ohev Sholom Talmud Torah Congregation  
 Ohr Kodesh Congregation  
 Orthodox Union  
 Oseh Shalom  
 Reconstructionist Havurah of Greater Washington  
 Service Guild of Washington  
 Shaare Tefila Congregation  
 Shaare Torah  
 Silver Spring Jewish Center

Temple B'nai Shalom  
 Temple Beth Ami  
 Temple Beth Torah  
 Temple Emanuel  
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 Temple Solel  
 The Generation After  
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Members of the JCRC staff at a rally for immigrants.

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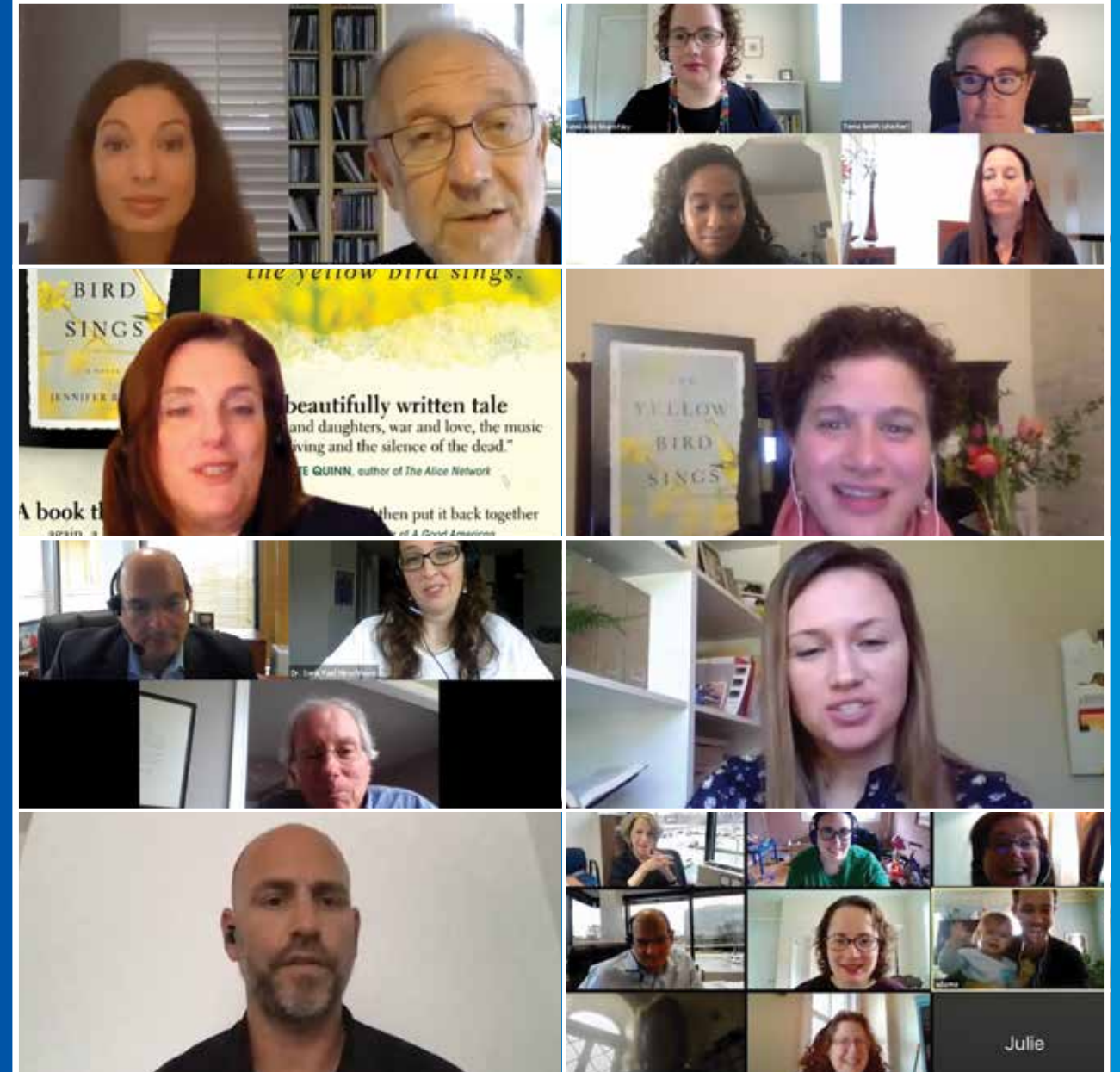
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Community leaders Arnie Hiller and Norman Goldstein, JCRC Vice President Dr. Ronald Paul, and JCRC President Samuel Kaplan at the Schmooze and Nosh Legislative Breakfast.

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Together we unify, mobilize, and advocate.



