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ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Around the Year with the JCRC



*Government Relations • Israel Advocacy
Inter-Group Relations • Social Justice
Maryland • Virginia • Washington, DC • Since 1938*

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington is the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community representing The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and 210 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout DC, Maryland, and Virginia.



Government Relations • Israel Advocacy • Inter-Group Relations • Social Justice
Maryland • Virginia • Washington, DC • Since 1938



Dear Friends:

In a year of growing economic challenges and violence in Israel, the JCRC once again succeeded as the Jewish community's action arm to promote our interests and defend our values. These results are due to our dynamic lay leadership, professional staff, and network of strong relationships with sister organizations and elected and community leaders.

This year demonstrated, more than ever, the community's overwhelming need for an effective, well-funded JCRC. Here is a snapshot of our 2009 activities highlighted in this report:

- During this recession, the JCRC's efforts led to more than \$2 million in government funding for Federation agencies to provide essential services to vulnerable Jews in our community. The JCRC is currently working on securing government dollars to ease the pain of Jewish agencies facing a dip in philanthropic resources.
- When war broke out in Gaza, the JCRC organized the nation's first pro-Israel rally on four days notice with over 1200 supporters of Israel to express solidarity. The JCRC is currently focused on enabling our community to be effective advocates against a nuclear Iran.
- At the request of Montgomery County, and coinciding with the Obama Inauguration and the Martin Luther King holiday, the JCRC spearheaded the "Yes Montgomery Can!" campaign that raised emergency funds for the county, collected food for MANNA, and engaged volunteers.
- The JCRC inspired legislation that now requires all DC pension funds to be divested from Iran's energy sectors, joining Maryland and hopefully soon Virginia, to help deny the Iranian regime the funds necessary to build nuclear weapons.
- In response to the shooting at the United States Holocaust Museum, the JCRC organized security seminars, attended by numerous law enforcement agencies, to provide guidelines to help our community secure itself better against threats of terror.
- The JCRC backed a wide range of economic initiatives to help those impacted by legislation including providing unemployment for part-time workers.
- The JCRC provided management workshops to 40 emerging nonprofits in Montgomery County, through a grant underwritten by EagleBank.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of our agency and urge you to take a few moments and enjoy this annual report.

B'Shalom,

Ron Glancz
President

Ron Halber
Executive Director

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Legislative Roundup

The JCRC had a banner legislative session in Annapolis this year, participating in several coalitions, including the Maryland Alliance for the Poor, the Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network, the Maryland Interfaith Legislative Committee, and Marylanders for the Right to Choose. We monitored and worked on over sixty bills and successfully advocated for more than \$1 million in funding for Jewish agencies. While most of our legislative efforts were successful, SB 730/HB 690, the Religious Accommodations in Multi-Family Dwellings Act, which the JCRC strongly supported, did not pass this year.

The 45-day 2009 Virginia General Assembly session concluded with many important legislative accomplishments for our community. JCRC led successful efforts on legislation impacting 1st Amendment freedoms. With support from the statewide Jewish community, we defended funding for the Virginia Israel Advisory Board and supported several initiatives to combat bias. In partnership with others, we advocated for legislation to protect our environment, expand human services, and protect minorities and immigrants and members of the GLBT community.

Maryland Legislative Highlights

Fighting Poverty

Unemployment Insurance For Part-Time Workers, SB 270/HB 310, passed, allowing part-time workers who are contributing to the unemployment insurance fund to be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

Protecting our Environment

The passage of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2009, SB 278/HB 315, requires Maryland to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent from 2006 levels by 2020. Bill SB 280/HB 297 also passed, encouraging smart and green growth. This bill, in line with the JCRC's energy and environmental policies, will dramatically improve Maryland's "carbon footprint" and enable Marylanders to do their part toward reaching energy independence.

Marriage Equality and Inheritance Taxes

This bill, SB 785/HB 1215, exempts individuals from paying the inheritance tax on primary residences after the death of a domestic partner (same-sex and opposite-sex partners). The JCRC has worked for full civil equality for same-sex couples and their families, and this bill brings them a step closer to this goal.



Looking out for our Aging Population

The Silver Alert Program, SB 303/HB 317, is similar to the already existing Amber Alert Program, allowing for state and local police to track people with mental impairments who have strayed from home. This program provides another tool for the community to support our increasingly aging population.

Domestic Violence

SB 267/HB 296 and SB 268/HB 302 deal with the surrender of firearms. Both bills require respondents to temporary and final protective orders to surrender firearms. The JCRC, in collaboration with the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, Women's Philanthropy at The Jewish Federation, supported this important legislation, which will provide a small measure of added protection to victims of domestic violence.

Neighborhood and Community Assistance Program

The passage of House Bill 1399 allows eligible individuals and businesses to receive tax credits for contributions to approved projects in the Neighborhood and Community Assistance Program. This program has made it possible for several beneficial agencies of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington to provide much-needed programs and resources to subsidize services for older adults.

DC Legislative Highlight

Divesting from Iran

In 2009, the District of Columbia joined 14 states, including Maryland, in urging a halt to Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions by divesting from targeted companies that support Iran's petroleum sector and terror-sponsoring regime. The JCRC led a coalition to support to the bill sponsored by Councilman David Catania. The legislation was passed unanimously by the DC District Council. An April reception hosted by the JCRC honored Catania along with D.C. Council Finance and Revenues Chairman Jack Evans and D.C. Council Chairman Vincent Gray for their leadership in this effort. The JCRC joined with Virginia legislators to introduce a similar bill for a second year in Richmond. Despite garnering support from the House Speaker, gubernatorial candidates, several law enforcement organizations and other leaders, the JCRC's effort stalled in the Virginia House of Delegates. House leaders are urging the Virginia Retirement System to take voluntary divestment action, an effort applauded by the JCRC.

Virginia Legislative Highlights

Defending First Amendment Religious Freedoms

In Virginia, the JCRC worked closely with interfaith partners to defeat two bills that threatened the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and contradicted landmark rulings on prayer in government settings. HB2314 attempted to restrain the police superintendent from providing proper guidance on non-sectarian prayer by chaplains acting in their official capacity. SB1072 implied a broad role for government-sanctioned prayer and then denied any government agency the ability to properly ensure that prayer in government settings is non-sectarian and inclusive. Both bills were defeated.

Supporting Virginia Israel Advisory Board (VIAB) and Virginia's Biotech Sector

The JCRC led the community in supporting funding for VIAB and legislation to spur Virginia's biotech industry by implementing the recommendations of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Biosciences and Biotechnology in the Commonwealth. Bill SB1338, in support of this funding, was passed on the final day of the session.

Combating Bias and Supporting Education

The JCRC worked to support several bills passed in Richmond this past year to defend against discrimination, bullying, and hate. The JCRC supported HB2409: Holocaust education expansion in public schools, and HJ788: the recognition of a Virginia Annual Holocaust Commemoration Day. HB1624 will provide guidelines for addressing bullying in public schools and SB1219 criminalizes the hanging of a noose for purposes of intimidation.

Parlor Meetings

Prior to the legislative session starting in Annapolis, the JCRC held parlor meetings in Maryland Districts 15, 16, 17, and 39 and a leadership meeting with the delegations from Districts 18 and 20. Each meeting was very well attended, including the District 39 meeting held at Kehilat Shalom in Montgomery Village. The District 39 meeting was unique in that it was the first time the JCRC held one in that district and the JCRC's first time partnering with a synagogue for such a meeting.

Funding

In Maryland, the 2009 state legislative session was largely focused on balancing the state budget and addressing the deficit. Despite the challenging economic situation, the JCRC was successful in securing a total of \$1.2 million of state funds for Jewish agencies, including:

- \$650,000 for Charles E. Smith Life Communities' Revitz House renovations
- \$275,000 for the Jewish Council for the Aging's new headquarters renovations
- \$200,000 for the Jewish Federation's "Community Partners" (NORC) program
- \$75,000 for the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes' renovations

In Virginia, the state legislature responded to its estimated \$3 billion budget shortfall by slashing all funding for non-state agencies for the second year in a row and implementing across-the-board cuts on state agencies. The JCRC was able to safeguard funding for the Virginia Israel Advisory Board and met with state and county human service agency directors to explore creative partnership opportunities in a challenging political environment.

Election Education

The JCRC encouraged the Jewish community to "get out the vote" in all three jurisdictions of government and provided opportunities for citizens to learn more about candidates. The JCRC hosted a Presidential candidate forum with the Washington DC JCC, posted candidate questionnaires for special elections in Montgomery County, publicized non-partisan campaign events, met with candidates and campaign managers to educate them on top concerns of the Jewish community, published "get out the vote" resources, and provided guidance and support for Jewish institutions hosting their own forums.

The VA June Gubernatorial primary was among the most contentious in Virginia's recent history. Throughout the campaigns, the JCRC hosted each of the four contenders: former Virginia Attorney General Bob McDonnell (R), State Senator Creigh Deeds (D), former Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe (D), and State Delegate Brian Moran (D) at Northern Virginia gatherings that included hundreds of community leaders.



A Year of Key JCRC Events

JULY 2008

July 9: VA Gubernatorial Meet & Greet Series Begins. The Series Featured: Bob McDonnell, Creigh Deeds, Brian Moran, and Terry McAuliffe

July 15, 17: JCRC Briefings on Resources for Synagogues & Agencies

July 28: "The Jewish Community Serves Northern Virginia" briefing for Fairfax Board of Supervisors and Human Service Directors

AUGUST 2008

Aug 4: The JCRC's Environmental Testimony before the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration

SEPTEMBER 2008

Sept 14: 2nd Synagogue Social Action Conference at George Washington University

Sept 15-24: Leadership Mission to Israel for Virginia Elected Officials

Sept 22: Rally against Ahmadinejad at Farragut Square Park

SOCIAL JUSTICE

INTER-GROUP RELATIONS

Yes Montgomery Can!

The JCRC partnered with Montgomery County for six weeks to spearhead a large-scale community effort focusing on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend and the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama. This social justice effort, originally inspired by an anonymous donation to the Community Foundation, had three main goals: raise matching funds for the emergency assistance fund that an anonymous donor started; collecting food for MANNA, the largest food bank in Montgomery County, and encouraging volunteerism in the County. In all, this campaign — called “Yes Montgomery Can!” — engaged more than 5000 volunteers, collected more than 20,000 pounds of food (food for monthly allotments to approximately 275 families), and raised almost all of the \$100,000 match.



Energy Educational Forum & Policy Passage

As part of the policy-development process, the JCRC sponsored an educational forum on energy policy. Hadar Susskind from the Jewish Council for Public Affairs moderated the program and spoke about the Jewish community’s energy concerns. Jeremy Symons from the National Wildlife Federation and Robbie Diamond from SAFE spoke about alternative energy sources, energy and national security, short and long-term implications of the economic crisis on policy, and more. In April, under the direction of the JCRC’s Domestic Affairs Commission, the JCRC passed a comprehensive energy policy that will guide the organization well into the future.



Social Action Survey

After eight months of interviews and writing, a first draft of the JCRC’s social action/justice survey is complete. Final edits will be completed in the summer of 2009, and the JCRC looks forward to sharing it with the community when it is completed. This survey, which includes the results of more than 60 hours of interview time, captures the breadth and depth of Jewish social action/social justice work in the region, and identifies methods for improvement.

OCTOBER 2008

Oct 7: Emerging Nonprofit Workshop Series Begins Oct 10: Gilad Watch Campaign Launched

Oct 23 & 26: Presidential Forums with McCain and Obama Surrogates

Oct 27: “Reflections on Israel” Mission Participants Gather with JCCNV Board Members and Community Leaders

NOVEMBER 2008

Nov 4: Monthly Social Justice Consultation Calls with the JCRC and Jewish Volunteer Connection Begin

Nov 19: “Evening at the Embassy” with Israeli Ambassador Sallai Meridor and Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley on the topic “The Biotech Partnership between Israel and Greater Washington”

DECEMBER 2008

Dec 3: Middle East Forum in VA. Focus: Iran

Dec 4: Memorial Service for the Victims of the Mumbai Terror Attacks with Members of the Indian and Jewish Communities

Organizations that participated in all five sessions received incentives, including a certificate of completion, pairing with a “mentor” organization for consultation, an invitation to a special luncheon, and a one-third discount on the Maryland Nonprofit membership rate for one year. Nonprofit Montgomery!, the County Executive’s Office of Community Partnerships, Maryland Nonprofits, and the Montgomery County Community Foundation each contributed to making this year’s series a success.

Nonprofits that Attended the Workshop

- | | |
|--|---|
| A Wider Circle | Kids Feeling Fit Foundation |
| Adventure Theatre | Lead4Life, Inc. |
| African New Vision | Legacy Premier Foundation |
| Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center | Maryland International Corridor CSAFE |
| Aumazo, Inc. | Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association, Inc. |
| Bethesda Community Baseball Club | MCAEL |
| Chinese Culture & Community Service Center | Mission Endowment Fund, Christ Lutheran Church |
| Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church | Montgomery County Education Forum |
| Circle of Rights, Inc. | Montgomery County Federation of Families |
| CollegeTracks, Inc. | Office of Community Partnerships, Montgomery County |
| Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County D.E.L.A.I. | Rhoton Hill Foundation |
| Friends of Sligo Creek | Shalom Education Center |
| Garrett Park Elementary School Education Foundation | Shout |
| Gather Me In | Takoma Park Community Action Group |
| Global Health Education Network | The Menare Foundation, Inc. |
| Health and Education for Haiti | ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors’ Association |
| Hispanic Business Foundation | Tzuchi Foundation, USA |
| HOPE Worldwide, Mid-Atlantic | Women Who Care Ministries |
| Interfaith Community Against Domestic Violence | Young Chefs, Inc. |
| Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse | |



The JCRC and the War with Gaza

During Israel's Operation Cast Lead this past January, the JCRC was heavily involved in *hasbara* (Israel advocacy) efforts to bolster public support for Israel. In conjunction with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, the JCRC organized a pro-Israel rally at the historic 6th and I Synagogue in downtown DC where Israeli Ambassador Sallai Meridor, United States Senator Ben Cardin, United States Members of Congress Eliot Engel, Mark Kirk, Robert Wexler, and Frank Wolf, and Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett all spoke. In addition, Jewish and non-Jewish religious leaders spoke in support of Israel. Despite the incessant rain, over 1200 people participated in this truly inspiring rally.

The JCRC launched an online letter campaign asking the local community to send letters to their representatives in Congress and thanking them for their support of Israel. We should never take for granted the support of our friends in Congress; it is necessary to show our appreciation for all their efforts. The JCRC was also involved in behind-the-scenes efforts to urge local elected officials, including members of Congress and state governors, to make statements in support of Israel. Finally, the JCRC encouraged the media to present Israel's side of the story unfolding in Gaza.

In conjunction with the American Jewish Committee, the JCRC hosted an evening at the Israeli Embassy where non-Jewish religious leaders participated in a frank discussion with Israeli diplomats and military officials about the events that have recently transpired in Israel and Gaza. It is the JCRC's duty to keep others abreast of events in Israel and to address their concerns. Despite the highly complex and sensitive subject, the discussion was held in an atmosphere of respect and mutual understanding.



Dec 4: MD Parlor Meetings Begin. Meetings held in Districts 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 39.

Dec 9: Jewish Community Reception with VA State Legislators

Gilad Shalit Clock

On June 25, 2006, 19-year-old Gilad Shalit was kidnapped by Hamas terrorists while defending an Israeli army base from a premeditated attack. Gilad's current whereabouts and physical well-being are unknown; Hamas has denied the Red Cross and other international humanitarian groups any access to him. Since his capture, he has languished in captivity.

In response, the JCRC launched an awareness campaign called "Gilad Watch." The campaign is centered around a virtual clock that records the amount of time that Gilad has been in captivity. The goal is to have as many web sites as possible post the Gilad Watch Clock on their sites. So far, about 40 websites have the clock, including many Jewish Federations around the country, Friends of the IDF, Hillel chapters, Israel Advocacy organizations, and several blogs. The clock is available on Facebook as well. When the clock was created, the count was at 840 days; it is now well over 1100 days since Gilad's capture.

Organizations with the clock or link on their web site

- JCRC
- Ohev Sholom – the National Synagogue
- EMET
- JCADA
- One Family Fund
- Jewish Agency Aliyah, Washington DC office
- CUFI on Campus
- Israel Coalition on Campus – GW
- Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties
- Jewish Federation of Central NJ
- Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte
- Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
- Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County
- Jewish New Orleans
- Maryland Hillel
- We Support Israel Now
- Stand With Us
- Friends of the IDF
- JCRC Detroit
- JCRC Tidewater
- JCRC Pittsburg
- Israel Embassy
- JCPA
- Gilad Shalit-Wikipedia
- Over 20 different blogs



JANUARY 2009

Dec 10: "Educators" Symposium on Jewish Life:" cultural sensitivity training for teachers in Prince William & Stafford Counties

Jan 7: Pro-Israel Rally at 6 & I Synagogue

ISRAEL & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Middle East Forums

This past year, the JCRC held two forums focusing on issues relevant to the Middle East. The first, held in December 2008 at the JCC in Northern Virginia, was entitled "A Nuclear Iran? Options Available to the New Administration." It featured policy experts, a world-renowned nuclear physicist, and former weapons inspector. The second forum, in June 2009, was held at Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, Maryland, and was entitled "US-Israel Relations in the Obama-Netanyahu era." The speakers were Aaron David Miller, Woodrow Wilson Center Public Policy Scholar, and Elliot Abrams, Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington D.C. Both forums were successful in presenting multi-faceted perspectives on hot topics of concern to our community.



Jan 10: DC Commission Meeting with Councilmember Mary Cheh

Jan 14: 4th Annual JCRC-NAACP MLK Commemoration

Israel Missions

To date, the JCRC has hosted 24 missions to Israel for local elected officials and community leaders to foster economic growth, great political understanding and closer cultural ties and friendships between our region and Israel. This year the JCRC brought 13 Virginia elected officials to Israel and sponsored a trip for Virginia's Governor Tim Kaine and First Lady Anne Holton. Among the 11 Virginia-elected officials on the mission were two gubernatorial candidates, a state party chairman, the Senate Majority Caucus chair, the House of Delegates Appropriations, and Black Caucus chairmen. With a greater understanding of the Middle East's political realities and the close economic ties between the two states, these leaders were able to have a positive impact immediately upon returning home. They issued statements of support for Israel during the Gaza War, passed legislation to foster Virginia-Israel water development projects, and promoted funding for the Virginia Israel Advisory Board. In September 2009, Governor Kaine is expected to visit the Northern Virginia Jewish community with a briefing of his insights and accomplishments following his April visit.



FEBRUARY 2009

Jan 16-20: Yes Montgomery Can! Campaign

Feb 2 & 4 : MD & VA Advocacy Days

Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration

On April 19, 2009, the JCRC held its annual *Yom Ha'Shoah V'Hagvurah* – Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day program. For the first time, the JCRC held commemorations in both Maryland and Northern Virginia. The ceremonies featured keynote addressees, readings, songs, and the lighting of the ceremonial menorah to remember those who perished.

The JCRC's first Holocaust Commemoration program for Northern Virginia was enthusiastically welcomed and underscored the strong sense of community developing in this region. The program featured support and co-sponsorship from 20 synagogues, 70 community participants who joined the choir, and 20 local Holocaust survivors who shared their stories with over 100 youths from Jewish and public schools. The JCRC is committed to sharing the lessons of the Holocaust generation to generation throughout our community and has confirmed partners and locations for annual Northern Virginia *Yom Ha'Shoah* programs through 2012.



Attack at the Holocaust Museum

When Officer Stephen T. "Big John" Johns was shot and killed defending the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the JCRC joined the InterFaith Conference and other faith community organizations in hosting a vigil outside the Holocaust Museum to honor a man who gave his life defending our right to live peacefully and securely. About 200 mourners were present as Executive Director Ron Halber joined Rev. Clark Lobenstine, Imam Mohammed Magid, and other faith leaders in addressing the gathering.



MARCH 2009

Feb 17: Energy Policy Forum Moderated by Hadar Susskind

March 6: Meeting with the Brazilian Ambassador to Discuss the Venezuelan Jewish Community

March 23: "An Evening of Reflection and Education on the Greek Shoah Experience"

March 31: The JCRC and the Jewish Primary Day School Hosted Councilmember Muriel Bowser

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Holocaust Education

In its efforts to educate the public on the horrors and lessons of the Holocaust, the JCRC held two forums. In March of this year, the JCRC held "An Evening of Reflection and Education on the Greek Shoah Experience," at Magen David Sephardic Synagogue, where the film "A Song of Life" – a documentary about the heroic actions of the people of Zakynthos during the German occupation – was screened. Following the film, Greek Holocaust expert Andrew Apostolou, PhD, spoke about the Holocaust in Salonika.

The second forum was sponsored by the JCRC, Ohev Shalom- The National Synagogue, and The Generation After. Holocaust survivor Frieda Stolzberg Korobkin led a discussion based on her new book, *Throw Your Feet Over Your Shoulders: Beyond the Kindertransport*, which is a fascinating and poignant recount of her experiences as an Orthodox Jew in England, where she was raised in a non-Jewish household after fleeing Europe in the 1938 Kindertransport.



ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIC INSTITUTIONS

Public Schools

The JCRC provides a variety of resources to support area public schools and ensure a welcoming environment for all students. In 2009, the JCRC partnered again with Prince William Public Schools and Congregation Ner Shalom to offer "The Educators' Symposium on Jewish Life." This interactive program on Jewish life cycle and holiday events provides professional development credit to teachers while helping them develop a greater appreciation for the increasing diversity they experience in their classrooms. The JCRC opened this program for a second year to a growing number of attendees from neighboring Stafford county. Also invited were teachers from Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Fairfax, Loudoun, Arlington, and Alexandria.

The JCRC continued to respond to requests for support addressing anti-Semitism or bullying in the classroom and religious-holiday scheduling conflicts with important community programs. Working with school administrators and civic officials, the JCRC provided guidance and reached favorable resolution in most cases. The JCRC's Holiday Calendars, Guidelines to Religion in Public Schools, and Jewish Resources for Public Schools were made available to thousands of teachers, principals and administrators throughout the region. In addition to our advocacy on legislation impacting education at the state level, the JCRC worked with the Institute for Curriculum Services and the Virginia Holocaust Museum to offer recommendations to the Virginia social studies curriculum and support participation by subject matter experts in education conferences and on local public school diversity councils.



APRIL 2009

Apr 1: Montgomery County Advocacy Day

Apr 1: The JCRC Passed a New Energy Policy

Media Outreach

The JCRC has become the go-to address for media outlets in our region seeking comment on issues of concern to the Jewish community. This year, the JCRC responded to media queries on incidents ranging from the war in Gaza to the Holocaust Museum shooting tragedy. Through community events and public policy statements, the JCRC helps shape the debate on issues of critical importance to the Jewish community.

Emergency Preparedness

This year the JCRC served on the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington's task force on emergency and disaster preparedness. The task force worked to ensure that, should the D.C. region ever face a large-scale event or disaster, the faith community is prepared to assume a unique and critical role. Working with Lutheran Disaster Services, the task force received a Serve DC grant to provide emergency preparedness seminars to the faith community. A kick-off event, themed "To Prepare is to Care," was held on September 11, 2008. More than 30 representatives of faith groups gathered for table-top exercises and discussions about how to prepare for various emergencies. During the year, seminars and workshops were held throughout Washington to prepare congregations for an emergency.

Security

In order to facilitate easy and rapid communication with local law enforcement and FBI contacts, the JCRC serves as the community liaison to these groups. The JCRC maintains an emergency contact list of Jewish institutions, and sends them alerts about security concerns, threats, and incidents, as well as instructions on how to respond to them. In addition, the JCRC provides information about homeland security funding that may be available to Jewish institutions in the region.



Apr 19: Yom Ha'Shoah V'Hagvurah Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day Commemoration in MD and VA

Apr 27: "What Jews Should Know: Rumbblings in the Church:" A Panel on Changes that Have Taken Place within the Church and Insights on Catholic-Jewish Relations

Jewish American Heritage Month

The JCRC recognized Jewish American Heritage Month with a tribute to Washington's enduring Jewish institutions and a contribution to *tikkun olam* and social justice. The JCRC joined with the Jewish Historical Society (JHS) of Greater Washington and the D.C. City Council to unveil "Through the Lens: Jeremy Goldberg's Washington." The exhibit was viewed by citizens and visitors, including Israeli First Lady Sara Netanyahu in the Atrium of the John A. Wilson Building. A closing reception was hosted by D.C. Chairman Vincent Gray and proceeds from the exhibit were donated to the non-profit Sasha Bruce Youthwork, which provides services for foster and at-risk youth in the District.

Reaching Out to New Communities

To best serve the region, the JCRC partners closely with smaller Jewish communities throughout Maryland and Virginia. The JCRC continued our close partnership with the Federation communities of Richmond, the Virginia Peninsula, and Tidewater. In addition, this year we expanded our outreach, visiting small synagogue communities in Danville, Martinsville, and Frederick. These communities were also represented in our advocacy efforts in Annapolis and Richmond.



Apr 30: Reception in Honor of Iran Divestment Passing in D.C. and Honoring Chairmen Gray and Evans and Councilmember Catania

MAY 2009

May 6: Environmental Symposium on Renewable and Sustainable Development with the American Associates of Ben Gurion University

May 11-22: The JCRC, the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington, and the D.C. City Council hosted "Through the Lens: Jeremy Goldberg's Washington"

May 14: The JCRC's Annual Meeting Honoring Jack Serber

AROUND THE REGION



2009 Annual Fundraiser

This year's fundraiser honored Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley with the 2009 Breslau-Goldman Award and Jocelyn and Danny Krifcher with the 2009 Jewish Community Leadership Award.

Governor O'Malley is a valued friend to Maryland's Jewish community. He was the first governor to issue a statement in support of Israel during the December 2008 conflict with Gaza. He has traveled to Israel twice, has committed more than \$11.5 million to Jewish agencies in Maryland, and has been a strong supporter of our policy agenda.

Jocelyn and Danny Krifcher were recognized for their extraordinary leadership and political activism in the Jewish community and beyond. In promoting a close US-Israel relationship, support for Jewish agencies, and children's health care, they have had an enormous and positive impact on our entire community. They have set a standard of community service for all of us to emulate.



Annual Meeting

In addition to installing new board members, the JCRC honored past JCRC President Jack Serber for his decades of community leadership at our 2009 Annual Meeting. Jack has served in leadership capacities at the JCRC, the Jewish Federation, Hebrew Day School, Hebrew Day Institute, and many more institutions of importance to our community. The meeting concluded with a joint reception with the JCC Board of Directors.



Farewell to Rafi Harpaz

The JCRC hosted a community farewell dessert reception in honor of Rafi Harpaz, Director of Public Affairs at the Embassy of Israel, who is returning home after four years of devoted service. Over the past few years, the JCRC has developed a very special relationship with the Embassy of Israel in general and Rafi in particular. We are sad to see him go, but know that Israel is in safe hands with Rafi working at the Foreign Ministry back home. We wish him, his wife, and his children the best of luck in the future and we look forward to welcoming his replacement.



JUNE 2009

June 1: Annual Gala Honoring Governor O'Malley and Jocelyn and Danny Krifcher

June 7: JCRC Holocaust Forum and Book Discussion: *Throw your Feet over your Shoulders: Beyond the Kindertransport*

June 16: Middle East Forum: US-Israel Relations in the Obama-Netanyahu Era



Executive Director Receives Community Service Award

The JCRC's Executive Director, Ron Halber, received the Community Service Award from the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) at their December fundraiser.

Ron has been a strong supporter of JCADA both professionally and personally from its early days. He embraced JCADA's pressing need to support victims and their families at a time when many didn't believe that domestic abuse could exist in the Jewish community. He was instrumental in connecting JCADA politically in the county and state; has worked hard to promote legislation to support victims and educate the community about domestic abuse; and has recruited members for the JCADA advisory board. Ron himself has served on JCADA's advisory board for seven years.



The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington is able to fulfill its mission due to the generous annual support of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

The Jewish Community Relations Council thanks the following community leaders for their generous philanthropy:

PILLARS

Carol & Gary Berman
The Ryna & Melvin Cohen Family Foundation
Susie & Michael Gelman
The Isadore & Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Inc.
Delia & Marvin Lang

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Margie & Ronald Glancz
The Robert P. & Arlene R. Kogod Family Foundation
Audrey & Marc Solomon

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Leslie & Samuel Kaplan
Jocelyn & Danny Krifcher
Amy & Alan Meltzer
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