STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY

JCRC Leading the Way





REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2015-2017



The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington

(JCRC) is the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community, representing The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and more than 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. The JCRC focuses on government relations, Israel advocacy, intergroup relations, and social justice. Our agency endeavors to foster a society based on freedom, justice, and democratic pluralism. The JCRC lobbies for local Jewish organizations and public policy priorities; strengthens local domestic support for Israel; builds bridges between local Jews and other Greater Washington area faith, ethnic, and minority communities; and provides hands-on opportunities to fulfill the Jewish value of tikkun olam (repairing the world). The JCRC of Greater Washington is a partner agency of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

GREETINGS

We are pleased to present this overview of the JCRC's numerous and diverse achievements over the past 24 months, a period encompassing breathtaking changes locally, nationally, in the Middle East, and in the world. In the past two years, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington has continued fulfilling our mission of advocating for the needs of the local Jewish community, responding to challenges facing us, and building for the future. Amid shifting political, social, and economic trends, JCRC remains a steady, consistent leader in improving our community, including strengthening relationships with key public, community, faith, and intergroup leaders; identifying and accessing new government funding streams; developing innovative and robust pro-Israel initiatives; enhancing JCRC staff coordination and greater collaboration among our constituent organizations; producing dynamic proactive and responsive programming; and increasing the number of JCRC activists and donors.

Having raised more than \$1 million in a special campaign to position our agency for the future, we enhanced our agency's professional capacity and public impact by adding an associate director position to our staff and engaging a marketing firm. These investments have allowed JCRC to expand its programmatic agenda and media presence at a time when voices such as ours are more important than ever. From the development of new programming, including this year's "1967 Miracles & Challenges" digital toolkit, which features original lesson plans, resources, and programming ideas, to a more intensive response to anti-Semitism in our schools that included numerous outreach programs for parents, our ability to serve and lead our community has been significantly strengthened.

Of course, our support for Israel is a mainstay of our work, not only in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War and reunification of Jerusalem. Our agency continues to vigorously oppose efforts on the state and local level to delegitimize Israel, and to support proactive efforts to enact legislation protecting Israel from boycotts, build grassroots support for Israel locally, and train high school students to navigate the challenges of Israel activism on the college campus.

Working with elected officials throughout the Greater Washington region, we helped secure more than \$8 million from state and local governments for Jewish agencies and schools to improve facilities, provide desperately needed services to vulnerable populations, and increase security in a time of surging anti-Semitism.

With our schools and institutions experiencing a dramatic increase in reported anti-Semitic vandalism and threats, we are deepening partnerships with our region's leaders in politics, law enforcement, and school systems and within other ethnic and faith communities.

Despite the polarized political environment, the JCRC continues our important work of building a unified community by advocating for things that unite us and speaking out against injustices. We thank you as always for your support that makes these efforts possible. In particular, we thank Cookie Hymer Blitz, JCRC president 2014-2016, for her two years of stellar service and leadership, our board members and the JCRC staff.

Michael Friedman

President

Ron Halber

Executive Director

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

The JCRC is honored to serve as our regional Jewish community's most highly respected and influential voice in the halls of state and local government. Through its jurisdictional commissions, and with the benefit of relationships developed and nurtured over many years, the JCRC effectively represents the Jewish community to elected officials in Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Through parlor meetings, advocacy days, emails blasts, and individual meetings with legislators and their aides, we advocate for the needs and priorities of our community and for robust funding for our region's Jewish agencies; monitor bills concerning a variety of social, cultural, religious, and economic issues; and provide opportunities for Jewish voters to engage directly with elected officials and candidates for public office.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Held numerous legislative breakfasts, parlor meetings, and candidate forums in Virginia, D.C., and Maryland
- > Testified in favor of Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's request for an increase in a state program that provides scholarships to low-income private school students.
- > Lobbied in Maryland for the Health Care Decisions Act, which prevents individuals who are the subject of protective orders, or who are separated and/or in the process of divorcing their spouses, from serving as health care agents for their potential/alleged victims.
- > Supported a Montgomery County bill to create a strategic plan to reduce and eliminate food insecurity.
- > Secured \$8 million in government funds, including more than \$1.4 million, for security upgrades to local Jewish institutions and schools.
- > Obtained the first Virginia state funding for Jewish social services programs to support Holocaust survivors.
- > Fought attempts in Virginia and Maryland to delegitimize Israel.
- > Supported legislation on disability rights in Virginia and Maryland, and participated in Jewish Disabilities Advocacy Day.
- > Opposed legislation in Virginia for two years running that would have allowed for discrimination against members of the LGBTQ community.
- > Urged Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe to veto a bill targeting Planned Parenthood and other health providers that offer abortions and other reproductive services.
- > Accompanied Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan on an economic mission to Israel.











Clockwise from top left: Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe gathers with Jewish activists during his annual Hanukkah party; Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser meeting with rabbis; JCRC organized Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's visit to Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville; Rep. John Delaney speaks during the JCRC's candidate forum; Ralph Northam, now governor-elect, at the JCRC's Virginia Gubernatorial Primary Forum hosted by Temple Rodef Shalom.





Community members made their voices heard at advocacy days in Richmond, Annapolis, and Montgomery County



5241

Letters sent to elected officials on issues important to the Jewish community



JCRC activists met with all

32

elected officials of the Montgomery County Delegation in Annapolis



JCRC activists met with

36

elected officials in the Virginia General Assembly including all Jewish officials







Clockwise from top left: The JCRC created and co-sponsored an Interfaith Welcoming Seder in Virginia; JCRC's Rabbi Batya Glazer, fourth from left, joins other faith leaders at a press conference with then-Vice President Joe Biden in support of Muslim students at Georgetown University; Faith leaders and elected officials participate in a Virginia interfaith press conference held in response to bomb threats targeting Jewish institutions.

COMMUNITY AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

JCRC promotes mutual tolerance and respect by building bridges to all races, religions, and ethnic backgrounds. We are proud to stand with both Jewish and non-Jewish allies in working toward the creation of a just society where all are welcome. The past two years have seen a dramatic uptick in acts of anti-Semitism, racism, and hatred of the "other." The JCRC has been in the forefront of condemning these acts and combatting anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and other expressions of prejudice in our communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Hosted Protect & Prevent: A Workshop for Jewish Institutions, with The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington at the JCC of Northern Virginia.
- > Coordinated and co-sponsored A United Response to Hate Speech, Bias Incidents, and Hate Crimes at Northern Virginia Community College, which drew hundreds of community members and dozens of public officials and religious leaders.
- > Co-sponsored second annual Washington-Area Rabbi-Imam Summit.
- > Facilitated scholar-in-residence program with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament and Jewish studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences, for Lutheran clergy and the Washington Board of Rabbis on the occasion of the 500th anniversary year of the Protestant Reformation.
- Served in leadership positions on numerous interfaith and intergroup boards and committees, including chairing the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington and co-chairing the Faith Community Working Group of the Montgomery County.

JCRC is a model for other faith communities in terms of embracing the broad spectrum of Jewish traditions and advocating very effectively on their behalf, and also working collaboratively with all faith traditions in creating a more beloved community.

Rev. Mansfield "Kasey"
 Kaseman, Office of
 Community Partnerships
 of Montgomery County

ISRAEL ACTION CENTER

The JCRC vigorously supports the State of Israel, training and empowering grassroots activists to advocate for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship and defending it against delegitimization on campus.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Hosted meetings, conference calls, and webinars with prominent Middle East experts and Israeli public officials.
- > Educated hundreds of teens and their parents, preparing them for engaging with Israel on campus.
- > Continued participation in the Greater Washington Forum on Arab-Israeli Issues, including co-sponsoring Annual Community Education Day on Arab Citizens of Israel.
- > Created and launched 1967: Miracles & Challenges, a digital toolkit of comprehensive resources serving as a one-stop shop to assist Jewish institutions and individuals in learning, reflecting on, and teaching about this pivotal moment in the history of Israel and the Jewish people.
- > Trained 15 Northern Jewish activists to engage with Protestant congregations on behalf of Israel.
- Served as Washington-area coordinator and expert adviser for "Project Community," a joint effort of the Israeli government and the nongovernmental organization Gesher, which brought 20 Israeli mayors, journalists, NGO leaders, and other influentials to the community.

IAC'S SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE IMPACT



1 Israeli leader





4 Davs

Events in DC, MD, and VA at synagogues, churches, universities, think tanks, high schools, and JCCs



1200 Individuals engaged

ADVOCACY, EVENTS, AND BRIEFINGS

Israel focused events in DC, MD, and VA empowering community members to speak out for Israel.

5189

Letters and emails sent to elected officials in support of Israel

TEEN ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT



- Partner Organizations: JCRC & Federation
- Signature Programs:
 Israel Engagement Fellowship
 Talk Israel
 Start the Conversation
 Teen Israel Committee
- 5 Years Building Authentic Connections to Israel
- 45 Synagogues & Youth Movements
 Across the Jewish Spectrum Engaged

High school participants from

37

schools in DC, MD, & VA.



Clockwise from above: Interfaith participant speaks during JCRC's annual Yom Hashoah commemoration in Virginia; Liberian refugee Crannough Jones speaks at JCRC's Yom Hashoah commemoration in Maryland; Holocaust survivor Ruth Kohn shares her testimony with a member of the U.S. Navy; Hundreds attend JCRC's annual Yom Hashoah commemoration in Maryland.







HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE AND EDUCATION

For more than 40 years, the JCRC has been honored to undertake the sacred responsibility of Holocaust remembrance and education in the Greater Washington region. Through annual Yom Hashoah commemorations, our Holocaust survivor speakers bureau, and consultations with educators, we remember the victims, honor survivors, and serve as a resource to teachers, students, and the community at large for teaching about the magnitude and consequences of the Holocaust — and the lessons that can be gleaned. We nurture close, long-standing, meaningful relationships with many of our local survivors and their families, and ensure their active participation in the planning and implementation of JCRC's Holocaust-related programming.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Organized and led annual communitywide Yom Hashoah remembrances in Maryland and in Northern Virginia. The 2016 program theme was Seeking Truth and Justice — 70 Years After Nuremberg; in 2017, the commemoration, Displaced Persons: Struggles to Find a Home, focused on the displaced persons camps and the universality of the refugee experience.
- > Brought survivors to speak to more than 7,000 adults and children.
- > Sponsored annual luncheon honoring survivors in Northern Virginia.

Thank you for continuing to offer a place and a chance for each generation to remember the past.

- Pearl Raikin, child of survivors

As long as I will be able to, I will continue to tell my story. It's very important, especially for our young people. They are our hope for the future. Hopefully, they will take a stand & protest when they witness any injustices. Yasher Koach, continue to do the work that you do.

 Rita Lifschitz Rubinstein, survivor



Top: A student confers with Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger and Rabbi Mitch Malkus, head of Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, following a JCRC discussion on anti-Semitism in the schools. Right: Fairfax County Public Schools Director of Intervention and Prevention Services Mary Ann Panarelli discusses the school system's response to incidents of anti-Semitism, hate, and bias after the JCRC's program, A Space for All: A Conversation about Ending Prejudice in our Schools, at Temple Rodef Shalom.



EDUCATION OUTREACH

The JCRC is committed to supporting our area schools in their efforts to provide a welcoming environment for all people. We collaborate with our interfaith partners proactively to reach out to educators, parents, students, and the community at large through targeted initiatives, and we are an important education and advocacy resource for local Jewish families whose children attend public and private non-Jewish schools.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Worked with the Montgomery County Public Schools to develop Guidelines for Respecting Religious Diversity.
- > Created an online calendar for educators highlighting religious observances of approximately a dozen faiths, denoting the dates on which students may need accommodations due to religious practices.
- > Presented community-wide workshops addressing bias and prejudice in public school settings, aimed at helping parents navigate the school system.
- > Facilitated training sessions for educators on Judaism, Israel, and the Holocaust.
- > Presented at workshops for social studies teachers based on the Institute for Curriculum Services' Israel and the Middle East Conflict curriculum unit. ICS aims to strengthen the quality of K-12 education related to Judaism and Israel topics.
- > Helped revise and edit the adopted history and social science Standards of Learning for Virginia, to improve the accuracy of teachings about Israel and Judaism.



JCRC activists participate in a gun control rally in Annapolis.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

The JCRC proudly works to fulfill our faith tradition's prophetic voice by linking arms with interfaith and intergroup partners to advocate for public policies that promote fairness, tolerance, and equality for all.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Co-sponsored Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy Day for All People, with 150 faith leaders and congregants from around the state advocating for immigration reform, criminal justice reform, redistricting, access to health care, gun violence prevention, economic justice, and eliminating childhood hunger.
- > Launched our first strategic social justice partnership with Tzedek DC, a new Jewish community-sponsored public interest center that safeguards the legal rights of low-income D.C. residents who face debt collection suits.
- > Partnered with HIAS (formerly Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) on two major events an interfaith community Havdalah and a Jews for Refugees Assembly to educate our community and mobilize a coordinated, impassioned response to the federal travel ban that disproportionately affected Muslims and refugees and, more generally, to the rising tide of Islamophobia and xenophobia in American society.
- > Co-sponsored Racial Justice Town Hall in Silver Spring, focusing on work being done in the Montgomery County Public Schools in response to racist, anti-Semitic, and bias incidents.



 $Local\ news\ media\ frequently\ interview\ JCRC\ Executive\ Director\ Ron\ Halber.\ Here\ he\ speaking\ with\ a\ reporter\ for\ WJLA-TV\ Channel\ 7.$

JCRC IN THE NEWS

The JCRC serves as a collective Jewish voice to the community at large; on social media, it is one of the most strongly followed JCRCs in the nation. Our professionals are highly sought-after for their perspectives and analysis on a wide range of issues of critical importance to the Jewish community, and routinely appear in a diverse range of national, local, and Israeli outlets, including The Washington Post, NPR, WTOP, WAMU, Baltimore Sun, JTA, Washington Jewish Week, Kol Habirah, and i24 TV. Over the past two years, our opinion pieces have been published by such media outlets as the Baltimore Sun, Kveller, and eJewish Philanthropy.

Stop trying to make Israel a wedge issue, Jerusalem Post, Aug. 7, 2016

BDS' destiny is failure, Times of Israel, Aug. 16, 2016

'Worst fears, best hopes' for the Trump presidency, JTA, Dec. 12, 2016

Seeking unity in the face of national divisions, eJewish Philanthropy, Aug. 2, 2016

New law protects victims of violence at every age, Maryland Reporter, June 12, 2017

Remembering the Holocaust: Honoring lives lost, survivors, heroes, April 24, 2017, WTOP

Maryland legislators will introduce anti-BDS bill, Jan. 18, 2017, Baltimore Jewish Times

1967: Miracles and challenges – an opportunity to unite, June 7, 2017, eJewish Philanthropy

When protesting the JCC bomb threats doesn't help, March 13, 2017, Kveller

BDS movement demonizes Israel, Feb. 14, 2017, Baltimore Sun

<u>Surge of hate graffiti on bathroom walls, other areas, has Maryland county rattled,</u> Washington Post, Dec. 12, 2016

D.C. leaders work to combat anti-Semitism, WJLA-7, March 10, 2017

FINANCIALS

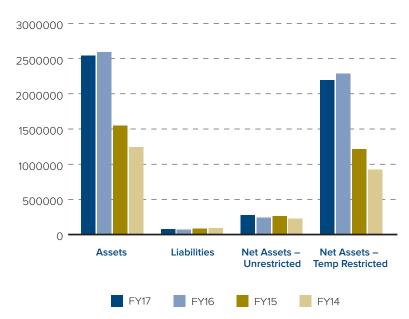
Over the past four years, JCRC's revenue has continued to exceed expenses, allowing the organization to build a reserve for future use or unexpected community needs. The significant increase in FY 16 revenues is a result of the completion of the Campaign for the Future. In FY 17, the JCRC began to use funds from that campaign, and thus expenses exceed revenue for the year.

JCRC continues to maintain a healthy balance sheet, with assets consisting primarily of cash and receivables from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington for the FY 18 allocation, pledges from the 2017 gala, and the Campaign for the Future. Liabilities consist of currently due bills. Net Assets Temporarily Restricted represents funds to be used in the coming years or for a specific purpose.

JCRC REVENUES & EXPENSES



JCRC BALANCE SHEET



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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 Joshua 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 B'rith Hillel Foundations:

American University George Mason University George Washington University University of Maryland

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 Havim 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 Gesher Jewish Day School of Northern Virginia

Hadassah

Greater Washington Area Chapter Northern Virginia Chapter Hebrew Day Institute

Hebrew Free Burial Society Hebrew Free Loan Society

Hevrat Shalom Congregation

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, Inc.

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

Jewish Study Center Jewish War Veterans Jewish Women International Jews United for Justice

JWRP Kehilat Shalom Kemp Mill Synagogue Kesher Israel Kol Shalom

Labor Zionist Alliance Washington Chapter Machar

Magen David Sephardic Congregation Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital

Mishkan Torah Congregation

Na'amat USA Greater Washington Council National Council of Jewish Women

Montgomery County Section Northern Virginia Section Washington, D.C. Section

National Capital Tay-Sachs Foundation Nevey Shalom, The Jewish Congregation

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 Beth Torah Temple B'nai Shalom Temple Beth Ami Temple Emanuel Temple Micah

Temple Rodef Shalom

Temple Shalom

Temple Sinai, Washington DC

Temple Solel

The Generation After

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

Tifereth Israel Congregation Tikvat Israel Congregation

Tzedek DC*

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Seaboard Region

Union for Reform Judaism, Mid-Atlantic Region Washington Board of Rabbis

Washington DC Jewish Community Center

Washington Hebrew Congregation

Women's American ORT

Women's International Zionist Organization Woodside Synagogue Ahavas Torah

Yeshiva of Greater Washington Yiddish of Greater Washington

Young Israel Shomrai Emunah Congregation

Zionist Organization of America

^{*}Strategic Partner

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