

Interfaith clergy lead thousands in song and payer at a JCRC vigil mourning the Tree of Life shooting

Unify. Mobilize. Advocate.

DEAR FRIENDS

What does it mean to be a member of the Jewish community of Greater Washington at the end of the second decade of the millennium?

It means you have a champion by your side every daywhether that's behind the scenes or on center stage.

For eight decades, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington has been an advocate for every Jew in our region. We are one of the largest and most impactful JCRCs in the country. That is because we never lose sight of our core priorities to build and nurture the Jewish community even while adapting to evolving communal realities. And it is because we strive to create a more just society for every member of the Greater Washington region.

This was a year of flux; a year of cultural and societal shifts for our Jewish community and for our nation as a whole. The JCRC played a critical role as an always-present champion of the Jewish community's changing needs.

In 2019, we brought together and galvanized a Jewish community that is diverse geographically, ideologically, politically and religiously. Even during times of division, our agency raises a balanced and nuanced voice that reflects the mainstream consensus of the organized Jewish community. We do this because together, we can more powerfully protect Jewish life and Jewish rights. And together, we can better defend Jewish values and preserve our collective Jewish legacy.

The JCRC safeguards our community through every area of our work: Legislative Advocacy and Government Affairs in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia; the Israel Action Center; Intergroup Relations; Holocaust Remembrance and **Education; and Education Outreach**. We advocate for the policy priorities of the Jewish community and build and nurture strong positive connections between Greater Washington and Israel. We empower Jewish Washingtonians to identify legislative priorities and stand up to see their core values realized in the halls of their local, state and federal governments. And we endeavor to make Greater Washington a place of deeper justice and equity for all members of our community.

The JCRC will continue to be our community's Everyday Champions, steadfastly and effectively working on behalf of all residents of Greater Washington. Thank you to every JCRC activist, member, partner and friend who helped us achieve the milestones detailed in this report.

B'Shalom,

Summel 6. Kaplan Brown Hallon

Sam Kaplan President, 2018-20

Executive Director

Senator Chris Van Hollen meets Smith Jewish Day School

SMITH JEWISH DAY



The JCRC's expertise and partnership have been invaluable to our school as we have sought access to government funding for our increased security needs. With the JCRC's guidance, we have successfully been granted federal, state and county funds to help offset the major cost increases we have seen in recent years keeping our students, faculty and community protected."

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

JCRC activists meet with Montgomery County Rice and Sidney Katz

SECURING OUR COMMUNITY

Acclaimed historian Professor Deborah Lipstadt discussed her newest book, Antisemitism Here and Now, with community leaders

and elected officials.

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

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



The JCRC is the central voice for Jews in District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. We identify the issues most critical to our diverse community and organize grassroots activists into a powerful and united advocacy body. Together, we lobby our elected officials to enact legislation and allocate funding that reflects our community's values and addresses our needs.

District of Columbia

- Accompanied Mayor Muriel
 Bowser, and Councilmembers
 Anita Bonds and Brandon Todd
 on a trade mission to Israel.

 JCRC leaders joined a delegation
 that explored partnerships
 benefitting communities in
 Washington, DC and Israel.
- Briefed DC Council members on the dangers of current antiIsrael BDS campaigns targeting municipalities and facilitated a session for the entire Council with renowned academic Deborah Lipstadt, about historic and current anti-Semitism.
- Partnered with Tzedek DC to successfully advocate for the enactment of a wage garnishment reform law that will protect low-income workers.

JCRC Past President Cookie Hymer Blitz, then-JCRC staff member Darcy Hirsh, and community activists at Jewish Disability Advocacy Day

JCRC Executive Director Ron Halber, Edlavitch **Jewish Community Center** of Washington, DC CEO Carole Zawatsky, Edlavitch **Jewish Community Center** of Washington, DC lay leader Janis Schiff, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, JCRC Vice President Thorn Pozen, Washington Hebrew Congregation's Rabbi Bruce Lustig, JCRCs Israel Action Center Director Alexis Schwartz, and AJC Washington Regional Director Alan Ronkin on economic trade mission to Israel.



Advocacy Day



Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen addressing JCRC activists at the Maryland Legislative Breakfast. Senator Van Hollen also accompanied the JCRC on a visit to 5th graders at the Charles E Smith Jewish Day



Maryland Senator Ben Cardin addressing JCRC activists

DAYS
IN MARYLAND & VIRGINIA
110 COMMUNITY
ADVOCATES MET WITH
41 ELECTED OFFICIALS

ADVOCACY



Maryland

Successfully advocated for legislation in the Maryland General Assembly to strengthen penalties against hate crimes, address human trafficking, promote criminal justice reform, and increase clean energy jobs.

Secured \$2 million in state grants to fund critical security needs at schools and faith-based institutions at risk of hate crimes, \$3 million for operating and capital security needs at Jewish schools and service agencies, and a \$100,000 grant from Montgomery County for synagogues and Jewish schools.

- Played a critical role in advocating for increased funding 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.
- Hosted pre-election debates with candidates for Congress and Montgomery County Executive, attended by 350 members of the Jewish community, including one screened live on C-SPAN.
- Hosted the second annual Schmooze and Nosh Legislative Breakfast with over 250 activists and 60 federal, state, county, and municipal elected officials.

Virginia



Hosted our first-ever Virginia Legislative Breakfast, keynoted by political analyst Bill Schneider, for 200 activists and two dozen elected officials.



Successfully advocated for Virginia legislation combatting bias and discrimination, preventing gun violence, supporting criminal justice reform, ensuring church-state separation in public schools, and commemorating the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht.



Successfully advocated for Virginia legislation requiring mandatory clergy reporting of sexual abuse of minors and hosted a compliance training for Jewish clergy members about their obligations under the new law.



Hosted then-Minority Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates Eileen Filler-Corn for a briefing on legislative initiatives that directly impact women and families.

BELOW BOTTOM TO TOP:

Virginia Jewish Advocacy Day activists and JCRC Virginia Commission Co-Chair Beth Mitchell meet with Delegate Mark Levine

The JCRC honored outgoing Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett

Virginia House Minority Leader Eileen Filler-Corn at the JCRC's Virginia Legislative Breakfast



LEGISLATIVE RECEPTIONS IN VIRGINIA & MARYLAND 84 LEGISLATORS 450 ATTENDEES

JCRC staff member Julie Greenwald and then-staff member Meredith Weisel deliver new stuffed animals donated by JCRC Board members to the Montgomery County Family Justice Center (MCFJC), which offers a safe space and services to victims of domestic violence and their children. YORAM COHEN FAMILY

MENT FEllowship

2018-2019 Israel Education Fellows at the Embassy of Israel



JCRC Associate
Director Guila
Franklin Siegel,
community activist
Steph Black and
JCRC Board
Member Carly
Pildes protesting
exclusion of Jewish
pride flags at the
DC Dyke March

ISRAEL ACTION CENTER

The JCRC deepens existing connections between Jewish and non-Jewish residents of Greater Washington and Israel, the spiritual and historic homeland of the Jewish people. We organize our diverse community so they can celebrate Israel with joy, advocate for Israel with strength, learn about Israel with nuance, and combat efforts to defame Israel with courage and determination.

Mobilized the Jewish community to oppose a discriminatory decision by the DC Dyke March to ban pride flags with Stars of David from their event. With partners Zioness and A Wider Bridge, we directed national and international attention to pressure march organizers and succeeded in ensuring that women displaying Jewish symbols were allowed to march.

Promoted a petition to fight an anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) resolution at the University of Maryland.

The JCRC's support helped UMD students defeat the biased resolution.

Brought Israeli elections to the Washington community with a live watch party featuring Israeli election analysis by i24NEWS Senior Washington Correspondent, Dan Raviv and Haaretz' Amir Tibon, in partnership with the Embassy of Israel, The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, and the Israeli American Council.

Welcomed Christians United for Israel to our community for two days of discussion with lay leaders, Israel engagement professionals and the Washington Board of Rabbis.

We did simulations of what it could be like being an Israel advocate on campus ... I was put up against a staff member posing as a BDS supporter accusing Israel of being an apartheid state. Although I knew what the response was, it's nerve-wracking to argue with an aggressive opponent. After completing the simulation, I had gained a lot of confidence, knowing that I would be able to handle myself and present the facts should a situation like that arise."

RACHEL FRIEDMAN, FALL 2018 ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT FELLOW

Israel Education Fellow Rachel Friedman, from Fairfax, VA, speaks at the Embassy of Israel

Engaged 48 teenagers in Israel education and advocacy training in the tenth and eleventh cohorts of the Israel Engagement Fellowship (funded by the Margo and Yoram Cohen Family and co-sponsored by The Jewish Federation of

Greater Washington).

ISRAEL
ISRAEL
ENGAGEMENT
FELLOWSHIP
HAS GRADUATED
200 DMV AREA STUDENTS
40 HIGH SCHOOLS AND
50 SYNAGOGUES
& YOUTH GROUPS

6 Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washi



JCRC Associate Director Guila Franklin Siegel speaking with a delegation from the Israeli Ministry of Education's Society and Youth Administration, as part of the JCRC's ongoing partnership with the Gesher Leadership Institute to foster deeper awareness and connection between Israeli opinion-shapers and Diaspora Jewry.

Hosted and co-sponsored briefings, public forums and conference calls for 1,265 community members with expert speakers including Founding Editor of the Times of Israel David Horovitz, bereaved Israeli and Palestinian members of The Parents Circle, Executive Director of T'ruah Rabbi Jill Jacobs, and iournalists Yair Rosenberg and Amir Tibon, on topics including potential ramifications of Israeli annexation, Israel's nation-state law, security on Israel's borders, the alarming rise in anti-Semitism in France. Israel's 2019 elections. Israeli-Palestinian efforts at reconciliation, and the future of Israel-Diaspora relations.





Haaretz Correspondent Amir Tibon and the Director of the United States Institute of Peace's Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Program Lucy Kurtzer-Ellenbogen offer analysis at the JCRC's IsraVote mock elections event the night before Israel's 2019 vote.



Adat Shalom

Reconstructionist Congregation Rabbi Fred

Scherlinder Dobb and Imam Johari Abdul-Malik

at the interfaith vigil.

Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal and the Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council Working Group met with Belgian Muslim leaders to discuss diversity and challenges to welcoming immigrants in our communities.

Unite the Right rally in Washington DC

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

The JCRC is the face and voice of Greater Washington's
Jews to other faith and ethnic communities in our region. We
create and nurture relationships with key allies and leaders
during times of joy and times of crisis. We take seriously
our responsibility to work towards justice and equity for all
members of the Greater Washington community and to also
advocate for the needs of our friends and coalition partners.



Mobilized five thousand Washingtonians of all faiths, elected officials, and more than 100 clergy members to a vigil at Adas Israel Congregation to remember and mourn the lives of the 11 Jews murdered at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.



Galvanized the regional interfaith community in opposition to the white supremacist "Unite the Right II" march in Washington. Created an Interfaith Declaration of Unity and Tolerance and secured the signatures of more than 200 houses of worship. Co-sponsored a press conference and interfaith Shabbat attended by hundreds at Washington Hebrew Congregation.

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"The JCRC is a valuable partner in building a collegial and responsible interfaith community in Montgomery County. Together we have developed dialogue programs to raise awareness of bias and racism and to build trusting relationships with all faith communities, County Police and County Fire & Rescue Service. When the JCRC alerts us to a hate-motivated incident, we and other faith communities are quick to respond with compassion because of the trusting relationship we have built."

THE REV. DR. CAROL FLETT, CO-CHAIR OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S FAITH COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP



Thousands of community members gather at the JCRC vigil to mourn the Tree of Life shooting.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington CEO Gil Preuss, Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, JCRC Executive Director Ron Halber at the interfaith vigil.



Thousands of additional community members participate in an impromptu overflow service outside of the Tree of Life vigil inside Adas Israel.



Rev. Mansfield "Kasey" Kaseman speaking at the JCRC's interfaith press conference prior to the Unite the Right rally in Washington DC

10 Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE & EDUCATION

The JCRC leads our regional community in Holocaust commemoration and education. The number of Holocaust survivors able to share their stories is dwindling and knowledge of the Holocaust among young Americans has plummeted. The JCRC is responding by creating and implementing a wider range of programs to bring Holocaust remembrance into schools, homes and other environments to ensure our community honors and understands the critical lessons of the darkest time in our modern history.

> Holocaust survivor Sacks speaking Saint Bernadette Catholic School.



speaking with students at

This was our school's first time ever doing a Holocaust Commemoration event... it is important to teach our students history but also empathy. [Our students] ranged from never hearing about the Holocaust before to students and staff whose grandparents were Holocaust survivors. We feel incredibly grateful [Holocaust survivor Josie Traum] came. She bravely shared her family's story and connected immediately with our staff and students. The students and staff still ask me when she will come back to visit, and how thankful they are I set up the presentation.

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

olocaust survivor Manny Mandel spoke

to 600 students at Walter Johnson High Virginia teens light *yarzheit* memorial candles on Yom HaShoah

Holocaust Survivor Irene Weiss and her daughter Lesley Weiss light a candle on Yom HaShoah

Hosted more than 1,000 community members at Yom HaShoah commemorations in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

brought Holocaust survivors
to speak to 5,000 students in
classrooms in Greater Washington
about their experiences during the
Shoah and the dangers of unchecked
intolerance and hate.

Partnered with The Jewish
Federation of Greater Washington
to facilitate Zikaron BaSalon,
an innovative program that
brings intimate and meaningful
testimony and discussion of the
Holocaust into the living rooms of
community members.

Hosted a book reading and discussion for 75 people with Holocaust survivor Manny Mandel, who served as Chair of the JCRC's Maryland Holocaust Commemoration for many years.



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"I felt so proud to be able to share about my religion with everyone on Sunday and to be able to learn about other aspects of Judaism with people who observe it in completely different ways."

STUDENT TO STUDENT PARTICIPANT, AFTER HER FIRST PRESENTATION

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Student to Student teens spoke with Sikh peers and toured the Guru Gobind Singh Foundation in Rockville. The JCRC of Greater Washington is the only JCRC in the country with a full-time professional dedicated to working with regional education systems. Our goals are to advocate the concerns of Jewish students in public and private schools, to ensure that educators and school administrators are equipped to meet the needs of Jewish students and their families, and to partner with interfaith coalitions to ensure a safe, welcoming learning environment for all students.

Holocaust Survivor Clara Miles and her daughter Susan Miles light a candle on Yom HaShoah

14



Deichman, and Lila Retting lighting shabbat candles at Truro Anglican Church



Launched the first complete year of the JCRC's Student to Student program, training 40 teenagers from 15 public and private schools in DC, Maryland and Virginia to educate their peers about Jewish practices and beliefs, anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist and unidentified teens met with 1,000 non-Jewish peers, teachers and clergy. The Student to Student Program is funded by a grant from United Jewish Endowment Fund of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

TRAINED
40
TEENAGERS FROM
15
PUBLIC & PRIVATE SCHOOLS





Trained 150 educators in Montgomery
County Public Schools about the needs
of Jewish students and rising antiSemitism in schools.



Facilitated a meeting between local Rabbis and Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Scott Brabrand and his leadership team to discuss rising anti-Semitism and improving the learning environment for Jewish students.



Responded to incidents of anti-Semitism in public and private schools in Greater Washington by working with parents, educators, administrators and law enforcement to ensure incidents were taken seriously, and responses were appropriate and timely.



"Thank you for having the students from the JCRC address our class. I learned so much and my eyes were opened to the traditions of the Jewish community. [Hearing the students' personal stories] helped to make the experience more relatable seeing that they are teens and we are not so different. The work you and the students are doing is very powerful and has made an impact on me and I am truly grateful."

STUDENT FROM STONE RIDGE SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART

Annual Report 2019 | 5779





(%) Securing our Community

Synagogues Across U.S. Step Up Security in Wake of Pittsburgh Shooting October 28, 2018

Jewish community in DC area considering new security measures at synagogues, including armed guards October 29, 2018

Permanent security needed at synagogues, say DC faith leaders October 29, 2018



Proposed laws in D.C. and Va. would require clergy to report sexual abuse December 26, 2018

Legislative Advocates For the Win: New **Cost-Saving Measures and Security** Funding January 17, 2019

County Awards \$200,000 in Security **Grants to Faith-based Groups** March 22, 2019

(%) Israel Action Center

Announcement of Direct Flights from DC to Israel Represents a Triumph of Local Teamwork August 16, 2018

A New Wave of Democrats Test the Party's Blanket Support for Israel October 7, 2018

The controversy over the DC Dyke March, **Jewish stars and Israel, explained** June 7, 2019

(%) Intergroup Relations

DC Jews launch weekend of counterprotests to white supremacist rally recalling Charlottesville August 10, 2018

'Such an unspeakable tragedy': Area leaders show solidarity at DC synagogue October 29, 2018

Tragedy aftermath highlights the power of intergroup relations November 14, 2018

(%) Holocaust Remembrance & Education

Remembering the Shoah May 8, 2019

(%) Education Outreach

Suburban DC school board apologizes for art contest winner parents saw as anti-Semitic March 31, 2019

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Wash



SHELDON GROSBERG, Z"L AND ANITA EPSTEIN, Z"L

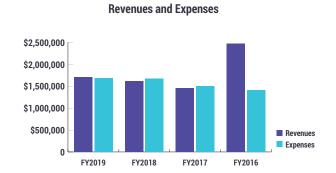
The JCRC lost two cherished and dedicated community leaders this year.

Sheldon Grosberg was a long-serving member of the JCRC Board of Directors and many other organizations including The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, Washington Adventist Hospital, and Save A Child's Heart. He was the founding executive director of the Garden of Remembrance and a past president of the Jewish Council for the Aging. He died in September, 2019 at the age of 80 and was remembered by friends and family as a "mensch of all mensches" for his kind heart and commitment to serving those in need within the Jewish community and beyond. In 2017, Sheldon received the JCRC's Community Leadership award for his exemplary service.

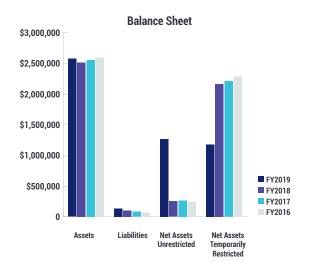
Anita Epstein served on the JCRC's Board of Directors and Holocaust commission for many years. A child survivor of the Holocaust, Anita was smuggled out of Nazi-occupied Poland and hidden with a Catholic family. She was later reunited with her mother, the only other survivor from their family. Anita wrote a memoir about her experiences, and generously shared her life story with the Greater Washington community through the JCRC's Holocaust education programs and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Anita died in June, 2019 from complications with Parkinson's disease.

May Sheldon and Anita's memories and legacies of service to others be a blessing to their families and the Greater Washington community.

FINANCIAL REVIEWS



Over the last four years, the agency's budget has increased, and that trend is expected to continue as the JCRC expands its operations to meet growing community needs. The significant increase in revenue in FY16 resulted from the "Campaign for the Future" to provide necessary funding for JCRC's growth. In FY17, the JCRC began to use the funds from this campaign.



The JCRC's balance sheet continues to be strong.

Assets consist mainly of Cash and Receivables from The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington for the FY20 Allocation and pledges from the June 2019 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. Net Assets-With Donor Restrictions represent funds to be used in the coming years for specific purposes.



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ORGANIZATIONS

ADL

AIPAC AJC, Washington DC Alpha Epsilon Pi Bender Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington Capital Camps and Retreat Center Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School Charles E. Smith Life Communities Edlavitch DC JCC Garden of Remembrance Gesher Jewish Day School Israel Bonds JCADA Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia Jewish Council for Public Affairs Jewish Council for the Aging Jewish Federations of North America Jewish Foundation for Group Homes Jewish Social Services Agency Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School Momentum Unlimited Orthodox Union National Council of Jewish Women, Montgomery County Chapter The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington The Progress Club Foundation Sunflower Bakery Tzedek DC

JCRC Gala Honorees Steve and Tal Widdes, Erwin Groner, Daniel and Wendi Abramowitz

SYNAGOGUES Adas Israel Congregation Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation Agudas Achim Congregation Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation Beth El Hebrew Congregation Beth Sholom Congregation and Talmud Torah Bethesda Jewish Congregation Congregation Adat Reyim Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County Congregation Beth Emeth Congregation B'nai Israel Congregation B'nai Tzedek Congregation Har Shalom Congregation Olam Tikvah Congregation Or Chadash Kehilat Pardes - The Rock Creek Synagogue Kehilat Shalom Kesher Israel: The Georgetown Synagogue Ohr Kodesh Congregation Shaare Tefila Congregation Shaare Torah Temple Beth Ami Temple B'nai Shalom Temple Fmanuel Temple Micah Temple Rodef Shalom Temple Shalom Temple Sinai Tikvat Israel Congregation Washington Hebrew Congregation Women of Temple Rodef Shalom

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

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Chesapeake Area Reconstructionist Council Congregation Adat Revim 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

Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School

Charles E. Smith Life Communities

Fabrangen Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park Gesher 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, 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 Kehilat Pardes - The Rock Creek Synagogue Kehilat Shalom Kemp Mill Synagogue Kesher Israel: The Georgetown Synagogue Kol Shalom

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Na'amat USA Greater Washington Council

(Montgomery County, Northern Virginia, DC)

Nevey Shalom, The Jewish Congregation of Belair

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National Council of Jewish Women

National Capital Tay-Sachs Foundation

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Momentum Unlimited

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24 Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington Annual Report 2019 | 5779



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