

MOBILIZING **OUR COMMUNITY**

Jewish Community **Relations** Council

JCRC of Greater Boston

Kraft Family Building 126 High Street Boston, MA 02110 617.457.8600 jcrcboston.org info@jcrcboston.org BostonJCRC SestonJCRC





SUPPORTED BY

LETTER from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & PRESIDENT**

to reach a consensus on public issues and advances these priorities in the halls of power. This year, we've taken steps to protect democracy by advocating for passage of the Automatic Voter Registration Bill, and upholding justice by advocating for passage of the Criminal Justice Reform Bill.



net by lobbying for a humane and compassionate state budget. This year, in a time of limited resources, JCRC has secured government funding for our community and our partners in excess of our organizational budget.

We are the organization that collaborates with our interfaith neighbors to tackle pressing issues of civic concern. This year, as our foreign-born neighbors were targeted for deportation, JCRC took action. We responded by building robust networks of solidarity and support with our partner organizations.

We're **proud** to present the story of our work in 2018 — the challenges we responded to, the ways we **mobilized our community to action** on pressing issues, and the **new initiatives we launched** to reflect both the changing political landscape and the emerging passions and interests of our community. As we look back on our work this year, we cannot help but reflect on the **evolution** of our role as the voice of the organized Jewish community in the public square that is Greater Boston.

When JCRC was established, nearly 75 years ago, we were driven by a **profound and urgent agenda** – speaking out and acting in the name of a united community to protect and defend the interests of our brothers and sisters under attack, both locally and globally. Whether it was intervening on behalf of Jewish teens being assaulted in Boston or advocating for refugees fleeing Europe in the wake of the Holocaust, our proud legacy was as a powerful "defense" organization ready to mobilize to defend our People in time of crisis.

While historical realities have changed dramatically since that time, critical elements of our mission have remained constant. We remain proudly committed to **defending Jewish interests** and values by naming and combating anti-Semitism wherever it occurs, by advocating for Israel's promising future, and by ensuring adequate resources for the agencies providing **vital services to our community**. But over the years, profound shifts in our community and the world around us have required us to reinvent ourselves over and over again - to expand our mission, to innovate, and to pursue an expansive and ambitious agenda.

This has never been truer than it is in 2018.

In the coming year, we will embark on a new **Strategic Plan**. This process will enable us to hone our focus on a bold future, to continue to engage the next generation as stakeholders and leaders, and to reaffirm our commitment to a powerful platform for collective action on behalf of our community. We look forward to sharing the Strategic Plan with you when it is completed, and we welcome your participation as we tackle new challenges and pursue new opportunities in the name of Boston's Jewish community.

JEREMY BURTON Executive Director

STACEY BLOOM President



Executive Director

Stacey Bloom President













WHO IS JCRC IN 2018?

We are the organization that convenes our community

We are the organization that protects the social safety

We are the organization that engages Bostonians in the Jewish community and beyond – with Israel. This

year, we've woven vital connections between young Jews in Boston and Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers working for a more hopeful and promising future and in support of a two-state solution.

FROM THE BORDER TO BOSTON:

OUR WORK FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE



Witnessing the escalation in the harassment and targeting of immigrants on a national level can lead to despair and paralysis for a local community like ours. But rather than succumb to helplessness, we catalyzed local action - through our synagogue organizing efforts - with significant impact on immigrants we've gotten to know right here in Boston. Drawing on the passion and commitment of our community, we've organized 18 synagogues and over 400 volunteers in Sanctuary clusters that are actively supporting families in crisis by providing shelter, food, and other needed services.

On August 15th at Temple Emanuel, more than 120 people from 40+ synagogues and Jewish communal organizations came together to show up for immigrant justice. Participants left with a passionate and renewed sense of their power to act in support of our neighbors in need.





who took on immigration cases

^{\$}120K raised with interfaith partners for bond funds

> 40 people bonded and out of detention

"In seeing this work, I felt strengthened, I felt the power and love of our Jewish community and our commitment to showing up when it matters."

— Ida Assefa, BIJAN Organizer



Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network

When we learned of the dire needs of immigrants in detention right here in Boston, we worked with our other faith-based partners to create a new interfaith grassroots collaboration - the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN) which has mobilized over 700 volunteers supporting over 200 undocumented people currently or once detained in the South Bay detention center by providing pastoral, financial, and emotional support.



Rami Elhanan (left) and Mazen Fraraj (right). Photo source: Boston Globe

ADVANCING A VISION OF RECOGNITION AND LASTING PEACE

For all of us who love Israel, these are trying times. The sense of a stalemate on progress toward peace is leading to a disturbing trend. As many Jews, especially many younger ones, are losing hope for a peaceful future, they are disengaging and disconnecting.

But we at JCRC derive our hope for a vibrant and peaceful future from the robust efforts of thousands of Palestinians and Israelis in the field, working together every day in pursuit of a more peaceful and promising future. Together with CJP, we launched Boston Partners for Peace to amplify these coexistence efforts and invite our Boston community to be part of bringing about a brighter future.

Boston Partners for Peace connects our community to Israeli and Palestinian changemakers and ignites hope as an alternative to despair. Through this initiative, the Boston Jewish community invests in and expands the potential of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) building a shared future in four critical areas: civic engagement, people-to-people groups, economic cooperation, and education. The path to a better future must come from changemakers on the ground who are creating partnerships and collaborations across all that too often divides them, recognizing each other's human dignity, and affirming each other's narrative and legitimacy in a shared homeland.

Boston Partners for Peace host Parents Circle Families Forum

On September 30th, Boston Partners for Peace hosted a visit with both an Israeli and a Palestinian leader of the Parents Circle Families Forum, a group of bereaved families who have lost family members in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Rami Elhanan and Mazen Fraraj, Co-Directors of the Parents Circle, discussed their heartbreaking personal experiences with loss and how they have been transformed into peacemakers through their grief. Over the weekend, 215 people heard their powerful message in synagogues and a church setting.



BOSTON PARTNERS FOR PEACE





• Jerusalem Double • Kids4Peace

• The Parents Circle



- EDUCATION
- Hand in Hand Schools • MIT MEET Science Training
 - Encouraging Peace (STEP)

• Peres Center for Peace

- CIVIC
- Seeds of Peace • Women Wage Peace ENGAGEMENT



 Appleseeds Academy • EcoPeace Collective Impact

Kav Mashve







ACHIEVING WINS FOR OUR COMMUNITY ON BEACON HILL



For decades, JCRC has championed the values and interests of Greater Boston's Jewish community on Beacon Hill.

In 2018, JCRC achieved an unprecedented level of success in advancing the priorities of the Jewish community in the state budget process, securing a total of \$3,842,000 in state funding for a broad range of human services, more than \$2 million of which will now go to support the work of our partner agencies. In collaboration with these agencies, we've secured funding for our three overarching priority areas: creating pathways to economic opportunity, supporting individuals and families in their homes, and ensuring safety for our most vulnerable.

The 2019 state budget bears powerful testimony to our impact. Additional dollars will support our community's longstanding priorities – as well as addressing more recent threats, such as nonprofit security. When JCCs and day schools were experiencing the disruption and fears of bomb threats, JCRC acted swiftly, leading efforts to create a pilot program to provide security support to nonprofits. In its 2019 budget, the state doubled the grant to \$150,000, and these funds were made available to nonprofits across the Commonwealth. In this time of heightened urgency at home and across the country, JCRC is vigilant about identifying and addressing critical new challenges as they emerge.

SUPPORTING MA/ISRAEL BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

At a time when the commitment to the US-Israel relationship is being challenged, JCRC acted decisively to create a robust foundation for stronger ties. In close collaboration with the New England Israel Business Council, we secured funding in the state Economic Development Bill that guarantees \$250,000 to facilitate and support the Massachusetts-Israel Economic Connection. The new funding will be dedicated to the pursuit of economic collaboration between Israel and the Commonwealth.



MA Governor Charlie Baker speaks at our 2018 Legislative Reception



Jewish Vocational Service's Bridges to College program has helped helped over 500 students improve their academic skills and enroll in college.

Legislative Successes

During a legislative season with only modest gains, we advocated and organized our community to support the passage of a sweeping **Criminal Justice Reform bill.** In partnership with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), we activated hundreds of Jews at five synagogues, who championed the bill by hosting discussions with legislators in which they advocated powerfully for provisions to stem the flow of mass incarceration. The bill's passage has led to greater interest in the critical role District Attorneys play in achieving our community's criminal justice priorities.

With the scourge of gun violence continuing unabated, JCRC seized an opportunity to further strengthen state legislation. Continuing our ongoing work with the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, we advocated successfully for passage of the **Extreme Risk Protective Order** (ERPO) bill. ERPO temporarily allows loved ones to remove weapons from people who pose a risk to themselves and others. We have responded with voter education campaigns, partnering with the ACLU on education programs in synagogues underscoring the depth of our commitment to this issue.

Thanks to JCRC's advocacy, the 2019 state budget includes the following gains to social safety net programs:

Bridges to College:	
To Jewish Vocational Service	\$250,000
For statewide model	\$250,000
Transitions to Work	\$150,000
Immigrant & Refugee Training	\$1,000,0000
Secure Jobs Initiative	\$1,000,000
(+35% vs	2018 budget)
Fragile Beginnings & Project NES	s \$400,000
Naturally Occurring	
Retirement Communities	\$642,000
Nonprofit Security	\$150,000

EXPANDING OUR COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS







DISCOVERING THE JOY OF READING

As we entered our third decade of training and placing Jewish volunteer tutors in under-resourced elementary schools throughout Greater Boston, we wanted to do even more to address the needs of our partner schools that are so sorely stretched for resources. So, we expanded the opportunities for volunteers to be part of our **GBJCL** community by participating in book drives, author visits, and library renewal projects, and by tutoring for any length of time that works for them. We are now discovering ever-increasing ways to enhance the capacity of our neighborhood schools to help children discover the joy of reading.



TEEN AND PRE-TEEN SERVICE-LEARNING

TELEM is marking its bar/bat mitzvah year by continuing to engage hundreds of preteens and teens in service learning - 781 this past year alone. This year, we offered additional opportunities for participants to join our efforts through six service day projects. One of these projects took place on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, when TELEM partnered with Rebuilding Together Boston, a non-profit that organizes building rehab projects for those in need. Eighty-one volunteers rolled up their sleeves to do a massive rehab of the interior of the Second Church Enrichment Center in Codman Square, Dorchester, transforming this vital community center into an almost new learning environment.







YOUNG ADULTS ENGAGING IN SERVICE FOR THE BROADER COMMUNITY

In response to a call from our young professionals who crave more opportunities to volunteer and build their own Jewish community, we introduced **ReachOut!'s** new "Drop-in" young adult service programs, enabling participants to volunteer in ways that fit their busy schedules and allowing them to join other volunteers for Shabbat dinners and socials. This inclusive model invites a wider swath of volunteers into the ReachOut! community and provides opportunities for them to act on their Jewish values with like-minded peers, and to the region's benefit.



JCRC CELEBRATES TELEM @ 13

In September, nearly 300 members of the Jewish community came together at JCRC Celebrates to mark the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year of our TELEM and B'nai TELEM programs. Over the past 13 years, we have engaged and inspired 9,000+ young people to volunteer through a Jewish lens.

We presented awards to four star TELEM teen and pre-teen participants. And we honored three extraordinary JCRC leaders: JCRC Past President Bill Gabovitch, recipient of the 2018 Barry Shrage Community Builder Award, and community leaders Risa Shames and Neil Silverston, who received the 2018 Community Legacy Award.

"As I continue to learn about our community and as I look to our future, it is clear that the role of JCRC is as critical as ever. During difficult times – terror in Israel, or challenging issues here at home – as we at CJP consider how best to respond, JCRC is usually the very first organization we turn to. In a world where so many are looking for simple solutions to complex problems, I see a JCRC that has been CJP's partner in trying to get to the root of a problem, working not for quick fixes but for systemic change."

 RABBI MARC BAKER, CJP PRESIDENT & CEO, pictured with Executive Director Jeremy Burton and CJP Past President Barry Shrage (L-R)

"What I value most about JCRC is that it pushes all of us out of our bubbles... In an age of tribalism within an interconnected world, that unwavering focus on the 'public square' is this organization's greatest contribution."

HONOREE RISA SHAMES, pictured with honorees
Neil Silverston (L) and Bill Gabovitch (R)

"To me, it all comes down to being as inclusive as possible, so we are strong and broad as we work together to bring equity, justice, and love to the world. The world needs a strong Jewish community, not just as a moral voice, but as an army of those committed to and working to repair this broken world."

 HONOREE BILL GABOVITCH, fourth from right, pictured with JCRC Past Presidents (L-R) Ken Sweder, Michael Bohnen, Adam Suttin, current President Stacey Bloom, Jill Goldenberg, Joel Reck, and Jim Segel





Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year













GATHERING TO LEARN AND COMMEMORATE



REDEDICATION TO RESILIENCY: YOM HASHOAH

On June 10th, our community gathered to honor the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust – and to rededicate the New England Holocaust Memorial following last summer's desecration - as a symbol of our perseverance.

Esther Adler, who witnessed Kristallnacht and rising Nazism before emigrating with her family to what is now Israel, provided powerful testimony. We recognized this year's winners of the Israel Arbiter Holocaust Essay Contest, including first place winner Sherley Maximin, a senior at Malden High School, who wrote about her visit to the New England Holocaust Memorial after it was vandalized by a student from her school, and the lifechanging encounter she had with local survivors when she was there.

"On behalf of the city of Boston, we remember the Six Million and honor the survivors who bring their strength to our communities. I rededicate with you a powerful memorial in the heart of our city and tell residents and visitors alike: we will never forget." — MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH



An excerpt from the **Boston Globe coverage** of the event:

"Nearly a year after the New England Holocaust Memorial was vandalized in two incidents. the monument was rededicated Sunday in a ceremony that compared that violence with Kristallnacht — 'the Night of Broken Glass' — when Nazis and their supporters smashed windows in Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues in Germany 80 years ago."

Opposite page, top: Essay contest winners with Esther Adler and Malden Mayor Gary Christenson, center

Left: Esther Adler lights a <mark>candle in</mark> memory of her family



The annual lecture is named for Connie S. Birnbaum, *z"l*, who worked tirelessly for an array of organizations within the Jewish community, always with the goal of advancing Ahavat Yisrael – the love of one Jew for the other. Upon her untimely passing from breast cancer at age 48, Connie became a symbol of Jewish unity and the inspiration for an annual event which would bring together Jews from across the width and breadth of Jewish life.



15TH ANNUAL CONNIE SPEAR BIRNBAUM MEMORIAL LECTURE

On May 7th, more than 400 members of the community joined JCRC and Ambassador Ron Dermer, Israel's ambassador to the United States, for this year's lecture.

Ambassador Dermer spoke on the topic of "Challenges Facing Israel Today," including ongoing tensions with Iran and special relationships between the United States and Israel.

Ambassador Ron Dermer

CONNECTING ISRAEL & THE COMMONWEALTH



ISRAEL STUDY TOURS

JCRC continues to organize Study Tours for elected officials and Christian clergy leaders (25 participants this year) to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities and challenges facing the country and the region beyond the oversimplified media sound bites. Participants returned inspired by what they learned and eager to share their new perspectives with their communities. In response, JCRC has enhanced our alumni engagement strategy; providing continuing education not only to our clergy alums, but also to their congregations during and after their church services.







SPOTLIGHT ON STUDY TOUR PARTICIPANT CLEMENTINA CHÉRY

Chaplain Chéry founded the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in 1994 after the murder of her fifteenyear-old son Louis. She is an internationally recognized expert in the field of homicide response and is an ordained Chaplain and



a Lady of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, the highest honor bestowed on a lay Catholic. Chaplain Chéry has served families of murder victims for over two decades and has trained thousands of public health professionals, law enforcement officials, and religious leaders in the best practices for supporting survivors and interrupting cycles of retaliatory violence. Chaplain Chery was part of the 2018 JCRC Christian Clergy Israel Study Tour.

What were the highlights of your experience on your recent study tour trip with JCRC?

There were many highlights of my study tour trip with JCRC, and I could never convey the full scope and complexity of daily life in Israel. Unearthing the deeply embedded layers of trauma in the region is challenging, to say the least. The individuals we met were from every side of Israeli and Palestinian society and conflict, all of whom sought to be recognized and valued for their humanity. These community leaders who are maintaining their focus on faith, courage, truth, and peace inspired me. Most enlightening, each conveyed messages of love for their neighbors, the importance of identity, and the power of trust, reconciliation, and forgiveness.

What were the connections between your work and the people you met with in Israel?

I felt an authentic connection with the speakers of the Parents Circle Family Forum. Those who have been personally impacted by violence are often the ones who teach that peace in the midst of conflict can be achieved. Many of the people we encountered on this trip shared their painful experiences. Most encouraging, they showed a commitment to transcending their own trauma narratives by initiating and directing innovative community programs. This was a familiar connection I sensed many times throughout this journey. In different parts of the world, cultures and classes notwithstanding, the work and desires of the Peace Institute and of many of the people we met are similar: treat each other with basic human dignity, reconciliation, peace, forgiveness, love, justice, and truth.

OPPOSING BDS EFFORTS IN CAMBRIDGE

In April, JCRC mobilized a broad network of member agencies, allies, and community leaders to defeat an effort to have the Cambridge City Council align the city with the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Movement by boycotting Hewlett Packard, a company that does business in Israel. In three short weeks, we rallied support among a wide coalition across the Cambridge community, actively engaging the council members and the public, and presenting Council members with meaningful ways to advance peace through alternatives to BDS.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADDRESSING CHRISTIAN ANTI-ISRAEL RHETORIC

When a bishop from the Episcopal Diocese of MA stood before delegates at the denomination's national convention in July and shared false and inflammatory accounts of Israeli violence against children, JCRC leapt into action. Drawing on relationships built over years of working together, we reached out immediately to both of the Commonwealth's bishops. We conveyed the hurt and anger of our community about the outrageous allegations, and the damage that such unfounded claims have caused to the Jewish people throughout our history. The Diocese issued a public apology the following day. The issue, which made both local and national news, was reported in the Boston Globe with comments from JCRC Deputy Director Nahma Nadich: "The meeting allowed for the two groups to repair any rupture in our relationship. This is not the end of the conversation, but it's a move that makes further conversation possible, even on areas where the groups disagree."

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Legacy Heritage FSODE

JCRC is a proud member of the first cohort of PRESIDE, a unique initiative of Legacy Heritage Fund that prepares board chairs, chairs-elect, and their CEOs, to lead with lewish values. building a sustainable culture of intentional leadership and effective governance within their organizations. JCRC is grateful for being chosen to participate in PRESIDE and looks forward to sharing with the community how this program has positively impacted our organization and its leadership.

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int	Ben Poor Synagogue Organizer
lent	Emily Reichman Director, Service Initiatives
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ELEM	Coalition for Literacy

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We extend our sincere gratitude to those listed in this report who have chosen to support the Jewish Community Relations Council, including 100% of our voting Board members. This donor report is reflective of gifts made in FY18 (October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018).

We have made every effort to recognize our donors correctly. Please excuse any typographical errors and omissions. Please direct any corrections and concerns to Solón Arguello at sarguello@jcrcboston.org.

Thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

\$100,000+

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ravitz	Audrey Winter-Driben
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	Joni & Dr. Rodney Falk
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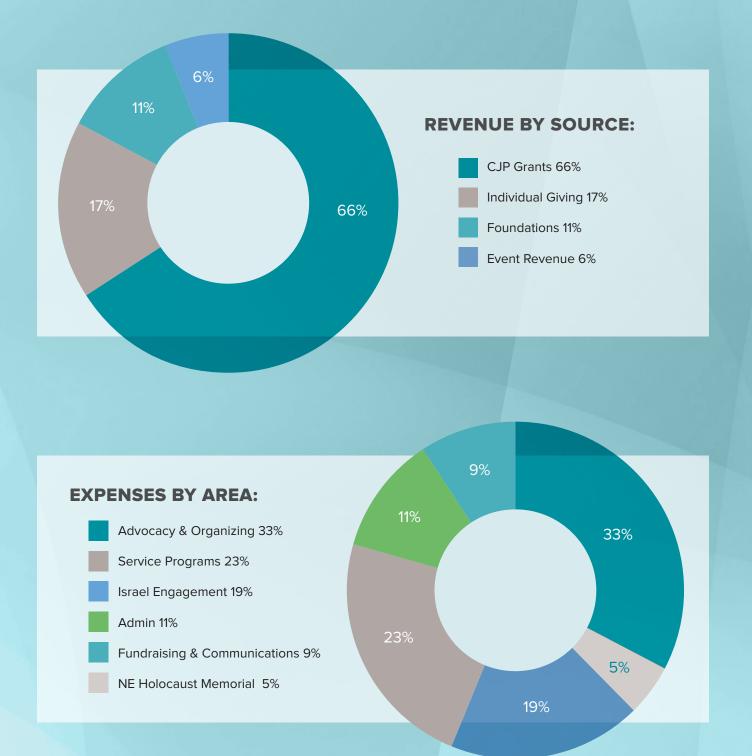
Rabbi Carl Perkins & Temple Aliyah, Needham Ruth & Rabbi Daniel Pernick Sharon Gillis & Tom Phillips Ilene Pincus Jinny & Jerry Pinsky Rebecca & Charlie Platt Victoria Rakov The Rashi School Daniel Reich Iill & Don Reichman Jeff Remis Leah Robins* Nicole Roos Roberta Roos Rabbi Barbara Penzner & Brian Rosman Stephen Ross Shelley & Stuart* Rossman Greta Rothschild Daniel Rothstein Arnold Rotter Carol Steinberg & Jerry Rubin The Martha and Max Rubinstein Family Foundation Rabbi Rachel & Doug Saphire Leslie & Richard Saltzberg Susan & Stuart Salzberg Rabbi Benjamin Samuels & Congregation Shaarei Tefillah Jill & Lawrence Sandberg Aviva Sapers & Judith Sydney Lieba & Daniel Savitt Marc Schultz Nancy Schwartz & Michael Levinger **Richard Schwartz** Amy Seto

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MOBILIZING OUR COMMUNITY | page 23

JCRC BY THE NUMBERS



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

SUPPORT AND REVENUE CJP Grants Supports from Grants and Foundat Individual Donors Event Revenue Other Income Total Support and Revenue

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS TELEM Synagogue Organizing Community Relations Holocaust Programs Greater Boston Jewish Coalition fo ReachOut!

TOTAL

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Disability Advocacy Anti-Gun Violence Advocacy General Government Affairs TOTAL

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES

Administrative and Development Expenses Total expenses

SPENDING FROM RESERVE

NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

	\$1,551,669
tions	151,254
	659,500
	168,012
	11,346
	2.541.781

	343,009
	167,462
r Literacy	265,607
	131,264
	156,644
	<u> 117,676</u>

100,609
75,537
260,922
437,068

493,515

2.112.245

546,336 2.658.581

\$116,800

\$0