



JCRC OF GREATER BOSTON  
2015 ANNUAL REPORT







## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT

Dear Friend,

This year we are delighted to focus on our service programs, which — like our advocacy, organizing and Israel engagement — reflect JCRC’s core values and defines our work as an organization. JCRC’s service programs often take place out of the public eye, where hundreds of volunteers quietly provide services at a myriad of community-based organizations throughout Greater Boston every week. We are so pleased to honor these unsung heroes and tell you about their accomplishments.

JCRC’s purpose is to define and advance the values, interests and priorities of the Jewish community in the public square. So, you may ask: why is it that we prioritize engaging so many volunteers in ongoing service? How does volunteer service further our community relations agenda?

As our first service program, Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy, celebrates its 18th anniversary this year, our experience has taught us that volunteer service is a powerful vehicle not only for clarifying Jewish values and interests, but also in enabling our community members to bring them to life. Tutoring children, providing food to people living in poverty, and companionship to isolated seniors fulfills the mandates of our tradition, deepens Jewish identity and strengthens our own community as we engage together in this work. By being a part of a collective solution to Greater Boston’s thorniest challenges, we work side-by-side with other communities, developing positive relationships and exemplifying the best of Jewish values. Through our volunteers’ sustained work in the field, we are proud to have earned a reputation as a trusted and committed partner, in it for the long haul to build a stronger and more vibrant community.

In doing this work together, we affirm our commitment to our community’s values, ones that are inextricably linked to those of Greater Boston.

We are delighted to share this 2015 Annual Report and the stories that define us. As you read through these pages, please consider volunteering your time, sharing your ideas, and lending your financial support.

With profound gratitude,

**JEREMY BURTON**  
Executive Director

**ADAM SUTTIN**  
President





In 2014-15, ReachOut! was expanded to a year-round program with an eight-week summer cycle.

## REACHOUT! TURNS 5

ReachOut! provides Jewish young adults with opportunities to engage in volunteer service in nonprofits throughout Greater Boston. The program supports a community of young professionals who care deeply about improving our community, sharing meaningful Jewish experiences, and developing their own leadership skills.



“Food insecurity is a real issue in our community, one that we often don’t notice. ReachOut! not only makes a real difference by serving meals, but helps bring to light the challenges of hunger and homelessness.”

— JONATHAN SCLARSIC, A REACHOUT! VOLUNTEER FOR THE TUESDAY MEALS PROGRAM AT FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, MA



DIANA BRAVER | REACHOUT! VOLUNTEER

“ReachOut! is the best volunteer organization I have been a part of. Involvement has enabled me to work at a multitude of locations around the city with people of all socioeconomic statuses, ages and ethni-cities. You can make a direct impact on the lives of members in your own local community, and develop a deeper understanding and perspective on the problems and inequalities that exist in our city. ReachOut! is a truly unique volunteer experience. Its participants and leaders are passionate and dedicated, open-minded and inclusive, and look forward to welcoming newer volunteers into their community.”





In 2014-15, over 50 teens participated in service trips to the New York area to assist in post-Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts.

## TELEM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

TELEM engages teens in Greater Boston to deepen their Jewish identity through ongoing community-based service learning with their Jewish peers. These experiences foster a lifelong commitment to volunteerism and social justice.



“The most meaningful moment of the trip was feeling like I was actually making a difference to the homeowners’ lives. We were able to meet and hear the homeowners’ story of how their home was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. I felt so good to be a part of helping this family get their home back.”

– RACHEL HALUNEN, TEMPLE CHAYAI SHALOM, EASTON

LILI KLAYMAN | TELEM PARTICIPANT

“During April vacation, a group of 26 students from Prozdor and TELEM went on a community-service trip to New York. The trip was an absolutely amazing experience. Not only did I learn about myself throughout the week, I was constantly learning so much about people from all different types of communities while simultaneously making new, life-long friends. Because of this trip to New York, I’m looking forward to continuing service in my everyday life and helping others in any way that I can. Thank you so much to Prozdor, TELEM, and Repair the World for presenting me with this life-altering experience!”







In 2014-15, 300 GBJCL volunteers reached nearly 1,000 students each week, donating more than 8,000 hours of their time.

## GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY (GBJCL) TURNS 18!

For 18 years, the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL) has trained and placed volunteers in high-need schools in Greater Boston with the goal of improving literacy, language learning and school engagement, and academic performance for thousands of students.



“The important support GBJCL volunteers provide to our teachers, the principal, me, and most especially, the children is a blessing!”

— SHARON LINSKY, CONLEY READING SPECIALIST



### CYRILL WOLF | PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Cyrill Wolf has been volunteering at the Beethoven Elementary School since the inception of the GBJCL program and is an essential and well established member of the school community supporting teachers and students alike. In addition to being an amazing learning partner to countless students, Cyrill is also an ambassador of GBJCL, sharing her experiences as a volunteer with friends, neighbors and her fellow Temple Emanuel members. “I am a retired teacher and love every minute that I spend with the children and teachers. I have been doing this since I retired 18 years ago. I just hope to go on.”





## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



### ADVOCACY

JCRC advocates for an inclusive agenda highlighting the innovative work of our agencies. We advance our community's shared priorities by securing public funding and advocating for broad-ranging policy change.

Among our successes this past year, JCRC worked with a broad coalition to ensure that the state's share of the Earned Income Tax Credit would be increased for working families across the Commonwealth and advocated for continued funding for the Transitions to Work Program, which helps young adults with disabilities succeed in the workforce.

We also engage with our entire federal delegation on a host of issues, affecting both our domestic and international policies, including support for a strong and vibrant US-Israel relationship. We are a source of advice and counsel on these issues and nurture deep ties with our delegation and their key staff to ensure a trusted and mutual relationship.



### LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

JCRC|MAJF welcomed nearly 200 people to the 18th Annual Legislative Reception in February, celebrating our community leaders, legislators, and volunteers who dedicate themselves to addressing economic inequality, accessibility to safety net services, and the inclusion of people of all abilities. JCRC was pleased to recognize Paul Bernon and the Ruderman Family Foundation for their visionary leadership on our disability policy agenda and Senator Dan Wolf, Representative Joe Wagner and Rita Noonan from Senate President Stanley Rosenberg's office.



### PUBLIC POLICY SPEAKER SERIES

The 2015 Public Policy Speaker Series featured key state policy makers for wide ranging conversations about the issues of the day on Beacon Hill, as well as showcasing each speaker's connection with the Jewish community's priorities. In having these intimate conversations on a regular basis, JCRC aims to solidify our relationships and further advance our reputation as a key ally in policy development and implementation in the State House. Speakers this past year have included Governor Charlie Baker, House Speaker Robert DeLeo, Senate President Stanley Rosenberg, and Chair of the Senate House and Ways Committee Senator Karen Spilka.



U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren engages community leaders during a JCRC Speaker Series event.



MA Senate President Stanley Rosenberg speaks at the JCRC Legislative Reception.



MA House Speaker Robert DeLeo addresses the audience at the JCRC Legislative Reception.



Executive Director Jeremy Burton with Legislative Reception honorees Paul Bernon (left) and Jay Ruderman (center).



## COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION OF YOM HASHOAH

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the New England Holocaust Memorial and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps. To honor local survivors of the Holocaust and to pay tribute to those who perished, JCRC and its partners welcomed over 500 community members to LIBERATION: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT, a community commemoration of Yom HaShoah, in April at Faneuil Hall in Boston.



JCRC was especially honored to welcome David Eisenhower, noted historian and grandson of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, as the event's keynote speaker.



Boston Mayor Marty Walsh addressed the audience.



The Yom Hashoah event welcomed Holocaust survivors and liberators.



Winners of the 9th annual Israel Arbeiter Holocaust Essay Contest were announced at the event - Donaldo Jean-Baptiste of Malden High School and Madison Lomax of Tenney Grammar School in Methuen.

“Until the end of my last breath, I swore to myself that I would never be silent whenever and wherever I saw human beings endure suffering and humiliation of any kind. My wish is to one day open an orphanage for children who lost their parents, whether in the refugee camp or anywhere in the world. Unfortunately, children are so often the victims of violence. And they should be treated with love and care because they are the future. There wouldn't be yesterday, today, or tomorrow if there were no children in this world.”

– DONALDO JEAN-BAPTISTE,  
ESSAY CONTEST WINNER,  
MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL

## SYNAGOGUE ORGANIZING

JCRC's Synagogue Organizing team engages, trains and supports synagogue leaders to effect positive change on critical social and economic issues.

Last Spring, 17 synagogues and Jewish organizations recruited more than 400 members of our community for a major Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) assembly with Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh. JCRC-trained synagogue leaders played key roles on stage and behind the scenes, co-chairing the event and developing strategies on campaigns focused on Gun Violence Prevention, Affordable Housing, and Criminal Justice Reform.



JCRC Executive Director Jeremy Burton (right) speaks with an attendee at the GBIO Assembly.



Over 1,500 people attended the GBIO Assembly, including 400 members of the Jewish community.

“Gun Violence Prevention must be a national priority, and here in MA, we have brought it home! Last summer, under the strong and unwavering leadership of Speaker Robert DeLeo, and with the hard work of hundreds in this room and thousands beyond, including the MA Coalition and John Rosenthal of Stop Handgun Violence, we did something very few other states have managed to do in recent history: We passed sensible gun legislation that is poised to save lives.”

– JANET GOLDENBERG,  
CO-CONVENER OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS COALITION  
TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE,  
MEMBER OF TEMPLE BETH  
ELOHIM, WELLESLEY



## ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

JCRC engages influential leaders from across Greater Boston to learn about and build support for Israel.

JCRC provides briefings and analysis of current events, cultivates relationships and leads Study Tours to Israel for community leaders — one focused on elected officials and one for Christian clergy.

The JCRC Study Tour for Civic Leaders in December, 2014 offered a unique opportunity for members of the MA Legislature and other elected officials to meet the people of Israel and to gain a better understanding of the complexities and challenges facing the Middle East.

In July, 2015, JCRC lead a delegation of Christian clergy on a spiritual and fact-finding journey. The delegation met with Jews, Muslims, and Christians; Israelis and Palestinians; and people representing a wide spectrum of political and social thought.



Members of the 2015 Christian Clergy Study Tour attended the Pride Parade in Jerusalem.

“The trip was an amazing opportunity for learning and growth! The wide range of inspiring leaders we met powerfully revealed the beauty, wonder and complexity of life in Israel.”

— REV. DANIEL A. SMITH,  
FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE,  
CONGREGATIONAL, UCC



MA elected officials in Israel during the 2014 Civic Leaders Study Tour.



Rabbi Carl Perkins and Rev. Jennifer Hitt flank an IDF soldier during the 2015 Christian Clergy Study Tour.

“For my colleagues who had never been to Israel, this was an eye opening experience — a rare opportunity to get beyond the headlines and learn more about a country and a region that we often see only on the news.”

— JOSH ZAKIM, BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR



MA State Rep. Jeff Roy (left) shares a moment with tour guide Mike Hollander during the 2014 Civic Leaders Study Tour.

## CONVENING THE COMMUNITY

JCRC convenes members of the Greater Boston Jewish Community during times of crisis.

During the Gaza crisis in the summer of 2014, JCRC convened four public gatherings — 200 people attended a vigil for the safe return of three kidnapped Israeli boys; 700 people took part in a memorial service upon the tragic discovery of their murder; 1,000 people attended a solidarity rally at Congregation Mishkan Tefillah in Chestnut Hill. The final gathering, co-sponsored by more than 100 area synagogues and Jewish organizations, drew over 3,000 people to City Hall Plaza in Boston. This was the largest pro-Israel gathering in New England throughout the conflict and the first outdoor rally convened by the organized Jewish community in five years.

Following terrorist attacks in Paris in January, 2015, more than 450 people came together at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley to show solidarity with French Jews. Fabien Fieschi, the Consul General of France in Boston assured the crowd that France is taking all possible steps to protect its Jewish citizens.



Over 3,000 people attended a pro-Israel rally at City Hall Plaza (above and top right).  
Rally Photo Credits: Elan Kawesch



Fabien Fieschi, Consul General of France in Boston, spoke to an audience gathered to show solidarity with French Jews.





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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. The donor report is reflective of gifts made in FY 14 and FY 15 as of August 26, 2015. We have made every effort to recognize our donors correctly. Please excuse any typographical errors and omissions. Please direct any corrections and concerns to: Alex Friedman at [afriedman@jcrCBoston.org](mailto:afriedman@jcrCBoston.org). Thank you again for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

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 Phyllis & Adam Sonnenschein  
 Patricia & David F. Squire  
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 Rabbi Andrew Vogel, Temple Sinai, Brookline  
 The Setti Warren Committee  
 Arnee & Walter Winshall  
 Debra Yanofsky & Steven Shulman

### \$100-\$499

Stephane Acel-Green, New Israel Fund  
 Francine Achbar  
 Agulnek Family Fund  
 American Israel Public Affairs Committee  
 Susan Leopold Ansin  
 Michele Baker & Rabbi Jim Morgan  
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 Daniel Berman  
 Sara Bernstein  
 Anne Bloom  
 Karin Bloom  
 Stacey Bloom  
 Jeffrey A. Blum  
 Sharon & Scott Brightman  
 Haldron & Arlene Bryer  
 Judy & Jason Chudnofsky  
 Katherine Clark for Congress  
 Jill Cohen  
 Congregation Ahavas Achim Men's Club, Newburyport  
 Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, West Newton  
 Congregation Sha'aray Shalom, Hingham  
 Rev. June Cooper, Old South Church, Boston  
 Mark Cutler  
 Meredith Cutler  
 Susan Davidson  
 Rep. Sal DiDomenico  
 Honey Doctoroff  
 Maureen & Jeffrey Doctoroff  
 Jack Eiferman  
 Sherri Ades Falchuk  
 Varda E. & Neil Farber  
 David Farbman  
 Ruth B. Fein  
 Albert H. Fine  
 Abby Flam  
 Carol Flashner  
 Gann Academy, Waltham  
 Gateways: Access to Jewish Education, Newton

Generations After, Boston  
 Rhonda Glyman  
 Francine Godfrey  
 Bonnie & Franklin Gold  
 State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg  
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 Maxine & Donald Goldberg  
 Richard Goldberg  
 Janice & Stanley Goldstein  
 Mark Goldstein  
 Larry Gordon  
 Merle & James Grandberg  
 Helene Greenberg  
 Marla Greenfield  
 Robin Gross  
 Rabbi Eric Gurvis, Temple Shalom, West Newton  
 Hadassah Northeast, Newton  
 Joan & Robert Harris  
 Rosemary & Paul Harris  
 Sarah Hodges  
 Mark Horenstein  
 Allyson & Andrew Jaffe  
 Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston  
 Jewish Family Service of Metrowest, Framingham  
 Jewish Family & Children's Services, Waltham  
 Julie Johnson & Rep. Frank Smizik  
 J Street Education Fund  
 Rep. Louis Kafka  
 Massachusetts Service Alliance, Boston  
 Matthew Kahn  
 Susan Kams  
 Erica Kaplan  
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 The Kempner Family Foundation  
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 Ernest V. Klein  
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 American Jewish Committee, Boston  
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 Glenn Levine  
 Rabbi Daniel Liben, Temple Israel, Natick  
 Karin Lieberman  
 Leah Littlefield  
 Laura & Ery Magasanik  
 Sophia & Richard Mann  
 Sheryl & Alan Marcus  
 Mass Home Care, Burlington  
 Samuel Mendales, Hillel Council of New England  
 Karen & Jeffrey Miller  
 Nancy Mitchell  
 Seth Moulton for Congress  
 Paula & Jack Mozes  
 Charles Myers  
 Karen Nahary  
 Caren & Ben Pearlman  
 Rabbi Carl Perkins, Temple Aliyah, Needham  
 Rabbi Jay Perlman, Temple Beth Shalom, Needham  
 Carole & Fred Pritzker  
 Jane Rabinovitz  
 The Rashi School, Dedham  
 Reel Abilities Film Festival, Boston  
 Jill & Don Reichman  
 Pamela & Richard Remis  
 Senate President Stanley Rosenberg  
 Richard Rosenstein  
 Michael & Karen Rotenberg  
 Nathan Rothstein  
 Cindy Rowe  
 Melva & Barry Rowe  
 Tammy & Mehran Sadok  
 Lynne Salzman  
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 Sapers & Wallack, Inc., Newton

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 Rachel Scudder  
 Andrea Serlin, Serlin Haley LLP, Boston  
 Karen Shapiro  
 Ann Sherman  
 Matthew Sherman  
 Mark Shuster  
 Donald J. Siegel  
 Amy Silberstein  
 Janice R. Silverman Rebibo & Dr. Henry H. Silverman  
 Sam Silverman  
 Karen Sisselman  
 Jennifer Slifka & Luis Vidal  
 Marsha & Marc Slotnick  
 Joan & Fred Smith  
 Joan Snider  
 L. Seth Stadfeld  
 Barrie & Dr. Jeff Steinberg  
 Charlotte Taffet  
 Marilyn & Richard Tannenbaum  
 Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley  
 Temple Beth Shalom, Needham  
 Temple Beth Zion, Brookline  
 Temple Emeth, Chestnut Hill  
 Temple Shir Tikva, Wayland  
 Temple Shir Tikva, Winchester  
 Theodore Teplow  
 United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Boston  
 Mindy & Stanley Wachtenheim  
 Lori & Stan Weinronk  
 Sydna & Steven Weinstein  
 Reva & Peter Winston  
 Marci Wolfe  
 Genevieve & Justin Wyner  
 Terry Svanger Yoffie & Professor David Yoffie  
 Heather Zacker  
 Maxine & Paul Zarchan



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

CJP Grants	2,136,745
Support from Grants & Foundations	87,500
Individual Donors	460,664
Event Revenue	161,578
Other Income	7,509
Total support and revenue	2,853,996

### EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

#### INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Dnepropetrovsk Kehillah Project	545,440
Learning Exchange	117,098
Ethiopian Jewry/Shiluvim	91,348
TOTAL	753,886

#### SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

TELEM	383,180
Synagogue Organizing	102,995
Community Relations	140,674
Holocaust Programs	64,179
Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy	172,130
ReachOut!	97,040
TOTAL	960,198

#### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Disability Advocacy	108,190
Anti-gun Violence Advocacy	102,580
General Government Affairs	261,740
TOTAL	472,510

#### ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

123,384

Total program expenses	2,309,978
Administrative and development expenses	360,345
Total expenses	2,670,323

Net Surplus/ (Deficit)	183,673
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## JCRC STAFF

### EXECUTIVE TEAM

Jeremy Burton  
Executive Director

Elana H. Margolis  
Associate Director

Nahma Nadich  
Associate Director

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Aaron Agulnek  
Director, Public Policy

Jeff Landis  
Director, Communications

Emily Reichman  
Director, Service Initiatives

Michael Selsman  
Director, Finance and Administration

### STAFF

Stephanie Cohen  
Program Coordinator, Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy

Jean Connolly  
Senior Administrative Assistant

Shoshana Czik  
Program Coordinator, TELEM

Sasha Fastovskiy  
Communications Coordinator

Alex Friedman  
Program Assistant, Government Affairs & Development

Barry Glass  
Director, TELEM: Jewish Youth Making a Difference Together

Seth Goldberg  
Government Affairs Associate

Ariella Hellman  
Government Affairs Associate

Lisa Kessel Freedman  
Executive Assistant to Jeremy Burton and Events Coordinator

Hillel Korin  
Development Consultant

Talia Laster  
Synagogue Organizer

Rachie Lewis  
Synagogue Organizer

Tasha Lipsky  
Bookkeeper

Nancy Marin  
Database and Travel Administrator

Tracy McNamara  
Senior Coordinator, Young Adult Social Justice Programs

Vita Weinstein Murrow  
Director, Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy



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**JCRC DEFINES AND ADVANCES THE VALUES, INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES OF THE ORGANIZED JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER BOSTON IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE.**