

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington

ANNUAL REPORT 2012 • 2013 | 5773



YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHECY,
YOUR OLD MEN WILL DREAM DREAMS,
YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS.

JOEL 2:28



FRONT COVER CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Jewish Federation of Greater Washington Chief Executive Officer Steve Rakitt, Maryland Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, and Maryland District 16 Council Member Susan Lee observe a moment of silence at the Maryland Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration; Participants at the Rally to End Gun Violence in Annapolis; Free Alan Gross Third Anniversary Vigil; Hayfield Secondary School students perform at their first International Night.

BACK COVER CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JCRC Memorial menorah used for Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration; Gala guests viewing the 75th Anniversary photo display put together by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington; Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia advertises the JCRC Advocacy Day in Richmond; Participants at the Rally to End Gun Violence in Annapolis;

Dear Friends:

It is an exciting time to serve as President of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington as we celebrate our agency's 75th anniversary. If you were able to join us at our gala this past June, you had the chance to see firsthand the legacy of leadership and accomplishment that has been the hallmark of the JCRC for three quarters of a century.

In the coming year, we will engage in a *Campaign For The Future*, to expand the JCRC's capacity to continue to meet our community's future challenges.

In this annual report, we proudly share with you a look at some of our achievements of the past year.

We...

- Advocated for Jewish institutions and values
- Represented the policy interests of the Jewish community to state and local governments
- Secured millions of government dollars for Jewish agencies to help vulnerable citizens
- Educated the community about key issues of concern
- Galvanized the community in support of Israel during times of calm and crisis
- Built vital relationships with our non-Jewish partners
- Endeavored to create a society based on freedom and justice
- Worked on Jewish communal security, outreach in public schools, and Holocaust remembrance and education

The JCRC is proud to continue to fulfill the vision of a group of dedicated men who came together to build an agency that would serve, and continues to serve, as the community relations and public affairs arm of the Greater Washington Jewish community.

It is an honor to serve as our agency's president.

B'Shalom,

Joe Sandler
JCRC President

Mission Statement

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington is the central public affairs and community relations arm of the organized Jewish community in our nation's capital and surrounding region.

The JCRC advocates for Jewish institutions and values, educates the community about key issues of concern, and reaches out to our neighbors to build a better world for us all. Our work advances the values of freedom, justice and democratic pluralism.

The JCRC works to promote these values through four pillars of action: government relations, Israel advocacy, inter-group relations and social justice.

The JCRC determines a consensus on a broad range of public policy issues central to Jewish conscience and concern and then publicizes those concerns to Washington area legislators and civic, public opinion, media and interfaith leaders.

The JCRC also coordinates community programs to provide educational and advocacy opportunities on priority domestic and international issues.

Through this work, the JCRC promotes the interests of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and more than 100 constituent agencies, organizations and synagogues in the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland.

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ABOVE: Leisure World residents at the Rally to End Gun Violence in Annapolis.

Government Relations

In advance of the Maryland and Virginia legislative sessions, the JCRC met with coalition partners to discuss strategy and mutual agendas. Throughout the sessions, we monitored hundreds of pieces of legislation examining a variety of social, cultural, religious and economic issues.

Maryland Commission

Legislative Session 2013: Report on budget and policy initiatives

During the 2013 General Assembly session, the JCRC Maryland Commission worked diligently, advocating in the State legislature for bills concerning the Maryland Jewish community. We focused on advancing both budget and policy initiatives. The JCRC monitored more than two hundred bills.

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

In partnership with the Baltimore Jewish Council, we secured one million dollars in the Governor's capital budget to expand and renovate the Hillel building at the University of Maryland-College Park. Hillel, the home for Jewish students on campus, provides a center for students of all faiths, cultures and ethnicities to engage in social justice, dialogue and leadership development.

We also successfully advocated on behalf of a number of funding items in the operating budget. For many years, we have been successful in securing \$450,000 in statewide funding for the Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) program within the Department of Aging's budget. The \$450,000 is split between

the Greater Washington and Baltimore Jewish communities to provide funds to help seniors in Maryland age in place and remain in their communities. In addition to the NORC funding, we are pleased that we were able to help secure \$350,000 for the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) to meet the acute and growing needs of Holocaust survivors in the D.C.-metro area. Thank you to Governor Martin O'Malley for providing these and other critical funds for our community.

The JCRC obtained an increase in funding for the Maryland/Israel Development Center (MIDC). Last year's grant of \$139,000 was increased to \$275,000 in the Fiscal Year 2014 Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) budget. These additional dollars will enable MIDC to create more jobs in Maryland.

We were also instrumental in the securing of two bond bills: \$150,000 for the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH) and \$350,000 for the Charles E. Smith Life Communities (CESLC) for renovations to the Wasserman Residence. We appreciate our legislators in District 19 and District 16, for their efforts in securing these much needed funds.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Maryland District 16 Senator Brian Frosh welcomes participants at Maryland Advocacy Day

Senior Government Relations Associate Ashlie Bagwell briefs participants at Maryland Advocacy Day



ABOVE TOP TO BOTTOM: David Gamse, Chief Executive Officer for the Jewish Council for the Aging, second from left, with attendees at Maryland Advocacy Day.

Rabbi Arnold Saltzman, Kamal Cohen, and Barry Cohen at Maryland Advocacy Day

Shelley Honikman with JCRC Board Member Sheldon Klein at Maryland Advocacy Day

RIGHT: Maryland Treasurer Nancy Kopp

Policy Initiatives

We had an extensive legislative agenda during the 2013 legislative session.

- Senate Bill 281/House Bill 294 – Firearm Safety Act of 2013. For many years, the JCRC has strongly supported gun control legislation and advocated for reasonable regulations on the purchase, sale and possession of firearms. This year, we supported the Governor’s bill and all measures to control and reduce the manufacture, sale and possession of high-capacity ammunition clips and to increase enforcement of gun sale regulations. This position on gun control is deeply rooted in the Jewish belief in the sanctity of life and abhorrence of senseless violence. The bill passed and was signed into law.
- Senate Bill 276/House Bill 295 – Death Penalty Repeal-Substitution of Life without the Possibility of Parole. We strongly supported this Administration bill to repeal the death penalty. The bill passed, making Maryland the 17th state to officially outlaw the death penalty.
- Senate Bill 811/House Bill 877 Procurement-Investment Activities in Iran-Board of Public Works Authority to Adopt Regulations. This bill further strengthens regulations that monitor and restrict investments that would benefit the state of Iran. The legislation provides a mechanism for tracking and implementing new federal legislation relating to Iran divestment and sanctions. The bill passed easily.

- House Bill 590 – Alcoholic Beverages-Direct Shipment Kosher or Sacramental Wine Sold at Retail. This bill would have allowed Marylanders to purchase kosher wine over the internet from an online retailer, such as kosherwine.com, and have it shipped directly to their homes. After much discussion with stakeholders and legislators about potential amendments, the bill stalled, failing to move beyond the committee to which it was assigned. We will be discussing the best strategy to move forward on this issue.
- Senate Bill 40/House Bill 171 Motor Vehicle Administration Organ Donation Presumed Consent. This bill would have changed Maryland’s organ donation program from an opt –in program to an opt-out program. We were concerned that the bill would affect poorly-informed citizens who did not have the opportunity to give consent. We worked closely with Agudath Israel to try to include amendments to ensure all citizens, especially youth and seniors, would be well-informed about organ donation and the opt-out process. Ultimately, this bill never made it out of committee.

The Jewish Community Relations Council has always been a strong supporter of both public and non-public education, and we believe that every child in Maryland should receive a quality education. This year we supported increased funding opportunities for early childhood education programs, like Race to the Tots, and allocating state dollars towards a digital learning initiative. These initiatives are ongoing.

The Jewish community strongly advocated for efforts to eliminate human trafficking in Maryland. We joined with other communities of faith to provide support and assistance for victims of human trafficking as well as to criminalize all aspects of trafficking. We supported a number of bills that were introduced this year.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Montgomery County Council Member Roger Berliner listens to residents of District 1 at Montgomery County Advocacy Day

Maryland State Delegate Sam Arora

Montgomery County District 3 Council Member Phil Andrews

Annapolis Advocacy Day

A record 140 participants, including 62 residents from Leisure World, attended this year's Advocacy Day, lobbying for Jewish funding, repeal of the death penalty, tougher gun control laws and easier accessibility to kosher wines. We met with lawmakers and hosted a reception for legislators and members of the community. A special thank you to Fred Shapiro for mobilizing the Leisure World community to join us.

Montgomery County Advocacy Day

The JCRC secured \$858,121 for Jewish institutions in the Montgomery County Executive's Budget, a 50% increase from last year. Beneficiaries of this funding include the Charles E. Smith Life Communities, Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, Jewish Council for the Aging, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, Jewish Social Service Agency and the Maryland/Israel Development Center. These funds will be used to support, among other things, clinical social services, employment training, senior nutrition programs, community transportation, and economic development between Maryland and Israel.



Parlor Meetings

The Maryland Commission held parlor meetings in Districts 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 39, hosted by Margie and Ron Glancz, Karen and Bobby Epstein, Sara and Michael Friedman, Barbara Zakheim and Ron Kleinfeldt and Judy and Sheldon Klein. As always, our elected officials were receptive to our agenda, which included support for Jewish agency funding, health care, affordable housing and environmental issues.

Guardrail

The JCRC successfully lobbied for the State of Maryland to install a guardrail on the Rockville property of the Aish Hatorah synagogue and Alef Beit Montessori School. The guardrail was installed in response to an accident occurring in January when a car slid down the lawn and crashed into the playground. Thankfully, no one was in the playground at the time. The new rail should prevent such accidents in the future.





Protecting Social Services & Medicaid Expansion

The JCRC joined dozens of nonprofits, health associations and faith partners in calling for Medicaid expansion in Virginia. Pundits expressed skepticism about the fate of this legislation, which faced initial opposition from some senior leaders including the Governor, Attorney General and House Speaker. Influenced by a strong grassroots campaign, including JCRC advocacy, the General Assembly decided to allow Medicaid expansion alongside Medicaid reform efforts. A group of eight — four delegates and four senators — has been appointed to continue working on both of these efforts.



Virginia Commission

Advocacy in Richmond

Virginia holds the shortest legislative session in the country — only 45 days in odd-numbered years. Yet in that short time, legislators reviewed more than 3,000 bills, passing more than 800. The JCRC, the only Jewish organization with a full-time presence in Richmond, hosted a legislative reception bringing our legislative agenda to 18 officials. We tracked 110 bills for the Jewish community and brought more than 50 committed community leaders to meet with the governor, attorney general and 40 state delegates and senators from our region on Advocacy Day. Our JCRC coordinated advocacy efforts with Virginia's three other Jewish Federation communities, in Richmond, Tidewater and the Virginia Peninsula, and with smaller Jewish communities throughout the Commonwealth.



Other Issues

Among our other successes in Virginia in 2013:

- The JCRC helped ensure that robust funding of \$177,000 attained last year in the Virginia General Assembly for the Virginia Israel Advisory Board (VIAB) continued for a second year.
- The JCRC supported legislation that criminalizes the exploitation of incapacitated senior citizens and strengthens anti-bullying and human trafficking safeguards.
- The JCRC will continue to advocate for in-state tuition for children of undocumented immigrants and for restitution for Virginia victims of forced sterilizations from the 1920's through the 1970's.

Virginia Goes to Washington

This year the JCRC brought 30 leaders from Northern Virginia, Jewish agency executives and representatives from the Federations of Tidewater and the Virginia Peninsula to meet with members of Congress and their staff. Working with the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), as well as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), we urged our elected officials to retain the charitable tax deduction and to support the Older Americans Act, foreign aid and sanctions against Iran.

Throughout the year, the JCRC also served on Senator Mark Warner's Interfaith Advisory Council, which maintains a dialogue between the Senator and the Virginia faith community, especially on human services and the federal budget.

TOP TO BOTTOM: Participants at Virginia Advocacy Day

Members of Hadassah in Richmond

Virginia Israel Advisory Board Chairman Mel Chaskin with Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli at Virginia Advocacy Day

Protecting Religious Freedom

We remained a leading voice on First Amendment issues of religious freedom and successfully defeated two constitutional amendments and one bill that would have eroded this cherished principle. Leading an interfaith coalition, the JCRC helped defeat two proposed constitutional amendments; 1) to replace the individual right to religious expression with an ambiguous "people's right," and 2) to permit public prayer by government representatives in their official capacity.

D.C. Commission

Advocacy

The JCRC participated in the Jews United for Justice's Labor Seder, which focused on the need for paid sick leave. The JCRC also joined representatives of the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC) in distributing the IFC's updated booklets of Emergency Food & Shelter resources to the mayor and D.C. Council officials.

Leadership Series in D.C.

The JCRC continues to bring together representatives of D.C. Jewish institutions with elected officials and community leaders. This year we hosted an event with Mayor Vincent Gray's chief of staff, Chris Murphy, at the D.C. Jewish Community Center (DC JCC); an evening program with Council Member and mayoral candidate Muriel Bowser at Temple Sinai and a program with newly elected at-large Council Member David Grosso at Temple Micah.

Holiday Celebration

Mayor Vincent Gray once again requested that the JCRC host a Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony and participate in a winter celebration at the Wilson Building. Among the 100 attendees for the Hanukkah lighting were the Mayor, Chairman Phil Mendelson, Council Members, D.C. Attorney General Irvin Nathan, numerous rabbis and leaders of Jewish organizations.



Security — Maryland, Virginia and D.C.

In partnership with The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington (JFGW) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the JCRC hosted several security briefings for Jewish institutions in Maryland, Virginia and D.C. The briefings, including sessions held in the aftermath of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, brought together local police chiefs and precinct commanders, FBI agents, intelligence experts and security consultants to discuss how organizations can assess and respond to security threats. Experts presented workshops on ways to keep Jewish organizations safe— from writing security protocols for organizations to preparing congregants and children for emergencies. The JCRC and The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington worked collaboratively throughout the year maintaining our community's vigilance and serving as a liaison to area law enforcement.

Nonprofit Homeland Security Grant

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) makes federal funds available to local nonprofits for security needs at private institutions. The JCRC continues to be the point of contact for nonprofit security grants, guiding synagogues and Jewish organizations through the application process with workshops taught by The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's director of security. A total of seven grants were awarded in the cumulative amount of \$516,420.

Letter to Chiefs of Police

JCRC Executive Director Ron Halber and The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington Executive Vice President Steve Rakitt sent letters to the chiefs of police in Montgomery County, D.C., Fairfax and Alexandria requesting police presence at Jewish community institutions in the event of a military conflict between Israel and Iran. Plans and procedures are in place to protect our community if needed.



ABOVE: Washington D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray at Super Sunday

BOTTOM LEFT: Washington D.C. Ward 3 representative Mary Cheh at Super Sunday



ABOVE: Super Sunday participants with Washington D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray.

Candidate Forums and Debates

Presidency

The JCRC partnered with The Israel Project to host a Presidential Candidate Surrogate Debate in Virginia. Robert Wexler, a former member of Congress, represented President Obama, while Dov Zakheim, a former Undersecretary of Defense, represented Republican challenger Mitt Romney. CBS News Radio correspondent Dan Raviv moderated the program, which drew more than 250 people to hear the candidates' perspectives on American policy in the Middle East. Topics included the Iranian threat, the United States-Israel relationship, the Arab Spring and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The JCRC hosted a Lunch & Learn Discussion together with American Friends of Tel Aviv University. Daniel Zisenwine, a research fellow at Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies and a visiting professor at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, presented the Arab view of the presidential election. Ron Glancz, a JCRC past president, hosted the event at Venable LLP.

The JCRC held two post-election conference calls to brief the community. The first featured Bill Schneider, a leading U.S. political analyst, who discussed U.S. domestic issues vital to the Jewish community as well as analyzed the upcoming elections. The second featured Noam Neusner, an experienced communications strategist, who presented a post-election analysis about the Jewish vote.

U.S. Senate Candidates

Two former governors, Democrat Tim Kaine and Republican George Allen, vied for the open U.S. Senate seat in Virginia. The JCRC Executive Director Ron Halber moderated a breakfast talk with Allen and a lunch program with Kaine. Both candidates displayed strong pro-Israel credentials and support for the Virginia Israel Advisory Board. They responded to questions on the economy and the deficit, support for social services, and balancing the need for energy security with environmental concerns.

D.C. Forum

A JCRC forum for an at-large City Council seat drew six candidates and an audience of 150 to the Washington D.C. Jewish Community Center (DC JCC). *The Washington Post* termed the event a "turning point", as it highlighted the distinctions among the candidates on the issue of paid sick leave for service employees, a key priority for Jews United for Justice, a JCRC member organization.

Congressional Debate

The JCRC hosted the only Montgomery County debate between Republican Roscoe Bartlett and his Democratic challenger, John Delaney, for Maryland's District 6 Congressional seat. Bruce De Puyt, producer and host of News Channel 8's "News Talk," moderated the event. *Washington Post* columnist Robert McCartney and *Washington Jewish Week* editor Phil Jacobs were panelists, asking a wide range of questions.

Ballot Questions

In Virginia, the JCRC urged voters to support Question 2. This constitutional amendment gives the legislature greater flexibility in scheduling its mandatory veto sessions, which have often occurred during the Passover holiday. Voters overwhelmingly supported the amendment. In the District, we asked voters to support a ballot initiative on budget autonomy, and 78% of them responded favorably. In Maryland, we supported the Maryland Dream Act, the Civil Marriage Protection Act and the Montgomery County Charter Amendment to Expand County Hiring for People with Physical and Cognitive Disabilities. Past President Harvey Reiter and Executive Director Ron Halber coauthored an op-ed calling on Montgomery County's Jewish voters to support these positions. We provided constituents with the official ballot text, summaries of the JCRC positions and links to additional election resources. All three measures passed.

Israel Advocacy and International Affairs

From training grass roots activists to encouraging pro-Israel public opinion in Greater Washington; from briefing community leaders about the ever-changing Middle East to galvanizing activists to speak out for Israel, the JCRC's Israel Action Center (IAC) continues to take bold action on behalf of Israel. Now staffed by two full-time employees, the JCRC's Israel Action Center is dedicated to expanding our agency's capacity to dramatically improve grass-roots support for Israel in Greater Washington.

Keeping the Community Informed

The Israel Action Center's new Conference Call series offered timely telephone briefings to over 1,000 members of the community. The calls featured top experts from our nation's think tanks and diplomatic corps. Topics included Operation Pillar of Defense, the Israeli elections, the crisis in Syria, the secular-religious divide and reconciliation in Israel, and the U.S.-Israeli relationship. Speakers included the Israeli Embassy's head of regional affairs Oren Marmarstein; Washington Institute for Near East Policy Fellows David Makovsky, Michael Eisenstadt, Matthew Levitt and Andrew Tabler; chairman of the Department of Political Science at Hebrew University of Jerusalem Reuven Hazan; former Silver Spring resident and the Knesset's only American-born member MK Rabbi Dov Lipman; the American Jewish Committee's Rabbi Noam Marans; and Israel's former ambassador to the United States Itamar Rabinovich.



Legislative Advocacy

The JCRC continues to encourage Maryland and Virginia elected officials to support legislation in favor of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship and a world free of the threat of a nuclear armed Iran. Hundreds of activists heeded our calls to action and wrote to their members of Congress in support of pro-Israel legislation.

ABOVE: Holocaust Survivor Jacques Fine speaking to JCRC Israel Action Center Director Arielle Poleg and JCRC Director for D.C. and Northern Virginia Debbie Linick at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; the JCRC sponsored the day for educators



Operation Pillar of Defense

When Israel engaged in defensive measures to stop the indiscriminate rocket fire from Hamas terrorists in the Gaza strip, the JCRC mobilized its activists. We provided talking points so that educated constituents could take action on Israel's behalf.

- To keep its activists informed on the latest developments during the crisis in Israel, the JCRC hosted conference calls with Israeli government representatives and American think tank analysts.
- The JCRC used email and social media to keep its activists informed, engaged and mobilized.
- Throughout the operation, the JCRC created plans to secure local Jewish institutions in the event of new crises and increased our ability to rally support for Israel.
- The JCRC, in conjunction with The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, solicited donations to help care for those affected in Israel, including providing meals to isolated elderly, psychological trauma counseling to citizens of Israel, and activities to children living under siege in bomb shelters.

The JCRC encouraged our advocates to reach out to their elected officials urging them to support resolutions in support of Israel during the crisis. Activists called the House and the Senate to thank members who unanimously passed resolutions (S.R. 599 and H.R. 813) expressing strong support for Israel as it defended itself from Hamas rocket attacks against civilians. We thanked our members of Congress for supporting Israel's right to self-defense and for their financial support of the Iron Dome missile defense system



TOP: JCRC Director of Israel Action Center and International Affairs Arielle Poley

ABOVE: A poster from the Brown Bag Lunch Series

BELOW RIGHT: Chanukah candle lighting with Washington D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray

Preventing a Nuclear Armed Iran

JCRC activists wrote to Senators Ben Cardin, Barbara Mikulski and Mark Warner and Representatives Gerry Connolly and Frank Wolf to thank them for co-sponsoring Senate Resolution 380 and House Resolution 568. These bipartisan resolutions affirmed that it is U.S. policy to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability and to reject containment as an option. Activists also urged Senator Jim Webb and Representatives Donna Edwards, Steny Hoyer, Chris Van Hollen and Eleanor Holmes Norton to cosponsor the resolutions. Both versions of the resolution noted that stopping Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability constitutes "a vital national interest."

We thanked our senators for sending a clear and important warning with Senate Resolution 65 that we will not stand for a nuclear-armed Iran and that the U.S. will support our ally, Israel, in defending itself from the threat of a nuclear Iran. This bipartisan piece of legislation passed by a vote of 99-0.

The US-Israel Relationship

JCRC activists urged and thanked their senators for cosponsoring the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (S.R. 2165), which recommends ways to strengthen U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation in such fields as missile defense, homeland security, energy, intelligence and cyber-security.

Israel Trip 2012

In July of 2013, the JCRC arranged a mission to Israel for John Delaney, then the Democratic Nominee for Maryland's 8th Congressional District. The JCRC was represented by Vice President Michael Friedman and Executive Director Ron Halber. The group took a helicopter tour to get a strategic look at the Jewish state and visited the city of Sderot to see the impact of Hamas rockets fired into Israel from Gaza. The delegation met with many high level Israelis including Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon; Governor of the Bank of Israel Stanley Fischer; Israeli Supreme Court Judge Elyakim Rubinstein; prominent Israeli political and military analysts; and leaders in the business and nonprofit sectors.



Greater Washington Forum on Israeli Arab Issues (GWFIAI)

As a member of the steering committee of the Greater Washington Forum on Israeli Arab Issues (GWFIAI), the JCRC co-sponsored the GWFIAI's third annual Community Education Day. Two hundred community members attended "Israel: Building a Shared Society," focusing on issues affecting Arab citizens of Israel and civic equality in the Jewish state. Among the workshops were Arab Citizens of Israel 2013: An Introductory Overview; Education for Shared Living; Arab Mobility and The Glass Ceiling; Public and Private Efforts Towards Economic Parity; *Avoda Aravit* (Arab Labor): Shared Society Through Israel's Most Popular Sitcom; and How to Integrate the Topic of Arab Citizens of Israel into Jewish Education. Noam Katz, the Israeli Embassy's Minister of Public Diplomacy; Elie Rekhess, Visiting Crown Chair in Middle East Studies at Northwestern University; and Forsan Hussein, CEO of the Jerusalem International YMCA, provided remarks.

We also hosted a lunch program to discuss how an Israeli non-profit is working to increase employment opportunities for Arab students. The guest speakers were leaders from the non-profit Kav Mashve, Yael Kohn-Sharon and Kheir Abdel Razeq.

Israel in the media

The Israel Action Center's media communications group monitors local and national news coverage of Israel and responds when bias is detected. JCRC activists sent letters to *The Washington Post* to protest anti-Israel bias when the paper displayed prominently on the front page a horrific photograph of a Palestinian father holding his deceased child taken out of context and without a balanced perspective. This letter-writing campaign was such a success that it prompted a response from the paper's ombudsman on the editorial page of *The Washington Post*.

The media communications group also acted when the Newseum, planning its annual Journalists Memorial Rededication Ceremony, announced its plan to honor two photographers, Hussam Salama and Mahmoud al-Kumi, who were killed in an Israeli air strike in Gaza. When killed, they were working for Al-Aqsa Television, the media arm of Hamas, a group recognized by the U.S. government as a terrorist organization. Moments before the ceremony was to begin, Newseum officials announced that they had reconsidered their decision to honor the two members of Hamas' propaganda wing. After fielding criticism from the JCRC and other activists, the museum decided to uphold the integrity of its memorial by excluding the slain terrorists and honoring those who truly lost their lives in pursuit of a free press.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Washington D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray at the D.C. Chanukah Candle Lighting

Maryland Congressman John Delaney in Jerusalem with the JCRC



ABOVE: Middle East Forum speakers Barry Bogage, Executive Director, Maryland/Israel Development Center; Dr. Kenneth M. Pollack, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, The Brookings Institution; and Ambassador Dennis Ross, Counselor, The Washington Institute For Near East Policy;

RIGHT: Dr. Daniel Zisenwine, a Research Fellow at Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center, led a discussion on the Arab World's perspective on the upcoming US Presidential Election at a Brown Bag Lunch

Israel@65

The JCRC hosted Middle East Forums in both Maryland and Virginia in honor of Israel's 65th birthday. A panel discussion at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington featured Ambassador Dennis Ross, Dr. Kenneth Pollack of the Brookings Institution, and Barry Bogage, Executive Director of the Maryland/Israel Development Center. The panelists discussed Israel's foreign policy, security and economy. At the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, Yaacov Fisher, founder of Israel Business Information Services (I-Biz), the leading interface between the global business community and the Israeli economy, spoke about The State of Israel's Economy: Challenges Amidst Growth.

The JCRC worked with the Virginia House of Delegates to host a Center Aisle Ceremony in honor of Israel's 65th anniversary. Thanks to the efforts of Virginia Senators Adam Ebbin and Dick Saslaw, Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn and House Speaker William Howell, both the House and Senate passed resolutions honoring Israel.

Power Lunch

The Israel Action Center partnered with The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington in sponsoring The Network Power Lunch: Executives Making a Difference Educating, Engaging, and Advocating for Israel. Panelists Wayne Firestone, CEO of Hillel International; Steve Kuperberg, Executive Director of Israel on Campus Coalition; and Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, founder of The Israel Project, discussed Israel education, engagement and advocacy with more than 100 members of the community.

Interfaith Outreach

The JCRC partnered with the Embassy of Israel and the American Jewish Committee (AJC) to host a briefing with Israeli diplomats for Christian clergy of Greater Washington. The lunch program included discussion of next steps to build a relationship between the Jewish and Christian communities in Greater Washington and ways to create positive public opinion about Israel amongst our Christian partners.

The JCRC held a program to showcase the work of the Israeli non-profit Hagar, working to bridge the gap between the Jewish and Arab communities through bilingual education. "Coexistence in Israel: Hagar's Jewish-Arab Education for Equality" featured Lauren Joseph, Hagar's Director of Development and Public Relations, who discussed the bilingual and multicultural school that brings together Arab and Jewish children in the Negev.



Brown Bag Lunch Series

The JCRC, together with the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists at the law firm of Stinson Morrison Hecker, continues to host an ongoing speakers series, chaired by Past President Harvey Reiter. This year's lunches have featured expert speakers addressing such Israel-related topics as:

- The Role and Use of Polling and Surveys in Educating the Public About Israel with Lauren Appelbaum, director of U.S. Communications for The Israel Project;
- Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovation: A Look at Israel's Model with Roni Einav, former Major in the Israel Defense Forces and a high-tech industry entrepreneur;

- Israel, A New Middle East and The Role of Western Democracies with Major General Noam Tibon, IDF, who heads the IDF Northern Command, and Colonel Richard Kemp, Commander of the Order of the British Empire (Ret.), former commander of British Forces in Afghanistan; moderated by Sergeant Benjamin Anthony, Combat Reservist, IDF; and
- The Role of Israel's Civil Rights Bar in Protecting Equal Rights, Civil Liberties and Democracy with Carmel Pomerantz and Samar Qudha Tannous, 2012-13 New Israel Fund Fellows at Washington College of Law, American University

Public Statements

The JCRC, together with The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, issued timely press releases alerting the community to terror attacks in Israel or against Jews around the world and expressing solidarity with the State of Israel and the global Jewish community.

In each instance, we alerted the community about what had happened, sadly mourned the loss of life, expressed shock and outrage at the acts of terror, offered prayers to the victims and their families, and reiterated that we stand with Israel in its fight against terror.



Remembering the Munich 11

This year marked 40 years since the murder of 11 Israeli athletes by terrorists at the 1972 Olympics. Since then, the bereaved families repeatedly have asked the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to observe a minute of silence in memory of the Munich 11 at the opening ceremonies, but the IOC continually refused. In 2012, the JCRC took action:

- We urged constituents to sign a petition organized by the widow of one of the murdered athletes. It was signed by over 111,000 individuals.
- We encouraged activists to participate in a social media campaign to petition the IOC.
- We partnered with the Embassy of Israel to hold a memorial for the slain athletes on the 40th anniversary of their deaths at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington. Two hundred members paid tribute to the 11 Israeli athletes murdered by Palestinian terrorists. Governor Martin O'Malley sent a proclamation; Senators Ben Cardin and Barbara Mikulski sent letters. Widow Ankie Spitzer, whose husband, Andre, was the Israeli fencing coach, participated via video from Munich. Bonnie Berger, cousin of murdered Israeli weightlifter David Berger, led a moment of silence and lit yahrzeit candles in memory of the victims.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Bonnie Berger, cousin of slain Israeli athlete David Berger, lights Yahrzeit candles in memory of the victims.

Photographs of the 11 murdered Israeli athletes in Munich in October, 1972

Jewish Federation of Greater Washington Chief Executive Officer Steve Rakitt provides remarks at the Remembering the Munich 11 program

Remembering those murdered at the Remembering the Munich 11 program

TOP TO BOTTOM: Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen speaks at the Third Anniversary Vigil for Alan Gross

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington Executive Director Ron Halber provides remarks at the Third Anniversary Vigil for Alan Gross



Advocacy on Behalf of Alan Gross

Maryland resident Alan Gross has been incarcerated since his arrest in Cuba in December 2009, where he was working with the island nation's tiny Jewish community to improve Internet access. The JCRC has been working tirelessly for Alan's release on humanitarian grounds for over 3 years. In advocating for Alan's freedom, the JCRC continues to host an ongoing weekly vigil outside the Cuban Intersection in D.C. as well as maintain a Facebook page to bring awareness to Alan's plight.

The JCRC spearheaded a national petition which secured over 500 signatures from Rabbis. Another petition circulated through the Senate garnering over 40 signatures.

Alan is the first recipient of the JCRC's new Legal Defense Fund, created to help defray legal costs of Jews whom the JCRC deems to be wrongly incarcerated.



Education

The JCRC provides a wide variety of resources for schools to help ensure a welcoming environment for Jewish students and students of all backgrounds. We take proactive measures to reach out to educators, parents, students and the community at large through targeted initiatives.

Advocacy

Following successful advocacy efforts in support of education tax credit legislation in Virginia in 2013, we worked with Virginia Department of Education officials to draft regulations. Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax continues to work under the new system to benefit low-income families interested in enrolling their students.

Resources for Teachers and Administrators

The JCRC works with 12 different school districts and civic institutions to provide resources to teachers and administrators. We distribute a holiday calendar that helps schools avoid scheduling major school events during religious holidays and a “Guidelines on Religion in the Public Schools” document with current information for teachers, students and parents regarding their First Amendment rights and responsibilities.

At Social Studies Conferences in Maryland and Virginia, the JCRC hosts resource booths offering materials to educators. In addition, we partner with the Virginia Holocaust Museum, which offers teacher training institutes. These conferences create an opportunity for the JCRC to connect with dozens of area educators and to distribute lesson plans related to Jews, Judaism, the Holocaust, Israel and the Middle East. We also work with the Institute of Curriculum Services (ICS) to review curricula and textbooks being used in our region. A similar effort in Virginia a few years ago resulted in more than 1,000 changes to curriculum and textbook drafts.



Finally, the JCRC works closely with the Education Directors Councils in Greater Washington and in Northern Virginia to ensure our programs benefit synagogue religious education and Jewish students in general.

ABOVE: Holocaust survivor Ruth Kohn speaks to a group of eighth graders at Gesher Jewish Day School.



ABOVE: JCRC Education Associate Steve Adleberg speaking at Proud To Be Jewish In The Public Schools in Virginia

Resources for Parents and Students

The JCRC’s “Parent Advocate Workshops” (formerly “Proud to be Jewish in the Public Schools”) train parents to work collaboratively with schools to address bullying and other issues. More than 70 individuals attended the program organized at Temple Rodef Shalom in November 2012. The JCRC, Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) and Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning (PJLL) gave briefings on “Do’s and Don’ts” of religious expression in public schools, what to do if your child is being bullied and how to create a proud Jewish identity in the home. The JCRC organizes this program twice annually. Temple Sinai in D.C. has been invited to host the next program.

In addition, the JCRC provides extensive Holocaust education programming (see Holocaust, p 21–23).

Community Incidents

On a case-by-case basis, the JCRC works with families and students to resolve issues in the schools, ranging from scheduling conflicts to inaccurate teaching of the Middle East to incidents of bullying. The JCRC addressed more than 40 incidents in schools and civic institutions in 2012-13 with the largest surge occurring during the High Holy Days. In half of these incidents, the JCRC advised rabbis or individuals on the best ways to address scheduling conflicts or assisted in resolving conflicts. Two incidents involved alerting police to vandalism or threatening literature. Other incidents included the exclusion of a student from acceptance into a competitive extracurricular program run by a private nonprofit because she couldn’t participate in an event held on Kol Nidre; airing of anti-Semitic programming on public access TV; and bullying incidents at a local middle school. The JCRC took steps towards resolutions in each of these cases.

In our efforts to respond to community incidents, the JCRC works with synagogues, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington’s security director, local schools, law enforcement, legal resources, and civic institutions to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for individuals of all backgrounds.

Social Justice and Intergroup Activities

As the public voice of the Greater Washington Jewish community, the JCRC engages in a variety of outreach efforts to interfaith groups, creating partnerships around shared issues of advocacy and social justice concerns.

Ruth Fellowship

The JCRC, in conjunction with Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) and with support from the Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation, has developed The Ruth Fellowship. This Fellowship is a two-year program to train and support social justice lay leaders in engaging their fellow congregants to make real change in our region on issues of food justice. Working with JUFJ and JCPA, we are creating a model that can be implemented throughout the country.

During the past year's nine-month training program, congregational lay leaders learned skills for community organizing, advocacy and community relations; studied the intersection of Judaism, food and justice; and explored the core issues of food justice.

In the coming months, these leaders will design and implement synagogue programming. The programs will be dedicated to reducing hunger in our region; enabling access to healthy and affordable food; encouraging environmentally sustainable farming; and promoting safe workplaces and fair wages for all food production workers, from farmers to restaurant workers. They will spend the year working with their synagogue communities to address the causes of food injustice.



ABOVE: Hayfield Secondary School students performing at their first International Night

Interfaith Advocacy

The JCRC worked with an interfaith group convened by Catholic Charities, to advocate in the D.C. City Council for additional funding vital to programs supporting those in need. JCRC representatives joined leaders from other faith communities to express the moral imperative to help vulnerable citizens with rental assistance, disability insurance and assistance for the homeless.

In Maryland, the JCRC participated in the Maryland Interfaith Legislative Coalition to learn more about the concerns of other faith groups regarding legislative issues in Maryland, to deepen relations with these faith communities and to work together for common concerns. We participated in the Industrial Areas



TOP TO BOTTOM: Community members supporting the Rally to End Gun Violence in Annapolis

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley speaking at the Rally to End Gun Violence

Leisure World members supporting the Rally to End Gun Violence

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown celebrate Passover at the Governor's mansion

Foundation Dream Act Campaign Kick Off and a briefing on Maryland legislative issues for area rabbis.

In Virginia, the JCRC worked with interfaith partners to defeat "anti-Sharia" legislation. This defeated legislation would have had dangerous consequences for legal consideration of religious agreements in settling domestic matters, such as child custody, divorce, marriage, etc.

We partnered with the Indian American Forum for Political Education for a second year during its members' annual visit to the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond. At the Korean Community Service Center's (KCSC) request, we arranged for its leadership to meet with Fairfax officials and longtime Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCC NV) leaders to enable the KCSC to learn from the JCCNV's 1992 founding how to establish a building and physical presence in the region.

Some of this year's additional interfaith efforts included:

- The JCRC's help in planning Mobilizing Our Community: A D.C. Public Forum on Challenging Anti-Muslim Discrimination, and an Episcopal workshop focused on ways to initiate and sustain local interfaith relations.
- The JCRC's participation in and provision of transportation for, the Rally to End Gun Violence in Annapolis.
- Rabbi Steinlauf's work, as president of the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC) on publications about Judaism and pluralism.
- The JCRC oversight of outreach to other faith communities. As a member of the executive committee for the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, the JCRC's Director for D.C. and Northern Virginia Debbie Linick oversees outreach to houses of worship and faith leaders. The JCRC partners with interfaith organizations to host policy education programs on poverty, the environment and social justice. The JCRC also supported advocacy days hosted by our interfaith partners, including participation in the Hindu Community's Day in Richmond.
- Active involvement in the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VIC). At VIC's 30th Anniversary Gala, the JCRC's Vice President Cookie Hymer Blitz was recognized as a top 30 social justice maker. She was honored for her years of leadership on the Fairfax Disabilities Board and Community Consolidated Funding Pool as well as her service in the local and national Jewish community.
- The JCRC's service on the Nonprofit Roundtables for D.C., Montgomery County, Virginia and Northern Virginia.
- Hosting visiting young international politicians and participation in State Department sponsored discussions with international journalists about the role of faith organizations in democracy and the electoral system. These are special responsibilities of a JCRC located in the nation's capital.
- Preparation of a social justice newsletter covering such topics as human trafficking, volunteer opportunities and the environment.
- Participation by the JCRC's Director of Social Justice and Interfaith Initiatives Rabbi Batya Steinlauf in a press conference organized by the Shoulder to Shoulder coalition to speak out against anti-Muslim advertisements placed in metro stations.

Holocaust Education

The JCRC continued its decades-long education and remembrance activities to honor the martyrs, heroes and survivors of the Holocaust. We provided opportunities for the Greater Washington community to honor those who survived the Holocaust and remember and mourn those who were murdered. Through our commemoration and outreach activities, we serve as the community's resource to synagogues, students, teachers and the community at large for education on the Holocaust including themes of racism, genocide and the dangers of prejudice. We used this platform to convey the unparalleled scale and lingering consequences of the Holocaust to local area students. We assisted our community in learning how the tragedy of the Holocaust can be used to assist efforts to combat genocide, racism and hate.

Community Observances

For more than 30 years, the JCRC has worked with area synagogues, Jewish agencies and several local Holocaust survivor organizations, to sponsor community-wide observances of Yom Ha'Shoah. Over the past half decade we have hosted concurrent programs in both Maryland and Virginia. In 2013, both programs featured art exhibits, moving keynote addresses, musical selections, communal recitations of the Holocaust Mourner's Kaddish, and a multi-generational candle-lighting ceremony. The JCRC also included the B'nai B'rith Internationals' Unto Every Person There is a Name ceremony as part of both the Maryland and Virginia commemorations. Jewish Social Service Agency representatives at both programs provided information about the support they offer to our community's survivors.



ABOVE: Erika Robinson, Irene Rehboch, Michel Margosis and Ruth Kohn light the third candle at the Virginia Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration

BELOW: Jewish Federation of Greater Washington Chief Executive Officer Steve Rakitt, Maryland Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, and Maryland District 16 Council Member Susan Lee observe a moment of silence at the Maryland Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration





Maryland

Maryland's community Yom Ha'Shoah commemoration hosted by the JCRC at Congregation Har Shalom in Potomac drew more than 800 people. This year's commemoration included a community artifact exhibit, original artwork inspired by the survival of the Jews during the Holocaust, and a JCRC-designed exhibition memorializing the destroyed communities of Europe. Holocaust survivors in our community read original poetry; and 95-year-old Herman Taube presented an original Yiddish poem, as he has done at 44 previous commemorations. Dr. Walter Reich, Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Professor of International Affairs, Ethics, and Human Behavior at the George Washington University, gave the keynote address. Kol Sasson, the University of Maryland's Jewish a cappella group, performed moving musical selections. Youth participants from the host synagogue who were part of the Remember a Child program publicly honored children who were killed. Survivors and the entire community pledged to continue prioritizing remembrance.

Numerous state and local elected officials, including Lt. Gov Anthony Brown, Attorney General Doug Gansler, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, and Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, as well as representatives from the Embassy of Israel in Washington D.C., joined our community in remembering the Holocaust on this solemn day.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Kol Sasson, a Jewish a cappella group from the University of Maryland, perform at the Maryland Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration

Viewing the display of the communities destroyed during the Holocaust

Child of Holocaust survivors, Marilyn Falik, Holocaust survivor, Katie Altenberg, and grandchild of Holocaust survivors, Jackie Williamowsky, light a candle of remembrance at the Maryland Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration.





Northern Virginia

Held at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV), the Virginia commemoration drew nearly 400 people and reflected on the theme of Resistance Through Art. The evening program featured original works by 11 area artists, several teens who had participated in Holocaust survivor testimony programs, and the JCCNV Sh'lichah who presented an exhibit on "Israel & the Holocaust," which was on display at the JCCNV from February through April. Prior to the community observance, Marion Deshmukh, a George Mason University Art historian, spoke on "Holocaust Art Then and Now."

Leaders from Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Christian, Mormon and other interfaith organizations participated side by side with rabbis in the community commemoration. The multi-generational candle-lighting ceremony featured 19 survivors, 12 children of survivors, artists, and diplomats from Israel, Germany and the U.S. State Department. Former Virginia Governor George Allen delivered opening remarks in which he reflected on learning about his mother's Jewish background and Holocaust experiences for the first time in midlife.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Former Virginia Governor and U.S. Senator George Allen opened the Virginia Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration with a moving tribute to his mother, Holocaust survivor Ety Lumbroso Allen

Pledge of the Next Generation at the Virginia Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration

The Maryland and Northern Virginia Sikh community joined in solidarity at the Virginia Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration.

Holocaust survivors Marcel Drimer, Frank Cohn, Janine Bland and John Baer light first candle at the Virginia Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration.

Community Education

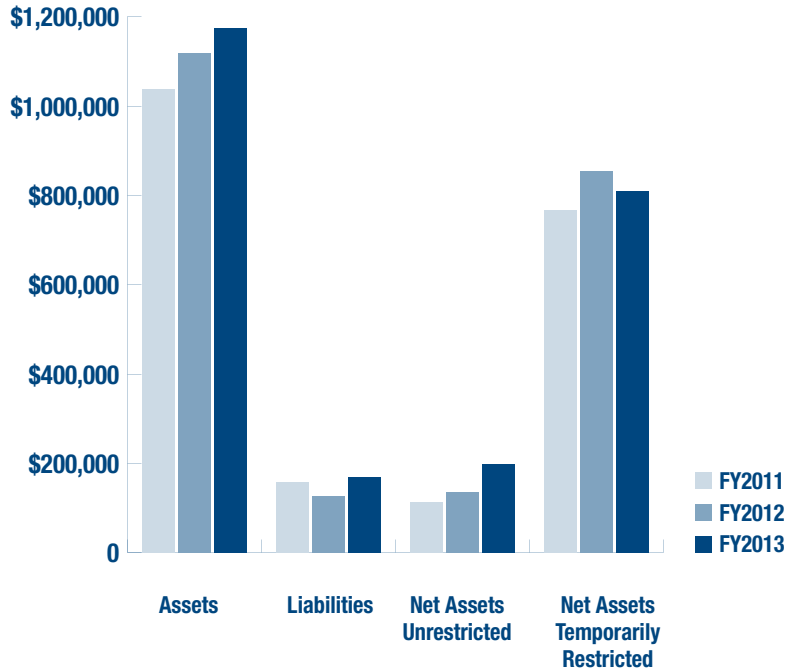
As part of our Holocaust education efforts, the JCRC brings survivors to speak in local synagogues, churches and schools. In 2013, the JCRC arranged for speakers to visit several synagogues and 14 schools in Maryland and Virginia to tell their survival stories of heroism and perseverance. We reached more than 1,400 students. For many, this was the first opportunity to connect personally to the Holocaust through a living person.

In 2012, the JCRC gave grants to four students to conduct programs to fight hatred or improve tolerance in their community. In January 2013, one of the middle school students arranged for an El Salvadoran civil war survivor to speak in a Fairfax County class, inspiring the students to raise funds for reconciliation in that country. Thanks to the JCRC's grant in Stafford County, more than 100 students participated in A.G. Wright's first Cultural Night, which included dance, costume and foods from every continent and more than 30 countries.

Financial Review

The JCRC continues to have a strong balance sheet. Our assets are primarily Cash and Accounts Receivable from The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington (JFGW), for following year's allocation. Liabilities consist mainly of current bills due. Net Assets Temporarily Restricted represents funds to be used over a period of time or for a specific purpose. The majority of these funds represent annual donations for the coming year's budget and the allocation from JFGW.

Balance Sheet



Over the last three years, the JCRC has steadily grown with revenues exceeding expenses, allowing the JCRC to continue to fund the programs much needed by the community.

Revenue and Expenses



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ABOVE: Cindy and Rick Zitelman, winners of the 2013 Community Leadership Award, with two of their daughters

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 Beth El Hebrew Congregation
 Beth Shalom Congregation and
 Talmud Torah
 B'nai Israel Congregation
 B'nai Shalom of Olney
 Congregation B'nai Tzedek
 Congregation Beit Chaverim
 Congregation Beth Emeth
 Congregation Har Shalom
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 Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation
 Ohr Kodesh Congregation
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TOP TO BOTTOM: Carol and Gary Berman, winners of the 2013 Breslau-Goldman Award, presented by Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt

The Breslau and Goldman Families being honored as the Founding Families of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington at the 75th Anniversary Gala

75th Anniversary Gala Co-Chairs Margie and Ron Glancz and Karyn and Stuart Tauber

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 Congregation Olam Tikvah
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 Ezras Israel Congregation of Rockville
 Fabrangen
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 Generation After (The)
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*z"l, of blessed memory"

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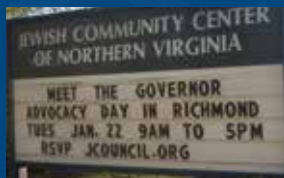
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TOP TO BOTTOM: Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington President Joe Sandler

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington Executive Director Ron Halber speaks with Washington D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray at the 75th Anniversary Gala



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