

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2021 | 5781

# Amplifying Voices and Values:

## Advocating for the Jewish Community and Beyond



**Unify. Mobilize. Advocate.**





**Unify. Mobilize. Advocate.**

**Dear Friends:**

This year of Jewish life in Greater Washington, like all things, was impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic, the national drive towards racial justice, and the shift to online community. And the Israel-Hamas conflict in May added a sudden surge of antisemitism and anti-Israel hatred in our region and around the world.

Throughout this unusual year, the JCRC was unwavering in our commitment to meeting our mission with excellence: To advocate for the consensus priorities of the diverse Jewish community of Greater Washington, to nourish and protect Jewish life and Israel, and to strive for justice for all in our region.

**We empowered our community to advocate for the Jewish community and speak up for the needs and rights of others.**

**We unified** and mobilized grass-roots activists in pursuit of bold legislative priorities that reflect our values and address our needs.

**We secured** critical government funding for Jewish agencies and local non-profits to support marginalized citizens.

**We celebrated** Israel, advocated for Israel, educated about Israel, and combatted efforts to defame Israel—before, during, and after the dramatic rise in anti-Israel and antisemitic hatred that surged this spring.

**We nurtured** strong interfaith partnerships and strengthened coalitions with friends and allies to deepen justice and equity for everyone in Greater Washington.

**We brought** our community together to meet the sacred obligation to commemorate and teach about the Holocaust and honor our region's survivors and the legacies of the six million who were killed.

**We amplified** the voices of people of good faith to combat antisemitism and all forms of bias and hatred.

And **we advocated** in our region's schools to improve the learning climate facing minority faith students, combat bias and intolerance, and ensure the needs of Jewish families are met by our educational systems.

In this report, you will read how we rose to the challenges of the past twelve months with integrity, nuance, and steadfast devotion to elevating the unified voice of Jewish Greater Washington in simultaneous advocacy for ourselves and our neighbors.

Thank you to every JCRC leader, advocate, partner, friend, and donor who helped us achieve the remarkable results outlined in these pages.

B'Shalom,



RON HALBER  
Executive Director



RON PAUL, MD  
President

# Legislative Advocacy & Government Affairs

*"Thank you for what you do for the Jewish community and our general community. We appreciate it very much. You have really been tested during COVID-19. Your challenges have been much greater, your resources have been stretched, and you have answered the call. So thank you very much for everything you have done. You make us very proud of the role that you have played in helping us deal with our health crisis."*

SENATOR BEN CARDIN



During this year of virtual advocacy, the JCRC maintained our signature excellence in organizing Jewish grassroots activists in Virginia, Maryland and D.C. Together, we marshalled our voices to make a difference in the chambers of federal, state, and local governments on the issues that matter most to our community. We strengthened our partnerships with our elected representatives, we secured funding for agencies that support the vulnerable, and we spoke up for policy changes that reflect our shared values and needs.



**Top:** Governor Northam speaks to participants at Virginia **Right:** Governor Hogan speaks to participants at Maryland Advocacy Day

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Paired members of the JCRC's D.C. Commission with seven D.C. Council members to strengthen relationships and enhance communication as part of our **Key Contact Program**.
- Partnered with Tzedek DC to support legislation that ensures meaningful access to maternal health care for typically underserved women in D.C. and to advocate for expanded economic and safety protections for tenants during the pandemic.
- Increased racial equity in the District government's operations by advocating for the Racial Equity Achieves Results (REACH) Act, which will build infrastructures to assess and combat institutional racism in the District government, and for the repeal of D.C.'s "Clean Hands law," which disqualified D.C. residents with unpaid fines or fees from renewing their driver's license and disproportionately affected Black households in the district.
- Mobilized activists to urge Mayor Bowser to expand the Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable Individuals (PEP-V) to open hotel rooms as covid-safe beds for those in shelters or without housing, successfully keeping an additional 200 high-risk people safer from COVID-19.





## VIRGINIA

- Successfully advocated for legislation in the Virginia General Assembly to:
  - Approve the Virginia Hate Crimes Security Grant Program, which makes \$1.5 million in grants available to jurisdictions partnering with nonprofits and is Virginia's first state funded security grant program.
  - Relieve hardships created by COVID-19 and strengthen infrastructure for providing basic necessities including affordable housing, hunger relief, quality education, and COVID testing, treatment and vaccination to the most vulnerable in our communities, regardless of immigration status.
  - Make Virginia the 21st state and the first southern state to abolish the death penalty.
  - Ensure accountability for conduct and performance of police; prevent gun violence and domestic violence; and foster criminal justice to provide equal treatment for all for adults and juveniles under the law including limiting solitary confinement and sealing police and court records for certain convictions.

**Top:** Virginia House of Delegates Speaker, Eileen Filler-Corn addresses JCRC constituents **Bottom:** Ron Halber, Executive Director, JCRC



- Prevent discrimination on the basis of disability as part of the Virginia Human Rights Acts.
- Helped Jewish agencies and individuals in Northern Virginia and D.C. identify and access COVID-19 relief programs, closure guidance and vaccine information, and apply for the newly established Virginia Hate Crimes Security Grant Program

*"Thank you to [the JCRC] for everything you do on behalf of the Jewish Community throughout our region every single day. It is so important and I know you all work tirelessly"*

EILEEN FILLER-CORN, VIRTUAL VIRGINIA JEWISH ADVOCACY DAY, 2021

- Successfully advocated for an additional **\$50,000 in state funding** for JSSA to provide meals to impoverished Holocaust survivors, bringing the total annual funding to \$300,000 over the two-year budget cycle; and \$89,355 for the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH) to expand its MOST program for young adults with developmental disabilities into Loudoun County after funds for this initiative were frozen during the early months of the pandemic
- Explored legislative priorities including protecting the environment, housing, and criminal justice reform at our four-part webinar series *Preparing for Advocacy/ Building a Legislative Agenda* with speakers:

**Director of Virginia Advanced Energy Economy**  
Harrison Godfrey

**Virginia House of Delegates Speaker**  
Eileen Filler-Corn and Majority Leader Dick Saslaw

**Virginia Poverty Law Center's Director of Housing Advocacy** Christie Mara

**Virginia Coalition on Solitary Confinement's Coordinator, Virginia Coalition on Solitary Confinement** David Smith

**Justice Forward Virginia's Policy Codirector**  
Andy Elders





### County funding

- \$240,000** for Jewish Council For Aging
- \$175,000** for Jewish Social Service Agency
- \$230,000** for Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse



The JCRC secured funding for 8 agencies in the Greater Washington area including the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes. Pictured above are some residents of a group home in Montgomery County.

- **Improve voter access** by ensuring early voting centers are open from 7am to 8pm and that every individual released from a correctional facility receives a voter registration application.
  - **Expand immigrant rights** by prohibiting private groups from housing immigration detention facilities
- In Montgomery County, secured more than \$1 million dollars in capital and operating funds for Jewish social services agencies and established a \$700,000 program to provide security dollars to faith-based institutions.

## MARYLAND

- Secured **\$5 million in state funding** for critical security needs at synagogues, schools, childcare centers and faith-based institutions at risk for hate crimes; secured level funding for Holocaust Survivors, ElderSAFE and the Maryland Israel Development Center, during a year of across-the-board budget restrictions; and secured the inclusion of community priority funding in the Governor’s Budget, including \$10M for Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST), a school choice scholarship program for low-income students to attend nonpublic schools, including Jewish day schools.
- Threw the full force of our impact behind nearly 50 pieces of legislation in the Maryland General Assembly to:
  - **Strengthen hate crime laws** by adding gender identity to the list of protected classes
  - **Increase police accountability and transparency** by improving law enforcement standards
  - **Prevent evictions** by providing access to legal counsel in landlord-tenant proceedings

*“JCRC is an exemplary partner and your leadership in support of the Equity Hubs and other equity initiatives is truly making a difference in Montgomery County.”*

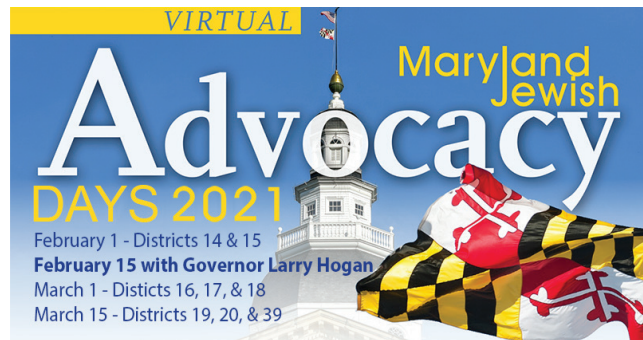
BRYON JOHNS, CO-FOUNDER, BLACK AND BROWN COALITION AND CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE & PARENTS COUNCIL FOR THE NAACP—MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD CHAPTER

- Maximized access to federal, state, and county elected officials during socially- distanced legislative sessions.
  - Hosted *Legislatively Speaking*, a four-part webinar series moderated by Ron Halber for nearly 400 activists to discuss issues impacting the Jewish community with:
    - U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin
    - Members of Congress Jamie Raskin, John Sarbanes, Anthony Brown, and David Trone
    - Maryland State Senator Susan Lee and Maryland Delegate Al Carr

- **Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, Council President Tom Hucker, and Council Vice-President Gabe Albornoz**
  - *Maryland Jewish Advocacy Days* took place during three webinars for 120 constituents from different districts to discuss their priorities with Governor Larry Hogan and dozens of state level elected officials from Montgomery County.

**Left to Right:** Member of US Congress Jamie Raskin, US Senator Ben Cardin, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, MD State Senator Susan Lee, US Senator Chris Van Hollen, and Member of US Congress David Trone





### JCRC partners in social justice



● ● ●  
 THE BLACK AND BROWN  
 COALITION FOR  
 EDUCATIONAL EQUITY  
 AND EXCELLENCE

Identity

- Brought together 24 representatives from 13 synagogues for bimonthly meetings of the Maryland Social Action Committee Chairs to expand our impact within and beyond the Jewish community. Together we addressed racial justice, food insecurity, mental health needs, support for immigrants, and access to equitable education.

**100** families received groceries  
**500+** families from across the county donated, packed, and delivered groceries  
**10** synagogues, from all denominations participated

- JCRC Board members Fran Kritz and Daphne Lazar Price led a coalition of community volunteers who helped address food insecurity among staff at Holy Cross Hospital through the Jewish Neighbors' Association.
- Secured Montgomery County Council approval of a special appropriations bill to continue funding Educational Equity and Enrichment Hubs to support vulnerable students navigating online learning.
- Joined the Montgomery Housing Alliance (MHA) to support affordable housing and address racial and economic inequities in Montgomery County's housing market. We supported legislation mandating window guards for safety purposes, requesting \$8 million dollars for the Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund, and ensuring non-discriminatory practices in credit and criminal history screenings.



The pandemic intensified food insecurity and educational inequality in our communities. The JCRC partnered with the Black and Brown Coalition, the Jewish Neighbor Association, and other groups to respond to these crises. Pictured above left are JCRC Board members and JNA Co-Founders Daphne Lazar-Price and Fran Kritz.

### The JCRC raised \$11,500 for the Montgomery County Public Schools Equity Hubs through the Children's Opportunity Fund.

- **\$362** for power strips and extension cords for use at the hubs
- **\$11,138** for scholarships to underwrite monthly tuition fees for students attending the hubs
- The equity hubs assisted more than **1500 students** in **40 locations**

# Protecting Our Community: Combatting Antisemitism

*"We will stand proudly with our Jewish identity. We will wear our Jewish stars and head coverings in public. We will unapologetically support the state of Israel. And together with our friends from across the nation, we will defeat anti-Semitism and reenforce the fabric of our beloved American".*

2021 IEF PARTICIPANT

**A**midst rising antisemitism, the JCRC protected Greater Washington from the rising scourge of hatred and bias. We advocated for policies to protect the rights of Jewish citizens; strengthened bridges with non-Jewish partners and friends; educated our community about the disastrous effects of unchecked hatred; worked with local school systems to combat antisemitism in the classroom and improve the climate for minority faith students and staff; and identified, called out and condemned instances of antisemitism by public officials including the disturbing trend of elected leaders using Holocaust analogies for political ends. Our multifaceted work to free our region of hatred is a constant, 365-days-a-year effort.

- Hosted workshops for parents and teens to talk about antisemitism and learn how to effectively respond to hatred in person and online.
- Guided public school equity directors, school board members, superintendents, principals, and teachers in recognizing and decrying antisemitism and understanding how school policies, practices, and curriculum can improve learning environments.
- Supported the #StopHateforProfit campaign by pausing Facebook advertising to protest the social media platform's failure to remove hate speech from its platform.
- Called on the Maryland House of Delegates to hold Delegate Daniel Cox responsible for making offensive remarks on Holocaust Remembrance Day comparing a bill seeking to allow children to seek mental health treatment to the horrors of the Holocaust.



Ron Halber, Executive Director, JCRC  
at "No Fear Rally"

- Expressed horror at the targeting of members of the Fairfax County Public Schools Board with hateful, antisemitic, homophobic flyers and called for addressing the root causes of hatred and fighting for equity in our region.
- Secured local and state government funding to strengthen security for Jewish institutions vulnerable to hate crimes and partnered with our community's regional director of security on matters impacting Jewish institutions and individuals.
- Engaged in personal dialogues with interfaith partners to share a Jewish perspective on the Israel-Hamas conflict in May, and how the resulting surge in antisemitic acts impacted our local Jewish community.
- Counseled elected officials and civic councils about their responses to the hostilities between Hamas and Israel, urging them to speak out publicly to denounce the surge in domestic antisemitism.

# Israel Action Center

*"I learned so much about Israel as a modern country and I feel very well prepared to have educated conversations around these topics, especially...in college".*

JOSHUA, 11TH GRADE, 2021 IEF PARTICIPANT

This year, the JCRC's Israel Action Center rose to the challenge of deepening relationships between Greater Washington and Israel through digital grassroots advocacy, online education, and virtual experiences, even—and especially, during the sharp rise in antisemitism and anti-Israel hatred following the Israel-Hamas conflict in May. For more than eight decades, the JCRC has been committed to our mission to unify the diverse community of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia around authentic exploration of Israel and to stand with the Jewish state in steadfast pride.

- Following the shocking rise in antisemitic and anti-Zionist sentiment in schools and on social media following the Israel-Hamas conflict in May, the JCRC led a discussion with 30 graduates of JCRC youth programs and their parents about how to engage in these topics in-person and online, and partnered with the ADL and AJC to offer our community additional opportunities to learn about this issue.
- IAC director Alexis Schwartz moderated a session for more than 100 lay leaders at the Israel Action Network's Mid-Atlantic Regional Training series highlighting the JCRC's high school programs and exploring how to talk to younger generations about Israel and antisemitism.
- Supported The Greater Washington Forum on Israeli Arabs' 10th annual event, The 21%: The Lives of Arab Citizens of Israel. The online program included a screening of documentary Breaking Bread followed by a panel discussion with the film's director Beth Elise Hawk, Israeli Druze chef Gazala Halabi and 150 participants.



## Graduated 150 fellows

In three virtual cohorts of the **Margo and Yoram Cohen Israel Engagement Fellowship**, the JCRC's signature Israel engagement and advocacy training program for high school students in Greater Washington and beyond. In its eighth year, the IEF for the first time graduated three unique cohorts in one year and partnered with Capital Camps and Congregation B'nai Tzedek.

Hosted and co-sponsored virtual briefings and conference calls for more than 3,000 community members with experts including former ambassadors, politicians, journalists, and security specialists.

- **Israel: Blue, White and Gray:** a four-part series exploring Israel, the Israeli - Palestinian conflict, and the role Israel plays in our lives.
- **Investing in Coexistence:** a webinar about the impact of the Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA) on grassroots peace-building and economic development efforts.
- **Implications of Israel's Peace Agreements and the Road Ahead:** discussion about the signing of the historic Abraham Accords between Israel, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates with former Ambassador to the UAE Ambassador Barbara A. Leaf and Executive Director of Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) Maj. Gen. (ret.) Amos Yadlin.
- **What's Next? Israel & Middle East Policy After the US Elections:** panel discussion about the impact of the U.S. election results on U.S. policy in the Middle East with Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro and leading specialist in U.S. defense policy and Middle East affairs Shoshana Bryen.



**VacciNation: Israel's Covid-19 Immunization Process and Pandemic Response:** a briefing exploring Israel's leading role in COVID-19 response with Israel's

Director of the National Center for Infection Control and WHO member Dr. Mitchell Schwaber.



**4 Questions After the 4th Election:** discussion about Israel's fourth national election in two years with Political Correspondent for The Times of Israel Tal Schneider.



**Situation In Israel: Update & Analysis:** webinar about the May conflict between Israel and Hamas with former Middle East Envoy Ambassador Dennis Ross.



**A New Era In Israeli Government?:** briefing about Israel's new coalition government after the end of Prime Minister Netanyahu's 12 years in office, with Senior Contributing Editor of The Jerusalem Post Lahav Harkov.



# Intergroup Relations

## Highlights of JCRC virtual interview outreach series

Passover 2021 video with Jewish Neighbors Association and Silver Spring Reformed Church Food Pantry: **3,500 views**

Celebrating Juneteenth with Director of Montgomery County Office of Human Rights Jim Stowe: **2,000 views**

This year, the JCRC became an even more trusted voice on issues of justice in our region. The Jewish community of Greater Washington relied on the JCRC for guidance and learning about racial justice and the intersection of different forms of hatred and bias. We provided synagogues, agencies, organizations and individuals with our Anti-Racism Toolkit, consultations, and educational opportunities to address issues of social justice. And we led our community in building and nurturing robust relationships with diverse partners, friends, and allies of different faiths and ethnicities and advocating for equity for all minority residents of our region.

*“The JCRC are folks that we can turn to all the time for support and to bring us together and for Torah and for advocacy and for action and for pushing forward all of these things that are so crucial to what it means to be a Jew, a person of faith in the world. ...Thank you for serving that role for so many of us.”*

RABBI SARAH KRINSKY, ADAS ISRAEL

- Led and supported ten racial justice advocacy programs and educational seminars at synagogues and organizations across Greater Washington, reaching nearly 400 people and promoting recognition of racial justice as a priority issue for the Jewish community while building connections with other faith communities.

### JCRC consulted and helped bring racial justice programs to:

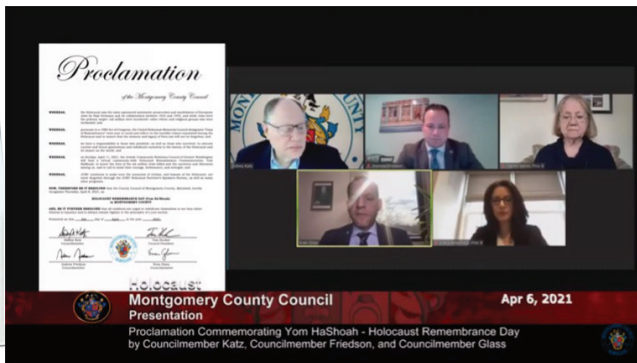
- The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
- Congregation Har Shalom
- Congregation Beth El
- Har Tzion-Agudath Achim
- Beth Sholom Congregation and Talmud Torah
- Kehillat Pardes – The Rock Creek Synagogue
- Congregation Adat Reyim
- Adas Israel Congregation

- Represented the Jewish community on interfaith committees and taskforces throughout our region, building networks of colleagues and allies.
  - Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Faith Based advisory group, comprised of 15 interfaith clergy who help MCPS address issues including achievement gaps, mental health, direct service, and antisemitism in schools.
  - Board of Directors leading the Interfaith Council (IFC) of Metropolitan Washington, a body of 11 different faith leaders. Rabbi Sharofsky chairs the inaugural Outreach Committee to expand IFC’s engagement with diverse groups throughout Great Washington.
  - Faith Community Advisory Group of Montgomery County, a group of faith leaders appointed by the County Executive to guide the Office of Community Partnerships. Rabbi Sharofsky led a strategic planning process through a leadership change and restructure and serves on the interview panel for the next faith community liaison.

**Right:** Rabbi Abbi Sharofsky delivered a live-streamed Shabbat sermon about racial justice and Torah to hundreds at Adas Israel Congregation on MLK Weekend. **Bottom Right:** Food pantry packing and distribution from “Let All Who Are Hungry Come and Eat - Passover 2021” video. **Bottom Left:** Virginia Secretary of Education’s Task Force on Culturally Inclusive Calendars and School Meals.”



# Holocaust Remembrance & Education



Montgomery County Council proclamation read by Councilmembers Evan Glass, Sidney Katz, and Andrew Friedson at a ceremony honoring survivor Josie Traum and featuring child of survivors Rachel Miller and grandchild of survivors Elana Rosenfield.

The JCRC's recorded *Yom Ha'Shoah* commemoration was viewed by **13,000 people**

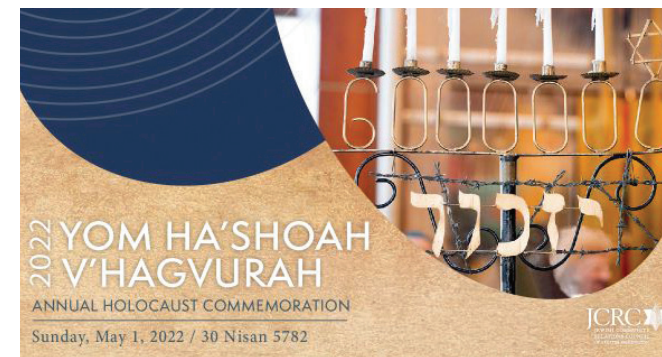
**Bottom Right:** Holocaust survivor Peter Gorog speaks to middle schoolers by video conference at St Bernadette Catholic School in Springfield, VA; **Bottom Right:** Benjamin Sharoni, Minister-Counselor for political affairs, speaks during Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration"

The JCRC fulfilled our mission to honor the memory of the Holocaust, embrace local survivors and their families, and unite our community on Yom Ha'Shoah by hosting for a second year a virtual community commemoration and online Holocaust education programs. We upheld longstanding traditions on new platforms and met our sacred duty to lead our community in Holocaust education and to mark Yom Ha'Shoah with reverence and honor.

- Brought together the Greater Washington community to commemorate Yom Ha'Shoah virtually, empowering members of 850 households to remember, mourn, honor the heroes of the Shoah, and hear from keynote speaker Elisha Wiesel.
- Connected more than 1,000 teens and their families with survivors and children and grandchildren of survivors for 15 powerful conversations that bore witness to the horrors of the Holocaust as part of the second-ever virtual Dor L'Dor program, in partnership with 25 synagogues, religious schools and interfaith youth groups
- Even while schools utilized remote learning, we reached 1,200 students and educators with our Holocaust Survivors Speakers Bureau, connecting survivors via Zoom to private and public schools and teacher trainings in Virginia, Maryland and D.C.

*"Thanks to JCRC... for creating opportunities for us to keep the memory of the 6 million of our people alive, fight antisemitism and hatred."*

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR AND DOR L'DOR SPEAKER PÉTER G.



# Education Outreach

*"[My child] gained so much from Student to Student, both in terms of skills and maturity and in terms of expanding her understanding regarding different approaches to Judaism and regarding other religions. We appreciate you making it possible for her to grow in all those ways, particularly when many of her other activities were not available to her during the pandemic."*

PARENT OF A STUDENT TO STUDENT PARTICIPANT

The JCRC partners with educational institutions to ensure all students in our region can learn and grow in safe, welcoming classrooms. The JCRC's role in Greater Washington school systems became even more critical amid this year's dramatic surge in antisemitism, anti-Zionism, and bias within our public and private schools. We guided schools in combating bias while continuing to build bridges with educators and school leaders and advocate for Jewish students and families.

- Represented the Jewish community on the Fairfax County Public Schools Religious Observances Taskforce and led a grassroots mobilization effort to improve accommodations for students from diverse faith traditions.
- Monitored educational curricula in our region and submitted feedback to the Virginia Department of Education and the D.C. Department of Education to ensure Judaism is appropriately presented in Social Studies educational standards and that antisemitism is included in discussions about hatred and bias.
- Met with school administrators from Arlington, Montgomery, Fairfax, and Prince Georges counties

during the Israel-Hamas conflict and wrote to every superintendent in our region encouraging them to identify and address rising antisemitism in schools. We urged schools to:

- Update and enforce school social media policies for staff and all groups, athletic teams and clubs;

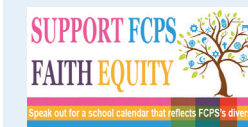


In-person Student to Student presentation at South Lakes High School in Fairfax County, VA. From left: Chloe Baker, Amalia Diamond, Shayna Elbaum, and Nathan Britt



- Advise faculty about appropriate methods of discussing the Israel-Hamas conflict without biased language or antisemitic tropes and offer JCRC resources;
- Encourage guidance counselors to proactively offer support to Jewish students and empower them to report harassment or targeting by teachers or students without fear; and
- Reinforce conduct and discipline rules and hold accountable anyone engaging in antisemitic harassment or bias-related negative behavior.

## Spotlight on school calendar advocacy



The JCRC led an interfaith advocacy coalition of Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains to secure school days off on major religious holidays in counties throughout Greater Washington, so that all students would feel safe and valued in their learning environments and have an equitable opportunity to succeed.

- Our advocacy succeeded in many districts. The JCRC applauded local school boards in Arlington County and Prince William County who made meaningful and inclusive changes to school calendars to reflect increasingly diverse student bodies in our region.
- After a months-long campaign in Fairfax County left Jewish families particularly beleaguered and made national headlines, the Fairfax County board of education chose to remain one of the only school districts in our region without an inclusive, equitable school calendar that reflects cultural competency and accommodates the needs of minority faith communities. The JCRC pledged to continue holding the school board accountable in an attempt to help Fairfax become a place of deeper equity and justice.

## Ripped from the Headlines: Principle and courage under fire

By  
WJW Editorial Board  
May 26, 2021

- Called out Fairfax County Public Schools at-large board member Abrar Omeish for anti-Israel comments made during the Israel-Hamas conflict in May. The outpouring of support from the Jewish and other faith communities deepened our resolve to hold elected officials accountable for their words and their obligations to engage all constituents with mutual respect.
- Launched an ongoing series of virtual conversations for Fairfax County constituents and Fairfax County Public Schools school board members with a conversation about antisemitism between 85 community members and school board members.

*“To have the JCRC students bring a sense of relevance to some of the things we had just been discussing—how antisemitism has impacted their lives personally. ... It was a very beautiful, positive exchange and the kids had a better understanding—they told me so afterwards, and they greatly appreciated the opportunity.”*

A STONE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

### Following grassroots advocacy campaigns led by the JCRC:

- Frederick County will provide days off on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.
- Montgomery County will not begin school on the second day of Rosh Hashana.
- Prince George’s County will not begin school on the first day Rosh Hashana will offer accommodations for students unable to attend on the second day of Rosh Hashana.
- Arlington County approved school closures on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.
- Prince William County approved school closures on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.
- Loudoun County approved school closures on Yom Kippur.
- Hosted a 10-part webinar series for Fairfax County residents and faith leaders to learn about criminal justice reform and equity in policing through the lens of faith and build tools to advocate for greater justice. Featured were Fairfax County’s Chief Equity Officer Karla Bruce, Commonwealth Attorney Steve Descano, Equity Lead Captain Darrell Nichols, Police Department Chief Kevin Davis, and Supervisor Rodney Lusk.

### Student to Student peer education program



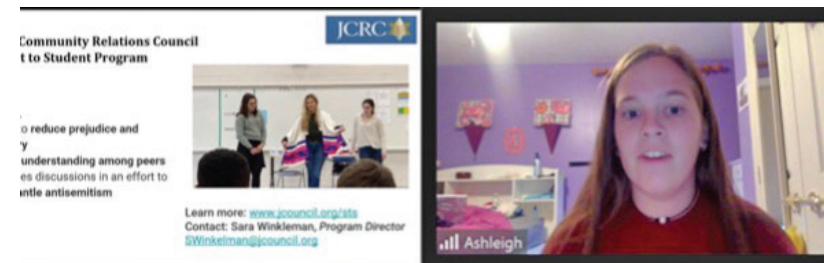
The JCRC trained 80 Jewish high school students from diverse Jewish backgrounds in

D.C., Maryland and Virginia to discuss their lives as Jewish teens at public and private schools. This year, with the rise in antisemitism, our students’ work was even more critical as part of the JCRC’s efforts to reduce prejudice and bigotry.

- 37 discussions
- with more than 1,000 non-Jewish students, teachers, clergy, and community members
- in public and Catholic schools
- in D.C. and Arlington, Fairfax, Montgomery, and Loudoun Counties
- and continuing education courses for teachers,
- a juvenile detention center,
- and the German International School, and
- 4 interfaith dialogues with Hindu, LDS, Presbyterian, and Catholic teens.

*“As teenagers in 2021, it is our job to not let our differences define us. Sometimes, the world can feel full of hate and discrimination, but we must keep making positive strides through education and communication. I am excited for my future with the Student to Student program and look forward to continuing to meet new people, have difficult but illuminating conversations and create friendships that unite communities and break down barriers among us.”*

STUDENT TO STUDENT PEER EDUCATOR MIYAH F. IN PERSONAL ESSAY IN THE WASHINGTON JEWISH WEEK



Ashleigh Trudell, a senior at Heritage High School, Loudoun County, VA, gives a virtual Student to Student presentation.

# The JCRC in the News



Ron interviewed at candlelight vigil at Sikh Gurdwara in Rockville following FedEx shooting.

## Legislative Advocacy & Government Affairs

- **Registration, lawyers and patience: How Jewish groups are protecting voting access in 2020:** JTA, October 2020
- **'I don't recognize our country': Jewish lawmakers under siege respond:** Jerusalem Post, January 2021
- **JCRC looks to make up for COVID losses in state budgets:** Washington Jewish Week, January 2021
- **Repairing the world from the Virginia statehouse:** Jewish Insider, February 2021
- **Hogan outlines accomplishments for Jewish community:** Washington Jewish Week, February 2021
- **After legislative session, Jewish groups see some wins, some losses:** Washington Jewish Week, April 2021

## Intergroup Relations and Social Justice

- **Talk of Jews benefiting from 'white supremacy' is bad for fighting it:** The Forward, opinion by Guila Franklin Siegel December 2020
- **Jewish group assists food insecure neighbors at Holy Cross Hospital:** Washington Jewish Week, February 2021
- **Sikh Community Gathers in Rockville to Honor Victims of Indianapolis Shooting:** NBC4, April 2021
- **Here's how Jewish organizations reacted to the Derek Chauvin verdict:** Jerusalem Post, April 2021

## Holocaust Remembrance & Education

- **GOP lawmaker marks Holocaust remembrance day by likening child mental health bill to Nazi laws:** Times of Israel, April 2021
- **Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorates the 6 million lives lost:** Local DMV, April 2021
- **Reckoning at the German International School:** Washington Jewish Week, April 2021
- **Holocaust Remembrance Day: Survivors' grandchildren hold virtual ceremony:** Jerusalem Post, April 2021
- **Elie Wiesel's voice, as spoken by his son:** Washington Jewish Week, April 2021

## Israel Action Center

- **Rabin's legacy was complex and nuanced:** Washington Jewish Week opinion by Alexis Schwartz, October 2020
- **Former US Ambassador: Normalization agreement could 'generate momentum':** Jerusalem Post, November 2020
- **Carefully chosen words:** Washington Jewish Week, June 2021
- **'Cause good trouble': Anti-Israel speaker addresses Virginia high school graduation:** World Israel News, June 2021



## Education Outreach

- **NoVa public schools mull over closing on minority holidays:** Washington Jewish Week, November 2020
- **Faith leaders criticize Fairfax school board for delaying vote on adding four religious holidays to calendar:** The Washington Post February 2021
- **Group pushes for recognition of minority religions in Fairfax County school calendar:** ABC7 WJLA, February 2021
- **Opinion: Fairfax County's school board is sowing division. Students of minority faiths deserve better:** The Washington Post opinion by Hurunnessa Fariad, Srilekha Palle and Guila Franklin Siegel, February 2021
- **Back to drawing board over proposal to add four religious holidays to Fairfax schools' calendar:** The Washington Post, March 2021
- **In Virginia, an interfaith coalition fights to get non-Christian holidays on school calendars:** The Forward, March 2021
- **Fairfax County parents and interfaith communities demand school closures for major religious holidays:** Fox 5 DC, March 2021
- **Fairfax declines to add four Jewish, Muslim and Hindu holidays to calendar:** Washington Post, March 2021
- **Fairfax Co. school calendar recognizes religious holidays but kids won't have off:** WTOP, March 2021
- **Virginia's largest school system votes down inclusion of non-Christian holidays:** The Forward, March 2021

- **Rosh Hashanah won't be first school day in Montgomery County:** Washington Jewish Week, March 2021
- **Gov. Northam announces new task force on inclusive school meals and calendars, names members:** Fox WXFR, June 2021

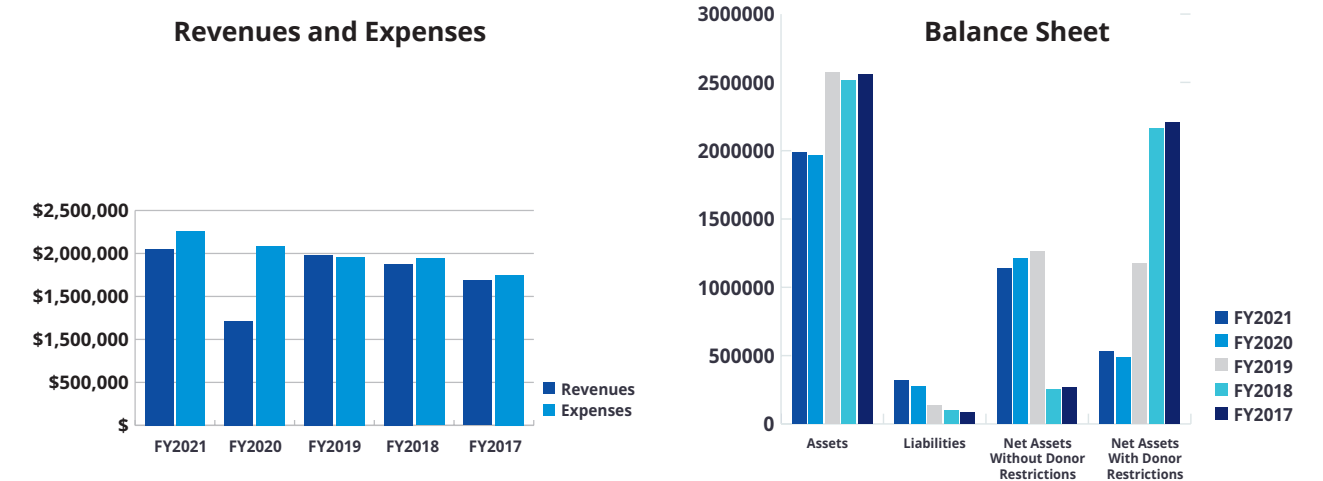
## Jewish life in a pandemic

- **Rosh Hashanah is usually when Jews gather in synagogue. This year, they're mostly online — or masked and spread out:** The Washington Post, September 2020
- **Back to the office? Jewish agencies say, 'Not yet.':** Washington Jewish Week, June 2021



# Financial Reviews

Over the last five years, the budget has increased and is expected to continue as the JCRC grows. FY20 shows lower revenue level since Gala20 was held in September 2020 and about 40% of Gala20 revenue was recognized in FY21 instead. FY21 revenue includes 40% of revenue raised from Gala20 and and 35% of revenue raised from Gala21.



JCRC's Balance Sheet has been consistently strong. FY21 assets consist of Cash, Investments, Pledge Receivables and Endowments. FY21 liabilities consist of currently due bills and Draw #2 of SBA PPP loan which was subsequently forgiven in FY22. Net Assets -With Donor Restrictions represent funds to be used in future years for specific purposes.

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