EDUCATION
ADVOCACY
SECURITY
RELATIONSHIPS

Serving Jewish communities of the North since 1939
Mission

As the public affairs voice of the Jewish community, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC) fights antisemitism and prejudice, safeguards the Jewish community, advocates for Israel, provides Holocaust education, promotes tolerance and social justice, and builds bridges across the Jewish and broader communities.

The JCRC:
• Serves as the central public affairs voice of the Jewish community to elected officials, the media, government agencies, and other religious, ethnic, and cultural groups;
• Represents the Jewish community’s interests on significant legislative, social justice, and public policy issues in a non-partisan manner;
• Promotes and facilitates the security of the Jewish community and Jewish institutions, and assists community members dealing with discrimination;
• Mobilizes the Jewish community for Israel advocacy;
• Encourages and facilitates open dialogue and consensus among the Jewish community’s diverse religious, political, and social perspectives;
• Educates about Judaism, Israel, antisemitism, and the Holocaust;
• Remembers the victims and honors the survivors of the Holocaust;
• Sponsors community and educational forums; and
• Partners with local, national, nonprofit, interfaith, and Jewish coalitions.

The Beverly Foundation
The Rum Fund
Jacob Garber Endowment Fund
Tankenoff Families Foundation

The JCRC is a beneficiary agency of the Minneapolis and St. Paul Jewish Federations and is supported by the communities of the Twin Cities, Bismarck, Duluth, Fargo, Mitchell, Rochester, St. Cloud, Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, and Hill City.

Also generously supported by:
Allianz
The Beverly Foundation
Jacob Garber Endowment Fund
Mike and Linda Fiterman Family Foundation
Kelen Family Foundation

Minnesota Vikings
The Bremer Trust
The Rum Fund
Tankenoff Families Foundation

Photos courtesy: Darrell Owens Photography, Ethan Roberts Photography, and David Sherman Photography

Letter from Steve Hunegs and Jon Parritz

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to share some highlights from the different departments of our organization.

• Our Community Safety and Security program continues to grow, working 24/7 to protect the community through site and facility assessments, trainings, threat analysis and intelligence, working with local, state, and federal law enforcement and more.
• The annual JCRC One Day Trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington D.C. resumed in 2022 after COVID-19 required us to cancel in 2020 and 2021, providing what is for many, a once in a lifetime experience for approximately 150 students, educators, law enforcement, community members, and a contingent of the MN National Guard.
• JCRC educators gave over 500 presentations in schools, churches, and civic groups across the North this year, teaching approximately 21,000 people about Judaism, Israel, antisemitism, and the Holocaust.
• This spring, Minnesota became the second state to legislatively divest from Russia and Belarus. JCRC achieved this strongly bipartisan outcome in close coordination with Minnesota’s Ukrainian Advocacy Committee.
• As we celebrate Israel’s 75th anniversary, The Letters Project continues to expand as a recognized tool for encountering the dual narratives that drive the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with Zionist pride, empathy and awareness. This November, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) invited JCRC to bring The Letters Project to its annual training conference of all the North American shlichim (Israeli emissaries) to equip these Israelis for the American conversation on Israel they will encounter in their shlichut.

In September, we transitioned to new lay leadership and welcomed six board members who add energy, diversity, and experience to our already outstanding board. We extend our deepest gratitude to Judy Cook for her leadership as board president and guiding us from strength to strength these past two years.

Thanks to the remarkable JCRC staff and our officers, board members, volunteers, contributors, and supporters, we have accomplished much in the last year.

Warm regards,

Steve Hunegs
Executive Director

Jon Parritz
Board President

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Educating on Judaism, Israel, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust

JCRC speakers educate thousands of people every year. In 2022, we grew our reach here in the North, and are impacting students far beyond our region as well. Do you belong to a community that would benefit from learning with a JCRC speaker? Invite us to your classroom, business, house of worship, or community organization for engaging virtual, in-person, or hybrid presentations on one (or more!) of these topics.

JCRC Education By the Numbers*

- **510** total presentations
- **38** in North & South Dakota
- **20** in Greater Minnesota
- **25** outside our region
- **21,424** total audience

*From Sept. 1, 2021 – Aug 31, 2022

JCRC Impact Beyond the North

- Atlanta, Georgia
- Deerfield, Illinois
- Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania
- Marshfield, Massachusetts
- Rockville, Maryland
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Jerusalem & Rehovot, Israel
TWIN CITIES JEWISH COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS PROGRAM

Advocacy guided by Jewish values
“If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And being only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?”
- Hillel the Elder

Initiated in 2001, and generously funded by the Minneapolis and St. Paul Jewish Federations, the Twin Cities Jewish Community Government Affairs Program represents the people, values and interests of the Twin Cities Jewish community, as well as the vulnerable populations we serve, before the federal, state, and local governments.

In 2022, Minnesota became the second state to legislatively divest from Russia and Belarus, as well as bar state contracts. The JCRC proudly took the lead in achieving this strongly bipartisan outcome in close coordination with our friends at Minnesota’s Ukrainian Advocacy Committee.

Looking forward to 2023 we will continue our work with the Minnesota Department of Education and at the State Legislature to ensure that Minnesota’s social studies standards represent the values and interests of our Jewish community.

We are also looking forward to our fourth trip to Israel for State Legislators and Community Leaders from November 7th-17th.

JCRC Annual Event
At a new downtown location, our keynote speaker, David Horovitz poignantly addressed the current challenges and successes facing the still young state of Israel.

Earlier in the evening, Luda Anastazievsky, chair of Minnesota’s Ukrainian American Advocacy Committee and an immigrant from Mariupol, recalled her community’s partnership with the JCRC in passing legislation to divest our state pension fund from Russia and Belarus.

Additionally, we debuted a video documenting our annual trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and heard from our now immediate past-president Judy Cook.

As always, we were pleased to be joined by a wide range of elected officials, including Governor Tim Walz, Rep. Angie Craig, Attorney General Keith Ellison, Secretary of State Steve Simon, State Auditor Julie Blaha, Speaker Melissa Hortman, U.S. Attorney Andy Luger, Brigadier General Sandy Best, our many supporters and the numerous other elected officials, candidates, judges, clergy, fellow Jewish communal leaders, members of the Minnesota National Guard, and a delegation from the Israel National Defense College.
Partnering with Project Shema

JCRG partnered with Project Shema to deliver a two-day workshop titled Building Bridges Through Advocacy: Engaging Progressives on Israel & Antisemitism with Project Shema. The workshop, designed and facilitated by Project Shema co-founder and Executive Director Oren Jacobson, aimed to provide progressive Jews with the confidence and skills to engage their non-Jewish peers in difficult conversations about Israel and antisemitism.

The Letters Project: Encountering dual narratives with Zionist pride, empathy, and awareness


The Letters Project has several components. We offer an online class with a 3 or 5 session curriculum, and a one time “book club” PowerPoint. We also sponsor a letter-writing contest.

The Letters Project feels like the right tool for this moment. It is our honor to make this contribution to Am Yisrael.

Our Intentions

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List of partners and participants

- Abitit Senior Center
- Adath Iesburan Congregation
- Bet Shalom Congregation
- Beth El Synagogue
- Camp Ramah Wisconsin
- Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, Rockville, MD
- Darchei Noam Congregation
- Harry Kay Leadership Institute
- Herzl Camp
- Ida Crown Jewish Academy, Skokie, IL
- Israel Center of Minneapolis Jewish Federation
- Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)
- Minnesota Hillel
- Minnesota Mammalehs
- Mt. Zion Temple
- Northwestern University Hillel
- P2G – Minneapolis Jewish Federation
- Rochelle Zell Jewish High School, Deerfield, IL
- Sholom Home East
- SUNY Stony Brook Hillel
- Temple Israel, Minneapolis
- Talmud Torah St Paul
- Taltum Torah of Minneapolis
- Three local public high schools
- Weber Jewish Day School, Atlanta, GA

Educating about Israel in the media

JCRG’s Sami Rahanim and Ethan Roberts made an affirmative case for Zionism in the Minnesota Reformer and countered the arguments made in another submission calling for repeal of Minnesota’s anti-BDS statute.

Visits with Israeli Diplomats

Visits from Consul General of Israel to the Midwest Yinam Cohen and Deputy Consul General Daniel Aschheim engaged elected officials, students, rabbis, community members, and JCRG leaders in deep conversations about Israel’s relationships with our region, American Jewry, its Abraham Accords partner nations, and the Palestinians.

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Testimony as Teacher

The JCRC continues to emphasize Holocaust survivor and family testimony to teach and create paths of empathy. These stories effectively educate about the Holocaust and antisemitism.

Transfer of Memory, the JCRC’s touring photography exhibit of portraits and accompanying stories of Holocaust survivors who remade their lives in Minnesota also brings survivor testimony to communities across Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The exhibition was displayed at St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis, Twin Cities German Immersion School in St. Paul, and St. Olaf College Flaten Art Museum in Northfield, MN.

Remembrance

The JCRC commemorates the victims of the Holocaust, honoring their legacy and their memory.

For International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27th, the JCRC supported the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education at St. Cloud State University. This event featured Glenn Kurtz who is the author of Three Minutes in Poland: Discovering a Lost World in a 1938 Family Film.

Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, was a hybrid event held at Temple Israel. Over 600 people attended. The Leo Weiss Courage to Teach award was given to Maria Grams from Richfield Middle School. Three students shared their words about the impact of learning about the Holocaust and listening to a survivor had on them. Dena Shink played her saxophone to a beautiful translation of her great grandfather’s musical composition as a prelude to El Malei Rachamin, the prayer for the soul of those who perished.

Zikaron BaSalon

In collaboration with the Minneapolis and St. Paul Jewish Federations, Zikaron BaSalon provides opportunities for small intimate conversations with descendants of Holocaust survivors to share their stories. Over 150 community members participated.

Education

Holocaust education seeks to take the specific and universal lessons of the Holocaust and make them applicable to people throughout the upper Midwest. Our programs raise awareness of the dangers of antisemitism, prejudice, hatred, and violence, and provide relevant resources.

Holocaust Educators Cohort

JCRC has trained 36 educators from 11 states to teach students how and why the Holocaust happened. Cohort participants receive classroom-ready resources for eight lessons aligned with Minnesota Social Studies Standards. Cohorts run twice annually.

Culture Coalition

A partnership between Jewish and Indigenous students through Takoda Prep of AIOIC, Bet Shalom Congregation and the JCRC to foster cross-cultural learning and educational experiences centered on finding commonality and respect for each other’s histories.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

The annual JCRC One Day Trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington D.C. resumed in 2022 after COVID-19 required us to cancel in 2020 and 2021, providing what is for many, a once in a lifetime experience for approximately 150 students, educators, law enforcement, community members, and a contingent of the MN National Guard.

Exhibits in Minnesota and the Dakotas

The JCRC was proud to support the No Child’s Play exhibit of the American Society for Yad Vashem, which was on display in Sioux Falls, SD in November 2021. The exhibit was also sponsored by the Jewish Interfaith Council, Inc.

The JCRC partnered with public libraries in Bismarck, ND (March 25-May 6, 2022); St. Peter, MN (May 20 – July 1, 2022); and Watertown, SD (July 18 – August 29, 2022) to support the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s traveling exhibit, Americans and the Holocaust.

Kristallnacht Commemoration Tour in the Upper Midwest with Nick Winton

Over 600 people attended the Special Kristallnacht Commemoration with Nick Winton at Beth El Synagogue on Nov. 9. The commemoration marks the day 86 years ago when Jewish shops, homes and synagogues were burned and destroyed and thousands of Jews were sent to concentration camps, denoting the beginning of the Holocaust. Keynote speaker Nick Winton came from England to share the story of his father, Sir Nicholas Winton, who was credited with helping 669 mostly Jewish children escape Czechoslovakia via Kindertransport. In addition to the program in Minnesota, Laura and Steve accompanied Nick to Williston, North Dakota for two presentations, with 150 community members and 600 Williston High School juniors and seniors.

“It was a powerful evening that made concrete the axiom ‘never forget,’ which can become cliched.”

- Yom Hashoah commemoration participant in Bismarck, North Dakota
Antisemitism is rising - we are responding

We continue to grow our Community Safety & Security program to meet the community’s needs with the hiring of Patrick King (see opposite page). Patrick joins his former Minneapolis Police and Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office colleague Rob Allen, Director of Community Security, who joined JCRC in 2021 after a 30-year career in law enforcement.

JCRC works to protect against physical and cyber threats by partnering with the national Jewish agency Secure Community Network (SCN). We provide intelligence and threat analysis, security protocols, trainings, facility assessments, grant guidance and funding to safeguard the Jewish community.

We further serve our Jewish communities by fostering strong relationships with law enforcement on all levels: federal, state, county, and local. We work closely with government agencies (e.g. the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Minnesota National Guard, the Minnesota State Legislature, amongst many others), foundations and other faith organizations to strengthen security for all communities.

In the last year, four of our synagogues were threatened. There have been numerous cases of individuals who posed risks to community members and organizations. Among the most visible were the estimated 10,000 antisemitic fliers distributed around our region. We are thankful for the support and partnership of Federations, donors, law enforcement, interfaith leaders, and government officials to address these and other threats to our community.

Shomrim: Ensuring that our Jewish community is safe and secure for years to come

The Minneapolis and St. Paul Jewish Federations have launched the Shomrim (Guardian) $12 million campaign to ensure the safety of our community. In Minneapolis this is a continuation of the successful Kadima campaign. Matching grants from the Jewish Federations of North America LiveSecure program will help us achieve this goal.

Our security work is expertly guided by the Jewish Community Security Steering Committee who bring us a broad array and many decades of security experience.

Gil Mann, Committee Chair, Past Interim CEO, Minneapolis Jewish Federation
Claire Avitabile, General Manager, Barry Family Campus
Wendy Baldinger, Former President, Sholom and St. Paul Jewish Federation
Michael Barry, President & CEO, Twin City Fan, Past President Minneapolis Jewish Federation
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Jack Fiterman, Board Member, Secure Community Network
Ted Flann, CEO, St. Paul Jewish Federation
John Ghermezian, Chief Business Officer, Mall of America
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Andrew Lifson, Finance Committee Member, JCRC
Chief Kelly McCarthy, Mendota Heights Police Department
Kevin Rhein, Retired CIO, Wells Fargo
Anthony Sussman, Past Director of Communications & Community Security Strategy, JCRC and President, Temple Israel
Rick Thornton, Senior VP & General Auditor, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Retired Special Agent in Charge FBI, Minneapolis
Sheriff Dawanna Witt, Hennepin County
Staff: Steve Hunega, Rob Allen, Patrick King, Sami Rahamim

JCRC Protecting Our Communities

Physical Security  Information Sharing  Community Purchases
Event Security  Communications  Nonprofit Security Grants
Training  Cyber Security

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JCRC Protecting Our Communities

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We recognize and thank the following speakers who shared their personal and family stories of surviving and remembering the Holocaust in 2022.

Fred Amram  Manny Gabler  Eva Gross  Lili Chester  Ken Engel  Sylvia Fine

Allan Kuperman  Eva Moreimi  Helen Siegel  Joni Sussman  Iris Tzafir  Ben Weisner

Meira Besikof  Ben Cohen  Judi Shink  Elly Sternberg  Linda Carvel

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**Financials**

September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

**Revenues**

Federation Allocations
- Minneapolis Jewish Federation: $225,728
- St. Paul Jewish Federation: $91,300
- Total Federation Allocations: $317,028

Contributions and Grants
- Fundraising events: $196,518
- Less fundraising events expenses: (60,463)
- Net fundraising events: $136,055
- Paycheck Protection Program Income: $164,355
- All other contributions: $1,450,361
- Total Contributions and Grants: $1,750,771

**Program Revenues**

- $1,420

**Investment and Other Revenues**

- $99,052

**Total**

- $2,168,271

**Expenses**

- Program: $1,290,636
- Management and General: $197,982
- Fundraising: $197,542

**Total**

- $1,686,160

**Change in Net Assets**

- $482,111
Barbara and Gary Krupp
Lathrop GPM Foundation
Shoshan and Deborah Levine
Stephen and Sieghan Lieberman
Jack and Rhoda Liberman
William and Patricia Liberg
Living Word Christian Center
Sally Lorberbaum
Andrew Luger and Ellen Goldberg
Daniel David Lowenberg
Gail and Steve Mackov
Ron and Diane Madsen
Dale and Lois Maimel
Gill and Debbie Mann
William Manning
Maslon LLP
Margaret Martin
Robert and Marita Metcalf
Beverly and Richard (°) Funk
Mike and Linda Fitterman Family
Foundation
Tom Goldoien
Karen and Fred Gordon
Nordic Greenberg and Beth Silverwater
Kim and Greg Greene
Nancy and Richard Grebowski
David Gustke and Ruthy Colby
Jon and Judy Harris
Robert and Nancy Hartman
Jerry Heffland and Joan Cleary
Bonnie and Steve Heller
Michael and Ann Hofkin
Richard Horberg and Dana Kahan
Craig Hunegs
Steve Hunegs and Jennifer Robbins
Louis and Dorothy Hurwitz
Sixto Falls Jewish Welfare Fund
Jim Jacobson and Andrea Kaufman
Jeannie and David Cardow
Jewish Community Foundation
Jewish Family and Childen’s Service of Minneapolis
Nancy and Steve Schachtman
Brian and Sandra Kamin
Phyllis Karasov and Alan Olstein
Stefanie Lessnik and Jonathan Sacks
Richard Kelber and Sharon Van Dyk
Wyndi and Nissim Khabie
Daniel and Carolyn Kleinberger
Eileen and David Kohn
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Wyndi and Nissim Khabie
Daniel and Carolyn Kleinberger
Eileen and David Kohn
We thank our Directors Circle and It’s Your Legacy donors who sustain the work of the JCRC now and into the future.

Directors Circle

The board of directors and staff of the JCRC thank the following Directors Circle supporters:

- Robert and Robbi Aronson
- Robert and Linda Barrows
- Lili Chester
- Judy and Richard Cook
- Beverly Deikel
- Ron and Gigi Fingerhut
- Ken and Nicole Fink
- Byrom and Shirley Frank
- Philip and Phyllis Garon
- Howard and Heidi Gilbert
- Harold and Cynthia Goldfine
- Rabbi Ryan Duklin
- John Goldfine
- Todd Johnson
- Mott Kane
- Phyllis Karasov
- Robert Karan
- Amy Kaufman
- Susie Kaufman
- Wendy Khabie
- Elizabeth Lamin
- Shirley Lerman
- Elvy Levineless
- Mayor Stephanie Brod Levine
- Andrew Lifson
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- Seth Tegar
- Mike and Lesta Tuchten
- Deborah and Brent Wolfe
- Jodi Wolk
- Mark and Ellen Wolpert

It’s Your Legacy

The JCRC is grateful to its planned giving donors who participate in the Minneapolis and St. Paul Jewish Federations’ “It’s Your Legacy” program:

- Anonymous (5)
- Sally and Mike Abrams
- Amy and Stan Baratz
- Yiscch Bracha
- Shelia and David Brod
- Holly and Jon Brod Farber
- Julie Burton
- Lili and Sheldon (z”) Chester
- Judy and Richard Cook
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- Byron and Shirley Frank
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- Allen and Linda Saeks
- Kevin and Nancy Rheingold
- Karen and Russ Rubin
- Allen and Linda Saeks
- Judy and Joel Shapiro
- Alan and Jenny Silver
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