

1944

CELEBRATING

75 YEARS

OF COMMUNITY
RELATIONS IN
BOSTON

2019

JCRC75
COMMEMORATIVE
BOOK

Samantha Joseph and Justin L. Wyner
JCRC75 Co-Chairs

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF JCRC

“The pursuit of justice is not a choice,
but a primary obligation of Jewish life.”

—JCRC Annual Report, 2000



LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS



Samantha Joseph

In 1945, with the end of the war, the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston sent the following “Council Message of Friendship” to some 2,500 clergy, state and city officials, labor leaders, heads of service clubs, and others:

“Dear Fellow American: These words of greeting and friendship are addressed to you in this early peacetime hour in the belief that all men of good will need to know each other better, and need to join forces to write a brilliant chapter of progress in the days ahead. The Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston...stands ready to work with other self-respecting groups on programs of public welfare for the cause of peace and on all proposals dedicated to human dignity...As free, enlightened human beings, now victorious over the Axis, may we be done forever with hatred, suspicion and distrust and may we build solidly on the foundation of mutual understanding and mutual respect.”



Justin L. Wyner

While we are unfortunately far from being done with hatred, suspicion, and distrust, this earnest message still articulates our enduring values. For 75 years, JCRC has collaborated with our neighbors to tackle pressing issues of civic concern and build robust networks of solidarity and mutual support to advance peace and human dignity.

As you flip through these pages, you’ll read about the countless vital connections we’ve woven. We hope you will be inspired by the photos and descriptions of JCRC’s many initiatives and achievements, as told by those who worked the hardest to build this organization into what it is today. None of this work is possible without the generosity of donors, the passion of volunteers, and the hard work of the staff.

Thank you for your support and commitment to creating a better world and to writing the next brilliant chapter of progress.

With gratitude,

Samantha and Justin



“May we build solidly on the foundation of mutual understanding and mutual respect.”

– **Council Message of Friendship, 1945**





“Activism among Jews is heightened and fueled by greater awareness of our own personal empowerment to act and a stronger, more vibrant identity as Jews.”

– **JCRC 2010-2015 Strategic Plan**

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Jeremy
Burton**

On June 14, 1944, one week after D-Day, 16 Jewish organizations in Boston came together to establish the Jewish Community Council “for the purpose of acting in unity in matters relating to civic protection and fund-raising.” Under the leadership of President Casper Grosberg and an “administrative committee” of 11 members, this coalition understood that there were collective challenges facing our community 75 years ago that required a collective response. Challenges such as antisemitic violence in the streets of Boston, preparation for the refugee challenges that would come with the end of the Holocaust, and, within a few years, the need to mobilize community support for the emerging Jewish state.

I thought of that day as our board convened to work on our next strategic plan this year. We dove into questions about our vision for Boston’s Jewish community and all the people of our region, the challenges of the current moment in Diaspora-Israel ties, and the opportunities that lie ahead as we map out our vision for the next several years of our work.

We, as a people, have always held our history and experience deeply, inviting tradition to inform our hopes for the future. And so, as we celebrate JCRC’s 75th anniversary, we honor the Jewish way of looking to the past as we embrace a bold new future.

We teach our children well so that they may look to the future with hope, with a passion for the values of Judaism and a commitment to the lessons of Judaism for future generations. Our stories aren’t just history lessons. They are charges for future work.

Past and future in dynamic conversation, each deeply resonant and meaningful. Each informs our understanding of the other, guiding us as we look forward even in times of crisis and challenge. Because even in the times of the lowest despair – the burning of Jerusalem, the destruction of Europe – our leaders rose to face the challenge and look to the future with hope.

In these pages, you’ll find stories of pivotal moments, the impact we’ve had, and valuable lessons about our charge in the years ahead. I invite you to join me in this celebration and this journey.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,



Stacey Bloom

It is both humbling and inspiring to be president of JCRC in its 75th year. As we chart the course for our next 75 years, we continue to evolve—aiming to be bold and innovative, in order to adapt to the changing political and demographic landscape, as well as the new challenges of our day. At the same time, the challenges that JCRC faced at its inception continue to exist today. JCRC remains steadfast in its commitment to combat antisemitism, to champion the rights of immigrants, to offer support for Israel, to advance Jewish values at the legislature and in civil society, and to convene our community in times of crisis.

JCRC has grown from the original 16 founding organizations into a powerful Council of over 40 organizations and community representatives. JCRC’s work is possible because of our deep engagement with our community and with our interfaith and political partners. These partnerships have flourished over the last 75 years and continue to demonstrate a truth that is as true today as it was 75 years ago when JCRC was founded: We can promote our Jewish values best when we work together.

Each of us is a personal stakeholder in the future of Greater Boston’s Jewish community.

In June 2019, the JCRC board approved a new three-year strategic plan. Our strategic plan builds on our strengths, adapts to the current challenges, and pursues JCRC’s vision of our future—a future where JCRC continues to have an impact and continues to be a force for change, and a future where JCRC will become an even greater version of the organization that we love.

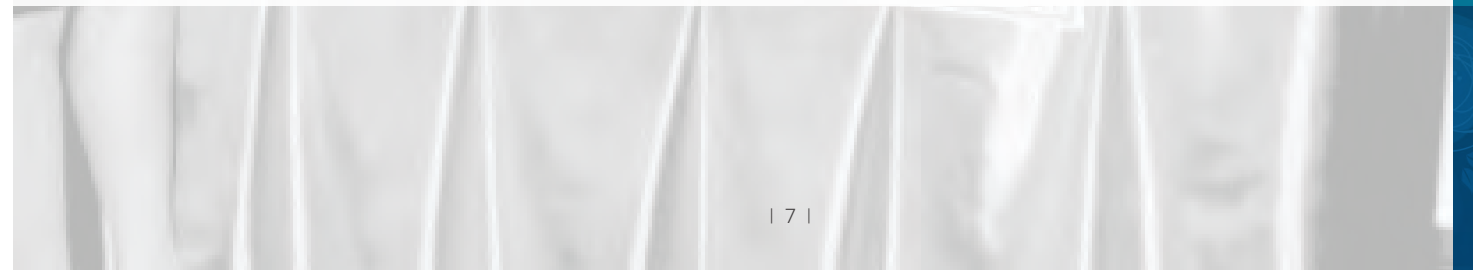
We look forward to partnering with you as we pave the way for JCRC’s next 75 years.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey".



“The Jewish community is redefining itself, with JCRC having a special responsibility in relation to the prophetic vision of social justice in the world.”

– JCRC Annual Report, 1998





75 Years. 43 Member Organizations.

JCRC's purpose is to define and advance the values, interests, and priorities of the organized Jewish community of Greater Boston in the public square.

OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Action for Post-Soviet Jewry
- The American Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants of Greater Boston, Inc.
- American Friends of Magen David Adom
- American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)
- American Jewish Committee (AJC)
- AMIT - Greater Boston Council
- Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
- ARZA - Association of Reform Zionists of America
- B'nai B'rith International
- B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO)
- Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)
- Combined Jewish Philanthropies
- Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, New England Region
- Hadassah - Boston
- Hadassah - Northern New England Region
- Hadassah - Southern New England Region
- Hillel Council of New England
- Israeli American Council, Boston Chapter
- J Street
- Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA)
- Jewish Community Center
- Jewish Community Center of the North Shore
- Jewish Labor Committee
- Jewish War Veterans
- Jewish Women International
- Keshet
- Massachusetts Board of Rabbis NA'AMAT USA
- National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Boston Section
- New England Board of Cantors
- New Israel Fund
- ORT America, Eastern Massachusetts Region
- Orthodox Union - New England Branch
- Shomrim Society
- Synagogue Council of Massachusetts
- Union of Reform Judaism
- United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
- Va'ad Harabonim
- Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture
- Women of Reform Judaism
- Women's League for Conservative Judaism - New England Branch
- Workmen's Circle
- Zionist Organization of America



10,000+

JEWISH TEENS ENGAGED IN MEANINGFUL SERVICE THROUGH TELEM



10,000+

BOSTON-AREA STUDENTS TUTORED THROUGH THE GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY



hundreds

OF CIVIC AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS TAKEN ON JCRC ISRAEL STUDY TOURS



millions

OF DOLLARS SECURED FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNAL SOCIAL SERVICES NETWORK

1,000+




JEWISH YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS BUILT RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE GREATER BOSTON COMMUNITY THROUGH REACHOUT!



GUIDED TOURS OF THE NEW ENGLAND HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL



SYNAGOGUE LEADERS TRAINED, SUPPORTED, AND ENGAGED IN SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZING



“We denounce expressions and acts of hatred and bigotry that attempt to divide and sow fear.”

– **JCRC Annual Report, 2017**

JCRC75 HOST COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs:

Samantha Joseph*, JCRC Development Chair | Justin L. Wyner**, JCRC Board Chair 1971-73

Rabbi Laura Abrasley* &

Julie Childers

Dr. Herbert Birnbaum

Stacey Bloom, JCRC President

Joyce & Michael** Bohnen

Elise* & Marc Busny

Susan A. Calechman**

Amy Caplan & Geoffrey Lewis**

Ruth B. Fein**

Irene & Rabbi Ronne Friedman

Valerie & Mark* Friedman

Lauren & Bill** Gabovitch

Caroline Gammill &

Nathan Rothstein*

Nicole* & Joshua Gann

Elisha & Sam* Gechter

Beth & Scott* Gilefsky

Rae M. Ginsburg**

Jill Goldenberg** & Sidney Kriger

Alex Goldstein*

Amanda & Campe Goodman

Debbie Isaacson*

Nancy K. Kaufman,

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Lisie Krieger

Emily Leventhal & David Rontal*

Emily Levine

Barbara & Frank* Litwin

Michelle Paster & Josef Blumenfeld*

Caren & Ben Pearlman

Rachel & Joel** Reck

Victor Reinstein

Leah Robins*

Dan Romanow & Andrew Zelermyer*

Nancy & Phil Rosenblatt

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Shelley & Stuart** Rossman

Amy Schottenfels & Jonathan Klein*

Mimi & Jim** Segel

Risa Shames & Neil Silverston

Barry Shrage

Robin & Mel Shuman

Martha & Donald** Siegel

Leslie & Craig* Slater

Hope & Adam** Suttin

Gerri & Kenneth** Sweder

Kathy Weinman* & Cameron Kerry

Jennifer & Amiel* Weinstock

**Past President *Board Member

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Genevieve & Justin L. Wyner

PARTNERSHIP CIRCLE

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The Herman Dana Trust
Risa Shames & Neil Silverston

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Cameron Kerry

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Beth & Scott Gilefsky
Beth & Lawrence Greenberg

Leifer Family Fund
Emily Leventhal &
David Rontal
Beth Polasky & Sam Furgang
Hope & Adam Suttin
The Clergy, Staff & Community
at Temple Shalom of Newton
Lisa & Neil Wallack

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Stacey Bloom
Irene & Rabbi Ronne Friedman
Carol & Avram Goldberg
Janet & Richard Goldenberg
Rabbi Leslie Gordon &
David Goodtree
New England Regional Council
of Carpenters
Jeevan Ramapriya
Rachel & Joel Reck
Amy Schottenfels
& Jonathan Klein
Mimi & Jim Segel
Jill Smilow & Howard Brick
Temple Israel, Boston

Nancy Viner
Jennifer & Amiel Weinstock

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Joyce & Michael Bohnen
David Borrus
Susan Calechman
Amy Caplan & Geoffrey Lewis
The Covis Family
Renee & Steven Finn
Nicole & Joshua Gann
Catharyn Gildesgame
Barbara & Steve Grossman
Lesley Inker
Rabbi Shira & Saul Joseph
Fredie Kay
Idit Klein & Jordan Namerow
Ari Mervis
Nahma Nadich &
David Belcourt
Ruderman Family Foundation
Rachel Schiff & Alex Klibaner
Jennifer Slifka & Luis Vidal
Cindy Spier & Les Brail
Sonya & Sean Wilder

THANK YOU TO OUR “ATTENDEES” FOR NOT SHOWING UP!

Sheryl Fox Adler
Stephanie Berkowitz
Rachel Berger
Dr. Herbert Birnbaum
Elise & Marc Busny
Rev. Brian Clary
Marsha R. Cohen
Robin Cohen
Lisa & Chris Conti
Lisa Danetz &
Craig Smith
Marna Dolinger, MD
Andrew Fischer
Rev. Dieufort J.
Fleurissant
David Freeman
Joy Friedman
Mayor Ruth Anne &
Joe Fuller
Caroline Gammill &
Nathan Rothstein
Elisha & Sam Gechter
Fran Godine
Alex Goldstein
David Goldstone
Dru & Ted Greenwood

Rev. Dr. Gretchen S.
Grimshaw
Pam & David Hallagan
Paul Hattis
Erica Helinek
Rebecca &
David Sendor Israel
Brenda Haynes &
Adam Koppel
Mady & Marc Holzer
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Elana Kogan
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Anthony Giarusso
Rabbi David Lerner
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Frances & Donald Putnoi
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Leah Robins
Dan Romanow &
Andrew Zelermyer
Nancy & Phil Rosenblatt
Lori & Howard
Rosenblum
Margie Ross Decter &
Adam Decter
Shelley & Stuart
Rossman

Diane Sandoval
Sue & Joel Sherman
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& Arthur Safran
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& Naomi Sobel
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Heidi & Barry Star
Marge & James Sunners
Rev. Lorraine Thornhill
Elizabeth Waksman &
Darren Orbach
Pamela Weil
Abby & John Weiss
Debra Wekstein
Elizabeth &
Keith Wexelblatt
Kenny Wintman



From our Partners in Government



The proclamations that follow are from our partners in the Massachusetts Legislature and the United States Congress, recognizing JCRC's 75th anniversary and commending our organization for our powerful civic engagement.

PROCLAMATION

GOVERNOR CHARLIE BAKER

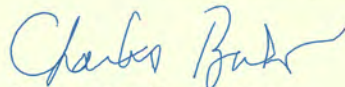
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

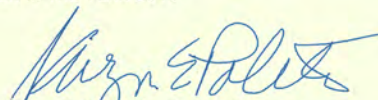


Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston

ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, I AM PLEASED TO CONFER UPON YOUR ORGANIZATION THIS GOVERNOR'S CITATION IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR FOUNDING. THE COMMONWEALTH ALSO COMMENDS YOUR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS IN SERVICE TO JEWISH CONCERNS AND THE COLLECTIVE GOOD, AND YOUR ONGOING ROLE AS A CATALYST FOR BUILDING A STRONG AND VIBRANT JEWISH COMMUNITY IN GREATER BOSTON AND BEYOND.

THIS EIGHTEENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR 2019


CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor


KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

PROCLAMATION

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN



Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition Presented to

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston

in honor of 75 years of service to the Greater Boston community.

September 9, 2019


U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren

PROCLAMATION

CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III



The Fourth Congressional District of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts proudly celebrates the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston; and

Whereas, on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, friends and family will join to celebrate the selfless dedication of the members of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston. For 75 years, JCRC has provided its resources and time to building a better community for Boston and surrounding areas. From denouncing antisemitism and hate in all its forms to cultivating multifaith relationships within the community, JCRC has truly made a positive impact on the Commonwealth.

Be it Known that the undersigned Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy III of the Fourth District of the State of Massachusetts, hereby commends and honors the work of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston

August 19, 2019

PROCLAMATION

MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

State  Senate

Official Citation

Be it Known, that the Massachusetts Senate
Hereby extends its Congratulations to:

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL OF GREATER BOSTON

In Recognition of:

YOUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE POWERFUL CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS SERVING JEWISH CONCERNS
AND THE COLLECTIVE GOOD IN GREATER BOSTON AND BEYOND ; and

Be it further Known, that the Massachusetts Senate extends
its best wishes for continued success; that this Citation be
duly signed by the President of the Senate and attested to
and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the Senate.



By: 
President of the Senate Karen E. Spilka
Attest: 
Clerk of the Senate Michael D. Hurley
Offered by: 
State Senator Cynthia Stone Creem
Date: August 1, 2019

PROCLAMATION

MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



“JCRC is at the forefront of defining what it means to put one’s faith into action.”

– JCRC Annual Report, 1998

75 Years of Advocacy and Community Relations

ON JUNE 14, 1944...

Sixteen Jewish organizations in Boston came together to establish “The Jewish Community Council,” to act as a united community to defend the interests of the Jewish community locally and globally. We were facing regular antisemitic violence: Jewish teens were being assaulted on the streets of Boston, attacks which often went ignored by the police and justice system. The targeting of powerless Jews — both on the streets and in the courts — served as a wakeup call to the Jewish community to mobilize and organize.

75 YEARS OF COMMUNITY MILESTONES

1940s

JCRC advocates for refugees fleeing Europe in the wake of the Holocaust and for a national open-door immigration policy. JCRC works to eliminate the college quota system in area schools, and mobilizes community support for the emerging Jewish state of Israel.

1950s

After World War II, our focus shifts to include Jewish representation in the Boston Public Square and building legislative and interfaith partnerships.

1960s

JCRC advocates for civil rights, school desegregation, religious liberties, and intercultural education.

1970s

JCRC connects Boston-area Jews to Soviet Jews attempting to leave Communist Russia for resettlement in Israel, many of whom have relatives and friends held in the Soviet prison system. JCRC continues to focus on Israel and Middle East affairs, and holds an interfaith ceremony to mark the signing of the Camp David Peace Accord between Israel and Egypt. JCRC coordinates community-wide observance of the Holocaust in recognition of the thirtieth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, and annual community observances thereafter.



1980s

JCRC advocates on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry. JCRC helps to organize thousands from Boston's Jewish and non-Jewish community to participate in historic "Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews," the largest ever Jewish mobilization in Washington, DC.

1990s

CJP and JCRC launch a partnership with the Jewish community of Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine to support the rebuilding of Jewish life there. Dedication of the New England Holocaust Memorial. JCRC launches the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL).

2000s

JCRC fights to protect marriage equality after the Council votes overwhelmingly to endorse the position.

2010s

JCRC's Ethiopian Jewry Committee successfully works with CJP, the Ethiopian Israeli community of Haifa, and Haifa Municipality on the Shiluvim program to support the integration of the 5,000 Ethiopian Israelis in Haifa into the social and economic fabric of the larger society. JCRC helps effect passage of the landmark Transgender Public Accommodations Bill, Pay Equity legislation, Criminal Justice Reform, and Affordable Housing. JCRC founds TELEM volunteer program for Jewish teens. JCRC founds ReachOut! program for Jewish young adults.

2019

JCRC remains proudly committed to defending Jewish interests and values by naming and combating antisemitism wherever it occurs; by advocating for Israel; and by ensuring adequate resources for the agencies providing vital services to our community, all while continuing to expand our mission, innovate, and pursue an expansive and ambitious agenda.



JCRC'S PAST PRESIDENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Past Presidents

Casper Grosberg,
Founding President, z”l (1944-46)
Judge David A. Rose, z”l (1946-48)
Benjamin Ulin, z”l (1948-50)
Albert Hurwitz, z”l (1950-52)
Jacob L. Wiseman, z”l (1952-53)
Lewis H. Weinstein, z”l (1953-55)
Judge Matthew Brown, z”l (1955-57)
Morris Michelson, z”l (1957-59)
Aaron Bronstein, z”l (1959-61)
Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, z”l (1961-63)
Herman Snyder, z”l (1963-65)
Hirsh Sharf, z”l (1965-67)
Rabbi Manuel Saltzman, z”l (1967-69)
Robert M. Segal, z”l (1969-71)
Justin L. Wyner (1971-73)
Simon Scheff, z”l (1973-74)
Albert Schlossberg, z”l (1974-77)

Leo Dunn, z”l (1977-78)
Clifton E. Helman, z”l (1978-81)
Warren B. Kohn, z”l (1981-84)
Rae M. Ginsburg (1984-87)
Joel M. Reck (1987-90)
Michael J. Bohnen (1990-93)
Ruth B. Fein (1993-95)
Kenneth A. Sweder (1995-98)
Donald J. Siegel (1998-2000)
Geoffrey H. Lewis (2000-03)
Susan A. Calechman (2003-06)
James W. Segel (2006-07)
Stuart T. Rossman (2007-10)
Bill Gabovitch (2010-13)
Jill B. Goldenberg (2013-2015)
Adam Suttin (2015-2018)
Stacey Bloom (2018-)

Executive Directors

Robert E. Segal, z”l (1944-72)
Herman Brown, z”l (1972-75)
Philip Perlmutter, z”l (1975-90)
Nancy K. Kaufman (1990-2010)
Jeremy Burton (2011-)

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

1948

The Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston

1955

Jewish
Community
Council
of Metropolitan Boston

1962

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
OF METROPOLITAN BOSTON

1974

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1984



2004



2005



2019





75 Years of Community Milestones

JCRC's past presidents, board members, and lay leaders throughout our 75 years share key moments of pride and milestones from our history.

OUR FOUNDING

STACEY BLOOM, CURRENT JCRC PRESIDENT

JCRC was founded 75 years ago during a time of rampant antisemitism; a time when Jews were being beaten in the street and yet could not find justice in the courts or find an ally in the police. In response to these threats to the Jewish community, sixteen Jewish organizations came together and decided that collectively they were stronger together. These 16 organizations believed that founding the JCRC to speak for the entire Jewish community and to advocate on its behalf would empower the community in a way that had never existed before. They were right, and JCRC began its work advocating on behalf of the Jewish community and Jewish values. Over time, the JCRC mission expanded to respond to new challenges facing the Jewish community. Within a few years, JCRC was championing the cause of new immigrants fleeing Europe at the end of WWII and rallying support for the newly founded State of Israel.

JEREMY BURTON, CURRENT JCRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We came together to build a coalition that would be the organized Jewish community. To reach out to our civic leaders, to faith leaders, to other communities, and say: this is what's impacting us. We need it to stop, and we need your partnership in stopping it. JCRC quickly became the organization that was coordinating community response to help the refugees coming out of the Holocaust, which came to an end a year after our founding. By the early 1950s, we were advocating with our delegation in Washington for an open-door policy on immigration in this country, knowing how profoundly our community had suffered and how many of us had been lost because of the closed-door policies of the United States. We were advocating for a broader understanding of America. A nation that defended civil rights for all Americans, a nation that was welcoming to all immigrants, a nation that defended the ideas of liberal democracy—that was the kind of place that was good for the Jews, and good for all Americans.

INTERFAITH RELATIONS

NANCY K. KAUFMAN, JCRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 1990-10

The most important thing about JCRC, from the time that it was founded in 1944, when there were things like housing advertisements saying “Only Gentiles Need Apply,” has always been, to this day, about building thoughtful bridges and relationships with other communities. If you want to live in a community that's pluralistic and committed to American values and Jewish values, then what is good for everybody is good for the Jews, and vice versa. JCRC works on building out our Jewish values for a universal lens: that's been the mechanism through which we engage with other communities. At a time when we're concerned about Antisemitism, we need friends, we need coalitions, and we need to be educating people about what it means to be up-standers and not by-standers.

DONALD J. SIEGEL, JCRC PRESIDENT 1998-2000

In 1999, there was an opportunity to deepen our interfaith relationships by joining the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). Jewish participation was a priority for GBIO at the time, and this resulted in JCRC and Temple Israel becoming among the first Jewish member organizations. Together, we were strong partners in getting the Affordable Care Act passed in MA. As a GBIO member institution, JCRC has since organized hundreds of Boston Jews to take action for issues of social justice, such as Criminal Justice Reform, Health Care, and Affordable Housing.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

SUSAN A. CALECHMAN, JCRC PRESIDENT 2003-2006

No doubt, my proudest moment was in 2003. I was the President when we crafted a statement to advocate for marriage equality for all MA residents.

Again, this was 2003. We knew that the overwhelming majority of the Jewish community was supportive, so we made this part of our social justice agenda.

We were not of one mind, and we debated throughout the process. It was at times lively and vigorous, but, we all agreed from the start that while everything was open to discussion, everyone would be respected. And they were. And we got it done, becoming the first community relations council in the country to fight for marriage equality.

PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

ADAM SUTTIN, JCRC PRESIDENT 2015-2018

During my tenure, our nation was fundamentally altered by the results of the 2016 presidential election. I am proud of how JCRC responded to this changed landscape and acted to protect the Jewish community, our neighbors and our democracy.

We stood firm against threats to immigrants, confronted rising antisemitism and denounced expressions and acts of hatred and bigotry. By amplifying the Jewish voice in the public square and partnering with elected officials and other faith communities, we responded swiftly to the decline in civic discourse and risks to our democratic institutions.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

LESLEY INKER, CURRENT JCRC COUNCIL MEMBER

JCRC, in partnership with the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, advocated for comprehensive gun legislation to address the tremendous social costs of the existing loopholes in gun laws. We were able to get a new gun violence prevention bill signed into law that requires background checks for private gun sales, advances suicide awareness and prevention, and ensures the collection of important data to inform future policy-making efforts. This meaningful legislation was an important step in making sure that guns do not end up in the wrong hands, making Massachusetts one of the states with the most stringent laws, and the lowest incidence of gun deaths.

NEIL SILVERSTON, CURRENT JCRC COUNCIL MEMBER

I was drawn to JCRC's commitment to working across Boston's diverse faith communities, in a shared mission of social justice. Working with JCRC and The Mass Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence was the first time I engaged deeply with JCRC. When the Newtown tragedy happened, we were physically shaken. At Temple Beth Elohim, and at many other synagogues, we knew we had to act. But we understood all too well that gun violence happens in many different forms, in many different communities. This forced us to think about the safety of "all of our kids" and envision a movement that cut across diverse communities. Through JCRC, we reached the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and connected with leaders at many prominent urban churches and community organizations. We built a coalition that, after five years, continues to drive common sense gun legislation in this state. As we began to act on gun violence, we grounded our work in Jewish tradition and in our community. We studied text, and we drew inspiration from our shared history, and from each other.

BREAST CANCER ADVOCACY

JANE MATLAW, CURRENT JCRC COUNCIL MEMBER

In 2000, in response to fears from members of the Jewish community who were considering being tested for the BRCA gene mutation, JCRC spearheaded the writing and passing of legislation, the MA Genetic Privacy Act, to protect residents of the Commonwealth from insurance and employment discrimination based on genetics. When it passed, it was the strongest genetic privacy law enacted by any state in the country. JCRC also drove the reauthorization of the legislation in 2006 and organized the Greater Boston Jewish Women's Breast Cancer Coalition in collaboration with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

JOEL M. RECK, JCRC PRESIDENT (1987-90)

Highlights for me from my active years with JCRC were the Israel Study Tours that I led and co-led in the 1980s. The trips that I led were for the Massachusetts legislative leadership and for Boston area CEO's. In addition to visiting Israel's most famous sites and Christian holy places, we met, engaged with and learned from the political, academic and business leadership of Israel. These trips, when multiplied by the hundreds of similar trips each year from all over our country, created stronger positive ties between the US and Israel. Participants from each of these missions still mention to me how inspiring and impactful these trips were for them so many years ago.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

MICHAEL BOHNEN, JCRC PRESIDENT 1990-1993

In 1990, we brought on Nancy Kaufman to lead the JCRC. We spent a lot of our efforts over the next few years re-envisioning advocacy for Israel during the first Intifada and advocacy for Soviet Jewry. A highlight of our domestic social justice work was an effort to bring back the spirit of the 60s that so many of us remembered. We kicked off our efforts with a conference called "A Return to Passion: A Civic Agenda for the 90's" which brought new energy to our engagement with the broader community.

JAMES W. SEGAL, JCRC PRESIDENT 2006-2007

It is a point of pride for me that JCRC takes a leading role in working with legislators to advocate for social justice. In 2007, JCRC successfully advocated for MA to divest its pension funds' holdings from companies doing business in Sudan in an effort to end the genocide in Darfur.

HOLOCAUST AWARENESS

RICK MANN, CHAIR, JCRC COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION FOR YOM HASHOAH COMMITTEE

The dream of Holocaust survivor Stephan Ross became a reality with the dedication of the New England Holocaust Memorial in 1995. Since then, the Memorial has been honored with prestigious awards, served as the venue of human rights demonstrations, and earned the unique status of a truly sacred place. Along the way, a symbiotic relationship was forged with JCRC which became the heart and soul of the Memorial's educational and spiritual mission. From the coordination of docent-led tours of the Memorial; the initiation and administration of the Izzie Arbeiter Essay contest that now attracts hundreds of Holocaust themed entries from Jewish and non-Jewish middle and high school students from all over Greater Boston; to the coordination of the annual community-wide Yom Hashoah commemoration that has brought thousands together over the past two decades—to remember—JCRC has led the way. As we look back on 75 years of JCRC's history, we can be justifiably proud of the past and confident that in the next 75 years, the JCRC will continue to be at the forefront of the effort to ensure that as a community we “never forget.”

LEADERSHIP

BILL GABOVITCH, JCRC PRESIDENT 2010-2013

My proudest moment was actually two moments that happened within 24 hours of each other. First, our Executive Director search committee made a decision to recommend to the Board that we hire Jeremy Burton as our next Executive Director. I am gratified because he has led us and our community with intelligence and dignity and helped us make lasting impact to help Jews and our broader community ever since. And the very next evening, I led our JCRC Council to confirm that the organizations around our table helping make policy for the organized Jewish community of Greater Boston should be broad, inclusive, and representative of our Jewish community.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

JILL GOLDENBERG, JCRC PRESIDENT 2013-2015

During my presidency, JCRC tackled many challenging moments in the life of our community: supporting Israel under fire, playing a critical role in advancing gun violence legislation, and managing changing key relationships on Beacon Hill. JCRC lives at the intersection of Jewish values and strategic deeds, and ensures that social justice is at the forefront of our community. The organization is a communal table where the the left, the right, and the centrist can sit together and be heard—the place where opinions are treated with respect, no single perspective will be seen as the only one.

RAE GINSBURG, JCRC PRESIDENT 1984-1987

When I came into the presidency of the JCRC, it was the first time a woman took on this role and actually led to inclusion of women in leadership roles at other Jewish organizations in Boston. Phil Perlmutter was JCRC's executive director at the time, and everything I learned about the importance of solid relationships between Jewish and non-Jewish leaders in our community came from Phil. It was during that time when we held an Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing with a coalition of 135 religious and lay leaders from various faith communities. Another highlight I want to share is about leading our first "Women's Mission to Israel" in 1986. In 1986, it was the first trip of this nature in the country, where 14 non-Jewish women met with career counterparts in Israel, with incredibly positive press about the trip.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

GEOFFREY LEWIS, JCRC PRESIDENT 2000-2003

We worked diligently to build a Jewish community committed to learning, caring, and social justice. We fully recognized the pursuit of justice is not a choice but a primary obligation of Jewish life. To that end, we worked in cooperation with those in other faith communities on key issues of concern. We implemented programs designed to involve Jewish community groups in coalitions that spanned religious, generational, geographic, and socio-economic boundaries, in pursuit of justice. We served, and still serve, as the vital link between the Jewish community and other faith communities in and around Greater Boston, and were able to partner thirteen Boston-area synagogues with seven community organizations including Metro West Latin American Center, Homes for Families, and the Waltham YMCA. We also worked with the Archdiocese of Boston to develop a substantive program on Catholic/Jewish Relations. I am also very proud of how we responded to crises in Israel, such as in 1995 when we organized thousands of people for a candlelit vigil for Yizhak Rabin, z"l, in Copley Square. During my presidency in the early 2000s when the second intifada was taking place, we also organized several rallies in support of Israel and a peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

SYNAGOGUE ORGANIZING

NAHMA NADICH, CURRENT JCRC DEPUTY DIRECTOR

JCRC was on the forefront of developing an effective approach for organizing people in synagogues. Leveraging our own training in the methods of community organizing, we engaged synagogues in that work—by helping them figure out what issues were important to them, what they wanted to see changed, and connecting them to other parts of the community to build the power of their actions. Jewish interests can be defined in many ways. It's first and foremost about making sure that our community is safe and that our institutions are strong. But it doesn't stop there—JCRC defines community expansively and we understand that we are part of a Greater Boston community. That's something that really isn't just lovely rhetoric—it's something that we experience every day, through the deep and enduring relationships we have with our interfaith partners across Greater Boston. We come together not just as our own parochial community, but as a broader community, in times of crisis and in times of celebration. We know that our partners are with us if we need them. We feel their support and solidarity, and they feel ours.

ANTISEMITISM

RUTH B. FEIN, JCRC PRESIDENT 1993-1995

We did not think in personal terms about what we were doing, because the needs of the Jewish people were so tremendous that you couldn't think of your own individual role in it. You were thinking, how can WE help save the Jewish people? People now, who didn't live through what happened in the Holocaust—there is nothing to compare to what happened then. 6 million people is a hell of a lot of people to lose, and it was not contained to one country—all of Europe was gone. It was a family tradition for me for me to be a leader in the Jewish community: My mother was a Hadassah president, my father was the Executive Director of ZOA and founder of AIPAC. There was a three-part division among Jews: between those Jews who felt that America was the new Zion, and those Jews, like myself, who felt that without Zion, there'd be no Jews, and the third way was those who didn't really care. JCRC was focused on local issues— you had to know the mayor, you had to know the governor, you had to go to community rallies. Regarding the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy: I thought JCRC had a “give-back” role that we had to play. My mother who was born in the United States, but she didn't speak English until she went to school. Public schools have a role in bringing together Americans of all backgrounds. On the one hand, it's “giving back,” but it's the right thing to do.

SOVIET JEWRY

BETH MOSKOWITZ, PAST JCRC BOARD MEMBER

In 1992, after the fall of Soviet Union, and building on decades of our community's efforts to gain the freedom of Soviet Jewry, CJP and JCRC launched a partnership with the Jewish community of Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine. Our goal was to support the rebuilding of Jewish life there and to help the 250,000 Jews living there. Dnepropetrovsk was the fourth largest Jewish community in the former Soviet Union, and yet it was 27th in the amount of money it was receiving from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. We worked hard to help them rebuild—partnering with the Jewish social service network and leveraging hundreds of people from Boston to deliver financial, strategic, and technical capacity to our Ukrainian partners. With our help, our partners in Dnepropetrovsk have led a revitalization of Jewish life and the building of a communal infrastructure that exceeded our wildest imaginations when we began this effort.

SHILUVIM: ETHIOPIAN JEWRY

STUART ROSSMAN, JCRC PRESIDENT 2007-2010

During my time as president, we dedicated ourselves to passionate and tireless advocacy of Israel, with the Boston-Haifa Connection and Shiluvim, programs that continue with CJP to this day. JCRC focused on building the capacity of Haifa's non-governmental organizations through its Boston-Haifa Social Justice & Civil Society Initiative, while Shiluvim empowered the 5,000 Ethiopian Israelis in Haifa to integrate into the social and economic fabric of the larger society. JCRC's Ethiopian Jewry Committee successfully worked with CJP, the Ethiopian Israeli community of Haifa, and Haifa Municipality on the Shiluvim program, effectively focusing our efforts on the areas of education, family and community empowerment, employment, and health.

TELEM

RISA SHAMES, CHAIR OF THE TELEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Through TELEM, I had the opportunity to help synagogues engage teens in service, which sparked my continued passion for youth engagement. TELEM enables our youth to connect to their Judaism and to the world around them. I believe that there is no more important responsibility that we have, than to prepare young people to become active, engaged citizens. The Mishnah teaches us that it is not our obligation to complete the work, but it is our job always to be thinking about the next generation of engaged Jewish citizens. If we give them the opportunity – through programs like TELEM – to stand with us on these parted shores, we will inspire our kids to make the world a better place and fulfill our shared mission of the Jewish people.

ALAN SOLOMONT, TELEM CO-FOUNDER

When I was chairing the CJP board, I felt that the next generation of Jews were all going to be Jews by choice, and we needed to give them a reason to identify with the Jewish community. The act of service is very powerful: in addition to making a contribution to community, it also has a big impact on the person performing the service. It's something you don't learn in a classroom or in a book. We wanted to create a program that would have the maximum meaning for the participants. TELEM is a great opportunity to give young people a reason to choose Judaism based on the values of righteousness and justice. We are blessed to live in the Greater Boston Jewish community. It's a Jewish community that has learned to change with the times, and that is welcoming to all people who identify with being Jewish. I always feel as though we're ahead of the curve—and JCRC is the vehicle through which our community participates in the civic life of our city, our nation, and our world.

GBJCL

KENNETH A. SWEDER, JCRC PRESIDENT 1995-1998

I believe that my tenure was most marked by, although not beginning the effort, taking the JCRC full throttle into its role as the social justice engine of the Jewish Community. That is what I take most pride in. One example was launching the GBJCL in the fall 1997 as a response to the fact that nearly 50% of Boston's public school third-graders could not read at grade-level. We were the pilot community for the National Jewish Coalition for Literacy. It was a model for our paradigm of combining Jewish learning with meaningful social justice work. We partnered with over 30 synagogues and Jewish organizations, mobilizing hundreds of volunteers as tutors in public schools and pediatric clinics. Today, GBJCL volunteers over the years have tutored more than 10,000 Boston-area students.

HANS STRAUCH, GBJCL CO-FOUNDER

As one of the founders of GBJCL, it has been truly gratifying to see it flourish and grow. We were the first JCRC to take on this initiative after Clinton called for a million volunteers to rise up for literacy, and it was JCRC's first social Justice initiative. My own story with JCRC and GBJCL began over twenty years ago, when I wanted to find a way to honor my late aunt, Hilde Mosse, who fled Nazi Germany in the mid-1930s. She settled in New York City and became a child psychologist, devoting her life to addressing the needs of children living in vulnerable surroundings and facing daily social injustice including racism and its related destructive consequences. When I met with Barry Shrage, he gave me every possible reason why JCRC's literacy program was the right place to invest. After my discussions with Barry, I attended a fundraiser for supporters who were devoted to the literacy program. It was at this event that I met Leonard Fein, the creator of the National Jewish Coalition for Literacy. The rest is history. It is an honor to be associated with this program which echoes my Aunt Hilde's life as a selfless, modest and talented champion of the disadvantaged.

REACHOUT!

CAMPE GOODMAN, PAST JCRC OFFICER

My involvement with ReachOut! is a great source of pride for my wife Amanda and me. In 2008, we noticed a gap in opportunities for Jewish young adults to participate in ongoing volunteerism alongside their peers. We developed ReachOut!'s robust community service opportunities to enable Jewish young adults to build relationships with people across Greater Boston and build their own Jewish community with those who share their values. Now in its eleventh year, ReachOut! has engaged hundreds of Jewish young adults in service throughout the Greater Boston area.

DALYA WEINRONK, REACHOUT! CO-CHAIR

ReachOut has been a consistent presence at St. Stephens. Volunteers build lasting relationships that extend far beyond homework help. The ReachOut program provides positive influences and support for mentees and a welcoming young adult Jewish community for the volunteers.

JCRC & CJP

RABBI MARC BAKER, COMBINED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES PRESIDENT & CEO

As I continue to listen and learn about our community and look to our future, it is clear to me that the leadership that JCRC provides is as critical as ever. During difficult times – terror in Israel, or challenging issues here at home – as we at CJP consider how best to respond, JCRC is often the very first organization to which we turn. In a world where so many are looking for simple solutions to complex problems, JCRC is CJP's partner in trying to get to the root of a problem, working not for quick fixes but for systemic change that will positively impact our community and beyond. In an American society and the world in desperate need of our Jewish voices, values and activism, JCRC has been our partner in finding creative, nimble ways to mobilize our community of learning and action. At a time when we need to create even more opportunities for members of our community to connect with one another and to live out our Jewish values, I see a JCRC that creates meaningful, authentic opportunities to engage and give back, in deeply Jewish ways. In a society that is increasingly polarized and divided, and in such desperate need of strong, compassionate and nuanced moral and Jewish leadership, I see a JCRC that brings our diverse community together, that aspires to create one voice out of many, and that models the Jewish and democratic values, like civil discourse, that have been the heart of the Jewish People and our American society for so long. As our community begins this New Year, I am so grateful for JCRC and to be working and serving alongside all of you. We have tremendous work to do and I know that partnerships like the one between CJP and JCRC make our collective leadership and our whole community stronger.


JCRC & CJP

BARRY SHRAGE, COMBINED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES PRESIDENT & CEO 1998-2018

In working with JCRC Executive Directors Nancy Kaufman and Jeremy Burton over the years, we shared a deep commitment to the idea that our universality depends deeply on our Particularity.

We are what we are: deeply committed to the betterment of humankind, because every year, we sit around a table and remember what it was like to be slaves, to be strangers, to be alone, to know literally what it feels like to be an oppressed and humiliated foreigner in a land that is not our own. When we hear the cry of the stranger, we feel the stranger's pain and like God when he hears the cry of oppression, we must respond. But if we forget who we are as Jews, our Torah, our customs, our stories, and our Universality will disappear along with our Particularity.

JCRC and CJP have translated those memories into action, working to preserve our democracy, stand for immigrant justice, create social justice programs, and stand unwavering with Israel. These are all examples of ways our Jewish community shows responsibility for humankind based on our commitment to our 3,500 year old heritage.

A photograph of three young women standing outdoors, looking upwards with expressions of prayer or reflection. They are wearing jackets and scarves, suggesting a cool environment. The woman on the left has a blue scarf and a backpack. The woman in the middle has a black jacket and a yellow pin that says "NO MORE SLAYS". The woman on the right has a white jacket and a purple backpack. The background shows a large tree and a cloudy sky.

“Over the years, profound shifts in our community and the world around us have required us to reinvent ourselves over and over again – to expand our mission, to innovate, and to pursue an expansive and ambitious agenda.”

– JCRC Annual Report, 2018

1944

CELEBRATING

75 YEARS

OF COMMUNITY
RELATIONS IN
BOSTON

2019

Brain Teasers!

Test your knowledge and sleuthing skills. Answers can be found throughout the booklet.

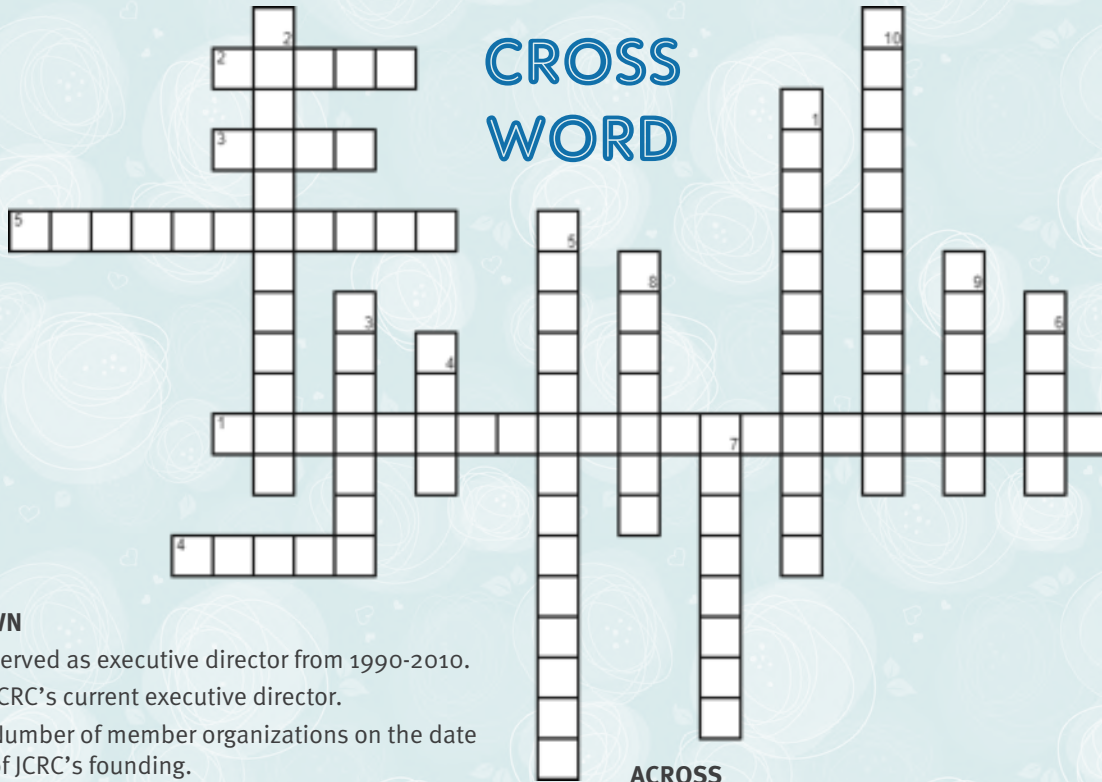
Solutions on last page... no peeking!



COMMUNITY RELATIONS: THEN AND NOW



CROSS WORD



DOWN

1. Served as executive director from 1990-2010.
2. JCRC's current executive director.
3. Number of member organizations on the date of JCRC's founding.
4. The month that JCRC was founded.
5. The founding president of JCRC.
6. JCRC's program to mobilize the Jewish community to help elementary school children discover the joy of reading.
7. JCRC's volunteer program for young adults in their 20s and 30s.
8. JCRC was founded as a ____ organization.
9. JCRC helped to organize thousands from Boston to participate in historic "Freedom Sunday for _____ Jews," the largest ever Jewish mobilization in Washington, DC.
10. JCRC's purpose is to define and advance the values, interests, and priorities of the organized Jewish community of Greater Boston in the _____.

ACROSS

1. JCRC's initiative connecting local leaders and aspiring activists to grassroots Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders working towards mutual recognition, dignity, and a just and lasting peace.
2. JCRC's volunteer service-learning program for teens.
3. JCRC coordinates programming for this important memorial on the Freedom Trail (acronym).
4. JCRC worked with our faith-based partners to create this grassroots collaboration for immigrant justice (acronym).
5. To the next _____!

WORD SEARCH

R X Z K M O B I L I Z E O O D
T E L E M W Y Z V J E W I S H
H E V S L S N O I T A L E R C
T Y N I L Q I S R A E L Y R Y
B Y R A S R E V I N N A E X B
W X L C O M M U N I T Y V J E
V W Y R O T S I H E S R V P Z
I N T E R F A I T H Y E I S I
Q F U W U Q J A W C N N G T N
J C O O S C R V A I A T V S A
Z L H L R B C C X F G R E L G
I S C C E O O O Z T O A V C R
M M A L O V I K R V G P I J O
S P E I D X L I F Y U K F B L
Q C R A E B B E Q L E U J G C

JCRC
ADVOCACY
COMMUNITY
RELATIONS
JEWISH
MOBILIZE

ORGANIZE
HISTORY
CELEBRATE
PARTNER
ISRAEL
TELEM

REACHOUT
GBJCL
INTERFAITH
ANNIVERSARY
SYNAGOGUE



JCRC ISRAEL STUDY TOURS: THEN AND NOW





CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



*Jewish Community
Relations Council*

JCRC OF GREATER BOSTON

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