We are proud to share our accomplishments with you and hope that you will appreciate and perhaps even draw inspiration from what you read in these pages.

As we all know, this was a year unlike any other in recent memory. Our work continues to focus on our core areas of Service, Advocacy and Organizing, and Israel Engagement. However, when we planned our work last summer, we did not appreciate how fundamentally altered our national landscape would be just one year later.

Long simmering fault lines have been brought to the fore and forced us to face the divisions in our society – divisions that were exacerbated during the last election and in the year since. We are now called to answer threats to the Muslim and immigrant communities. We denounced expressions and acts of hatred and bigotry that attempt to divide and sow fear. We responded to the sense of urgency that has surfaced in our synagogues, reaching out to new parts of our community to take effective action on the issues that profoundly trouble us.

Over the past year, with our most cherished values at stake, JCRC was there – staying the course, charting new ground. We continued to engage our community in meaningful service in high-needs public schools, senior centers, and anti-poverty organizations. We maintained and deepened our connections on Beacon Hill, advocating effectively for Jewish priorities. We connected non-Jewish civic leaders with Israel, forging lasting relationships. And – we met the challenge of this new reality by catalyzing our network, joining forces with our partners, and drawing on our relationships with elected officials to protect ourselves, our neighbors, and our democracy.

We will continue to amplify the Jewish voice in our public square to enact our values as a unified community. We will continue to protect and defend the ideals of our people and our country. We will continue to work in powerful coalitions to build a more just and compassionate society.

Please join our efforts and support our work.

Jeremy Burton, Executive Director
Adam Suttin, President
JCRC is the representative voice of the organized Jewish community in the public square. With Jewish community leaders, our partner agencies, and the support of donors, JCRC develops and promotes meaningful Jewish service and volunteer experiences; builds strong relationships with civic leaders; and partners with other faith communities on issues of shared concern. Through our work, JCRC advances the values and priorities of the organized Jewish community of Greater Boston in support of the Commonwealth and Israel.

Serving as a Trusted Voice
JCRC ensures that the Jewish community’s voice is heard by those in positions of power. We represent the priorities of the community both with elected officials at the State House and within our federal delegation. Our deep connections, however, do not stop in the halls of government. Our influence is amplified through local and national media outlets, where we provide the community’s perspective and analysis of current events.

Defending our Hallowed Spaces
We respond to the fear and vulnerability felt deeply by our community, standing together in the face of rising anti-Semitism and responding to acts of hatred. When the New England Holocaust Memorial (NEHM) was desecrated twice this summer, we reacted quickly, bringing the community together with elected officials and interfaith partners, vowing to rebuild and remember. When bomb threats terrorized area Jewish Community Centers, we advocated for increased nonprofit security funding.

Leading in a Time of Urgency
We sit on the front lines defending our community’s values and refusing to be silent in a time of great challenge. The January release of our Communal Joint Statement on Immigration and Refugees, undersigned by 41 Jewish agencies, synagogues, and organizations, established a mandate to work with interfaith partners in support of immigrants and refugees. This statement catalyzed a comprehensive campaign in commitment to our neighbors, creating a climate of increased cooperation among agencies and deepening our work within congregations. In the wake of executive orders and tweets from Washington, we were the first JCRC in the nation to sign onto Keshet’s Campaign for Trans Youth. And when white supremacists and neo-Nazis wreaked havoc in Charlottesville and threatened to march on Boston, we worked to bring together interfaith and political leaders in a shared response.

“We must do everything we can to fight the normalization of marginalization.”
— ATTORNEY GENERAL MAURA HEALEY, speaking to JCRC’s lay leaders on January 24th

Attorney General Maura Healey meets with leaders in the Jewish community to discuss the state of democracy.
In 2017, JCRC was featured in more than 25 local, national, and international publications, defending democratic norms, calling attention to threats in our midst, and speaking out against acts of anti-Semitism and hatred.
JCRC continues to assume leadership for the most vulnerable citizens of the Commonwealth. This has been a particularly challenging year, and the JCRC led a coalition of Jewish organizations, including JVS, to support refugees and immigrants and protect their most basic rights. JCRC is always there when it matters most.

— JERRY RUBIN, CEO of Jewish Vocational Service

Access to Special Education Services
We are bringing needed attention to inequities in special education services available to Jewish day school and other private school students. Massachusetts is one of a few states to grant a right to special education to all students, but the unfortunate reality is that lack of compliance, timing, and location of services makes access virtually impossible for many. Even federal funds specifically earmarked for non-public school students with disabilities were not used as intended. Due to our persistent advocacy, the Commonwealth has taken action so that students receive the services to which they are entitled, regardless of academic setting.

Anti-Discrimination Bill
JCRC leads a coalition to support legislation that would prevent Massachusetts from contracting with businesses who discriminate, sending the message to Israelis and Israeli-owned businesses that the Commonwealth will not stand by when they are targeted solely based on national origin. We secured the support of over 1,000 allies, met with legislators, penned a Boston Globe op-ed, and appeared on WBUR’s Radio Boston to dispel inaccurate representations of the bill. One-third of the legislature has signaled support and we are working to move the bill forward to enactment.

“With more than 130 organizational members at MIRA, we often get to work with outstanding community organizations, but none has been so reliable and fast-acting as JCRC. JCRC has taken a leadership role in bringing the Jewish community into the immigrants’ rights movement. We could not have 1,400 people at Safe Communities Act bill launch or 1,600 individuals at our Immigrants’ Day at the State House if JCRC had not been advancing our advocacy in its deeply rooted network.”

— LIZA J. RYAN, Director of Organizing, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
Together with young Jewish leaders, synagogue partners, and the Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN), JCRC is building an arsenal of accessible resources for immigrants and refugees, including organizing interfaith clusters to respond to the urgent needs of families searching wherever they can for a lifeline. These clusters are taking courageous steps, opening their doors as a refuge, standing up for the unjustly detained, accompanying terrified undocumented immigrants to Immigration and Customs Enforcement check-ins, and turning out en masse to advocate for the safety and dignity of our immigrant neighbors.

**Communities Acting Together**

We work closely with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) and its “Out of Many, One” campaign. In December, we were a key organizer of the kickoff solidarity event and provided buses for suburban Jews to attend. Of the 2,600+ attendees, one-third were Jewish. We collaborated to organize a 1,700-person interfaith service one week after the events in Charlottesville and on the eve of the local white supremacist march and counter protest. Both events were planned on short notice and were made possible by our deep, enduring, and trusting relationships with our interfaith partners and elected officials.

The need for bold action has never been greater. We enable individuals to act as change agents through and with their synagogue communities. Segments of our community that were previously uninvolved with our work are now coming to JCRC for guidance, asking “What can I do?”

**Mobilizing Jewish Leadership**

This is a time that calls for innovation in community outreach. We embrace the need for change, staying nimble and responsive in a political environment that makes new and unexpected demands. Enter PHONE2ACTION, an easy-to-use platform that amplifies individual voices through collective action. We have already activated more than 520 members of the Jewish community in a variety of statewide legislative campaigns, such as advocating to the State Senate and House for our criminal justice reform priorities: bail reform, reducing fees and fines, eliminating excessive time in solitary confinement, and reforming the use of mandatory minimum sentencing.
Building CONNECTIONS WITH ISRAEL

Working Toward a Two-State Solution

Our commitment to support a secure, democratic, and Jewish state in Israel compels us to build positive connections to Israel for elected officials and Christian clergy. It compels us to invest in Israel’s future and encourage our region’s young adults to support lasting peace and combat delegitimization of Israel. In 2017, we launched two initiatives through which our community can take concrete action. The Israel Collaborative convenes cohorts of young leaders to learn about and support Israelis and Palestinians in their legitimate quests for equality, safety, self-determination, and enduring peace. The Boston Partners for Peace provides a platform to engage with and provide financial support to cutting-edge co-existence efforts in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Israel Study Tours

Our Israel Study Tours for elected officials and Christian clergy enable participants to appreciate the complexity of the Middle East that Israel must navigate, cultivating a dynamic of curiosity and willingness to question popular media coverage. This year, we put 25 leaders in direct relationships with Israelis beyond the conflict, i.e. with real people with relatable lives and aspirations.

STUDY TOUR PROFILE: KENT FRENCH

In search of “a deeper understanding of what it means to be Israeli at this time in human history,” Rev. Kent French, Senior Pastor of the United Parish in Brookline, joined JCRC’s Christian Clergy Israel Study Tour in 2015. He was so moved by all that he experienced that he recruited colleagues for the 2017 trip, which he then co-chaired. Rev. French reflected on these transformative events, “I am grateful for the ways these trips have moved me and others past the limited and entrenched rhetoric we hear in the US about Israelis and Palestinians, and helped us better understand the complexity and vibrancy of this unique part of the world. Meeting Jewish and Arab activists working together gave me hope. Their example inspired me about the possibilities for moving beyond divisiveness with collaborative activism and social change in this country. It is inspiring to meet people who love their country, their land, their people, and want to work together for peace and justice.”

I was forced to forget whatever I had ever learned about Israel. It was astounding how little truth and facts I understood about Israel and the region. Truly enlightening. I even watch and read US news in a different light having been to Israel to see things firsthand.

— DANIEL F. CAHILL, State Representative

“The JCRC goes out of their way to present a lot of viewpoints from this complicated place.”

— LORI EHRlich, State Representative
More than 1,000 students a week receive tutoring from our literacy volunteers. These tutors include Jewish teens and pre-teens from The Rashi School, Jewish Community Day School, Solomon Schechter Day School, and Gann Academy. This year, teams from each school participated in TELEM and the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL) by tutoring students at Jackson Mann Elementary School. These young volunteers contributed to GBJCL’s 20th anniversary, organizing book drives and planning program birthday parties for the students they tutor. Through these partnerships, we look to instill a lifelong commitment to service in future generations of Jewish Boston.

TELEM: Jewish Youth Making a Difference Together

Each year, TELEM engages hundreds of Jewish teens, animating the values of chesed (kindness) and tzedek (justice) by serving others. On a chilly day in March, 34 volunteers lent their skills and brawn to make 94-year-old Jamaica Plain resident Branson Clark’s home more livable. The youngest volunteer, a bar mitzvah boy, donated $70 he earned shoveling snow towards the purchase of building materials. The team built railings, repaired walls and doors, painted trim, and cleaned up yard debris, enabling Mr. Clark to continue living safely and independently in his own home.

ReachOut! Young Adult Engagement

Young professional volunteers work with their service sites to create meaningful change. In 2016, ten volunteers in the afterschool program at the South End’s St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church transformed a drop-in homework help program into a full-scale, 1:1 tutoring opportunity for middle schoolers. One afternoon per week, ten students received personalized attention from a volunteer, helping them to complete homework. Thrilled with this past year’s success, St. Stephen’s requested two teams this fall, doubling the number of students ReachOut! serves there.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

On January 16th, 200 people rolled up their sleeves at five service sites. At Blackstone Elementary School in the South End, volunteers painted walls, cleaned windows, sorted books, and made teacher appreciation gifts. Across town at the Boston Latin School, JCRC and Boston Cares made science kits for school children. Volunteers at a Brockton church made energy and cost saving upgrades. Young adults in Brookline discussed the Civil Rights Era with residents of Hebrew Senior Life. Nearly 70 volunteers joined Cambridge’s day of service to make fleece blankets and scarves for homeless people and decorate valentines for homebound seniors and veterans.

We are proud that our students have become so passionate about volunteerism. Many of our students have branched out with their volunteer activities as a result of their involvement with TELEM. The more they volunteer, the more it becomes part of who they are.

— HEIDI SMITH HYDE, TELEM Coordinator at Temple Sinai, Brookline
Bringing People Together

RAISING OUR VOICES: MUSIC, ART, AND REMEMBRANCE
2017 Community Holocaust Commemoration of Yom HaShoah

On April 23rd, JCRC and its partners convened 400 people at Faneuil Hall to bear witness to the testimony of noted author Rabbi Joseph Polak, a child survivor of the Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps. JCRC honored the teen winners of the Israel Arbeiter Essay Contest and presented Charlotte Sheer and Jamie Droste, teachers at the Foxborough Regional Charter School, with the Leadership in Holocaust Education Award for their creative and groundbreaking Holocaust Stamps Project.

“Remarkably, none of the Holocaust survivors whose testimonies I have heard want revenge, and they don’t exhibit any hate or contempt. The unifying theme of all of their testimonies is a wish for a future that is more kind and more humane, and that history’s lessons do not go ignored. When we bear witness, we become a witness. The onus is on my generation to create a world that is more compassionate.”

— ZACHARY SCLAR, 2017 Israel Arbeiter Essay Contest Winner

14TH ANNUAL CONNIE SPEAR BIRNBAUM MEMORIAL LECTURE

On September 26th, more than 300 people gathered at Congregation Beth El-Atereth Israel in Newton to commemorate the legacy of Connie S. Birnbaum z”l, beloved to the community as a professional and volunteer before her untimely passing in 2003. This marked JCRC’s first year as steward of this annual event and featured a fascinating lecture from Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik about the connection between Rembrandt’s Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph and how we prepare for Yom Kippur. We thank Dr. Herbert Birnbaum and his family for entrusting us with this event bearing Connie’s name.
This year we celebrated the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy’s (GBJCL) 20th anniversary. More than 200 community members joined us at Temple Emanuel in Newton. We honored Mark Friedman, a passionate supporter and 10+ year GBJCL volunteer, with the Barry Shrage Community Builder Award. The evening featured moving messages about GBJCL’s enduring impact from service partners and featured Adam Chakmakian, a 4th grader from the Beethoven School and Mark’s tutee.

“I feel lucky that I have the chance to work with Mr. Friedman. Before Mr. Friedman, I liked to read but I just wouldn’t read because I didn’t think it was as interesting as playing sports outside. After reading with Mr. Friedman, I became motivated to read more and now I am reading chapter books.”

— ADAM CHAKMAKIAN, 4th grader at the Beethoven School
JCRC Leadership 2017-2018

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We extend our sincere gratitude to those listed in this report who have chosen to support the Jewish Community Relations Council. This donor report is reflective of gifts made in FY17 (October 1, 2016–September 30, 2017), as well as pledges for FY18 made during this period.

We have made every effort to recognize our donors correctly. Please excuse any typographical errors and omissions. Please direct any corrections and concerns to Solon Arguello at sarguello@jcrcboston.org. Thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

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# JCRC by the Numbers 2017

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPT. 30, 2016

**SUPPORT AND REVENUE**
- CJP Grants: $2,070,344
- Supports from Grants and Foundations: $319,624
- Individual Donors: $159,417
- Event Revenue: $153,884
- Other Income: $6,873
- **Total Support and Revenue:** $2,710,142

**EXPENSES BY PROGRAM**

#### SERVICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS
- TELEM: $330,253
- Synagogue Organizing: $123,724
- Community Relations: $237,584
- Holocaust Programs: $88,336
- Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy: $168,841
- **ReachOut!**: $131,653
- **TOTAL:** $1,080,189

#### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
- Disability Advocacy: $117,393
- Anti-Gun Violence Advocacy: $102,313
- General Government Affairs: $332,900
- **TOTAL:** $552,606

#### ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT
- $387,173

**TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES**
- $2,019,968

**Administrative and Development Expenses**
- $558,739

**Total expenses**
- $2,578,707

**NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)**
- **$131,435**

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- Nahma Nadich
  - Deputy Director
- Tamar Davis
  - Chief Development Officer
- Michael Selsman
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  - Senior Synagogue Organizer
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  - Development Associate
- Nancy Marin
  - Senior Technology Administrator
- Carol Pennini
  - Administrative Assistant
- Ben Poor
  - Synagogue Organizer
- Emily Reichman
  - Director, Service Initiatives
- Rebecca Shimshak
  - Director, Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy
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