LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT

Dear Friend,

This year we are delighted to focus on our service programs, which — like our advocacy, organizing and Israel engagement — reflect JCRC’s core values and defines our work as an organization. JCRC’s service programs often take place out of the public eye, where hundreds of volunteers quietly provide services at a myriad of community-based organizations throughout Greater Boston every week. We are so pleased to honor these unsung heroes and tell you about their accomplishments.

JCRC’s purpose is to define and advance the values, interests and priorities of the Jewish community in the public square. So, you may ask: why is it that we prioritize engaging so many volunteers in ongoing service? How does volunteer service further our community relations agenda?

As our first service program, Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy, celebrates its 18th anniversary this year, our experience has taught us that volunteer service is a powerful vehicle not only for clarifying Jewish values and interests, but also in enabling our community members to bring them to life. Tutoring children, providing food to people living in poverty, and companionship to isolated seniors fulfills the mandates of our tradition, deepens Jewish identity and strengthens our own community as we engage together in this work. By being a part of a collective solution to Greater Boston's thorniest challenges, we work side-by-side with other communities, developing positive relationships and exemplifying the best of Jewish values. Through our volunteers’ sustained work in the field, we are proud to have earned a reputation as a trusted and committed partner, in it for the long haul to build a stronger and more vibrant community.

In doing this work together, we affirm our commitment to our community's values, ones that are inextricably linked to those of Greater Boston.

We are delighted to share this 2015 Annual Report and the stories that define us. As you read through these pages, please consider volunteering your time, sharing your ideas, and lending your financial support.

With profound gratitude,

JEREMY BURTON  ADAM SUTTIN
Executive Director  President
ReachOut! is the best volunteer organization I have been a part of. Involvement has enabled me to work at a multitude of locations around the city with people of all socioeconomic statuses, ages and ethnicities.

You can make a direct impact on the lives of members in your own local community, and develop a deeper understanding and perspective on the problems and inequalities that exist in our city. ReachOut! is a truly unique volunteer experience. Its participants and leaders are passionate and dedicated, open-minded and inclusive, and look forward to welcoming newer volunteers into their community.

ReachOut! provides Jewish young adults with opportunities to engage in volunteer service in nonprofits throughout Greater Boston. The program supports a community of young professionals who care deeply about improving our community, sharing meaningful Jewish experiences, and developing their own leadership skills.

“ReachOut! is the best volunteer organization I have been a part of. Involvement has enabled me to work at a multitude of locations around the city with people of all socioeconomic statuses, ages and ethnicities. You can make a direct impact on the lives of members in your own local community, and develop a deeper understanding and perspective on the problems and inequalities that exist in our city. ReachOut! is a truly unique volunteer experience. Its participants and leaders are passionate and dedicated, open-minded and inclusive, and look forward to welcoming newer volunteers into their community.”

“Food insecurity is a real issue in our community, one that we often don’t notice. ReachOut! not only makes a real difference by serving meals, but helps bring to light the challenges of hunger and homelessness.”

— JONATHAN SCLARSIC, A REACHOUT! VOLUNTEER FOR THE TUESDAY MEALS PROGRAM AT FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, MA

In 2014-15, ReachOut! was expanded to a year-round program with an eight-week summer cycle.
During April vacation, a group of 26 students from Prozdor and TELEM went on a community-service trip to New York. The trip was an absolutely amazing experience. Not only did I learn about myself throughout the week, I was constantly learning so much about people from all different types of communities while simultaneously making new, life-long friends. Because of this trip to New York, I'm looking forward to continuing service in my everyday life and helping others in any way that I can. Thank you so much to Prozdor, TELEM, and Repair the World for presenting me with this life-altering experience!

TELEM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

TELEM engages teens in Greater Boston to deepen their Jewish identity through ongoing community-based service learning with their Jewish peers. These experiences foster a lifelong commitment to volunteerism and social justice.

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“In 2014-15, over 50 teens participated in service trips to the New York area to assist in post-Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts.

“The most meaningful moment of the trip was feeling like I was actually making a difference to the homeowners’ lives. We were able to meet and hear the homeowners’ story of how their home was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. I felt so good to be a part of helping this family get their home back.”

– RACHEL HALUNEN, TEMPLE CHAYAI SHALOM, EASTON

LILI KLAYMAN | TELEM PARTICIPANT
Cyrill Wolf has been volunteering at the Beethoven Elementary School since the inception of the GBJCL program and is an essential and well established member of the school community supporting teachers and students alike. In addition to being an amazing learning partner to countless students, Cyrill is also an ambassador of GBJCL, sharing her experiences as a volunteer with friends, neighbors and her fellow Temple Emanuel members. "I am a retired teacher and love every minute that I spend with the children and teachers. I have been doing this since I retired 18 years ago. I just hope to go on.”

“The important support GBJCL volunteers provide to our teachers, the principal, me, and most especially, the children is a blessing!”

— SHARON LINSKY, CONLEY READING SPECIALIST

In 2014-15, 300 GBJCL volunteers reached nearly 1,000 students each week, donating more than 8,000 hours of their time.

GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY (GBJCL) TURNS 18!

For 18 years, the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL) has trained and placed volunteers in high-need schools in Greater Boston with the goal of improving literacy, language learning and school engagement, and academic performance for thousands of students.
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

ADVOCACY

JCRC advocates for an inclusive agenda highlighting the innovative work of our agencies. We advance our community’s shared priorities by securing public funding and advocating for broad-ranging policy change.

Among our successes this past year, JCRC worked with a broad coalition to ensure that the state’s share of the Earned Income Tax Credit would be increased for working families across the Commonwealth and advocated for continued funding for the Transitions to Work Program, which helps young adults with disabilities succeed in the workforce.

We also engage with our entire federal delegation on a host of issues, affecting both our domestic and international policies, including support for a strong and vibrant US-Israel relationship. We are a source of advice and counsel on these issues and nurture deep ties with our delegation and their key staff to ensure a trusted and mutual relationship.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

JCRC/MAJF welcomed nearly 200 people to the 18th Annual Legislative Reception in February, celebrating our community leaders, legislators, and volunteers who dedicate themselves to addressing economic inequality, accessibility to safety net services, and the inclusion of people of all abilities.

JCRC was pleased to recognize Paul Bernon and the Ruderman Family Foundation for their visionary leadership on our disability policy agenda and Senator Dan Wolf, Representative Joe Wagner and Rita Noonan from Senate President Stanley Rosenberg’s office.

PUBLIC POLICY SPEAKER SERIES

The 2015 Public Policy Speaker Series featured key state policy makers for wide ranging conversations about the issues of the day on Beacon Hill, as well as showcasing each speaker’s connection with the Jewish community’s priorities.

In having these intimate conversations on a regular basis, JCRC aims to solidify our relationships and further advance our reputation as a key ally in policy development and implementation in the State House. Speakers this past year have included Governor Charlie Baker, House Speaker Robert DeLeo, Senate President Stanley Rosenberg, and Chair of the Senate House and Ways Committee Senator Karen Spilka.
COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION OF YOM HASHOAH

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the New England Holocaust Memorial and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps. To honor local survivors of the Holocaust and to pay tribute to those who perished, JCRC and its partners welcomed over 500 community members to LIBERATION: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT, a community commemoration of Yom HaShoah, in April at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

Donaldo Jean-Baptiste of Malden High School and Madison Lomax of Tenney Grammar School in Methuen were winners of the 9th annual Israel Arbeiter Holocaust Essay Contest. 

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JCRC was especially honored to welcome David Eisenhower, noted historian and grandson of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, as the event’s keynote speaker.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh addressed the audience.

The Yom Hashoah event welcomed Holocaust survivors and liberators.

Winners of the 9th annual Israel Arbeiter Holocaust Essay Contest were announced at the event - Donaldo Jean-Baptiste of Malden High School and Madison Lomax of Tenney Grammar School in Methuen.

SYNAGOGUE ORGANIZING

JCRC’s Synagogue Organizing team engages, trains and supports synagogue leaders to effect positive change on critical social and economic issues.

Last Spring, 17 synagogues and Jewish organizations recruited more than 400 members of our community for a major Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) assembly with Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh. JCRC-trained synagogue leaders played key roles on stage and behind the scenes, co-chairing the event and developing strategies on campaigns focused on Gun Violence Prevention, Affordable Housing, and Criminal Justice Reform.

JCRC Executive Director Jeremy Burton (right) speaks with an attendee at the GBIO Assembly.

Over 1,500 people attended the GBIO Assembly, including 400 members of the Jewish community.

“Until the end of my last breath, I swore to myself that I would never be silent whenever and wherever I saw human beings endure suffering and humiliation of any kind. My wish is to one day open an orphanage for children who lost their parents, whether in the refugee camp or anywhere in the world. Unfortunately, children are so often the victims of violence. And they should be treated with love and care because they are the future. There wouldn’t be yesterday, today, or tomorrow if there were no children in this world.”

– DONALDO JEAN-BAPTISTE, ESSAY CONTEST WINNER, MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL

“Gun Violence Prevention must be a national priority, and here in MA, we have brought it home! Last summer, under the strong and unwavering leadership of Speaker Robert DeLeo, and with the hard work of hundreds in this room and thousands beyond, including the MA Coalition and John Rosenthal of Stop Handgun Violence, we did something very few other states have managed to do in recent history: We passed sensible gun legislation that is poised to save lives.”

– JANET GOLDENBERG, CO-CONVENER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COALITION TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, MEMBER OF TEMPLE BETH ELOHIM, WELLESLEY
ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

JCRC engages influential leaders from across Greater Boston to learn about and build support for Israel.

JCRC provides briefings and analysis of current events, cultivates relationships and leads Study Tours to Israel for community leaders — one focused on elected officials and one for Christian clergy.

The JCRC Study Tour for Civic Leaders in December, 2014 offered a unique opportunity for members of the MA Legislature and other elected officials to meet the people of Israel and to gain a better understanding of the complexities and challenges facing the Middle East.

In July, 2015, JCRC lead a delegation of Christian clergy on a spiritual and fact-finding journey. The delegation met with Jews, Muslims, and Christians; Israelis and Palestinians; and people representing a wide spectrum of political and social thought.

“The trip was an amazing opportunity for learning and growth! The wide range of inspiring leaders we met powerfully revealed the beauty, wonder and complexity of life in Israel.”

— REV. DANIEL A. SMITH, FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

MA State Rep. Jeff Roy (left) shares a moment with tour guide Mike Hollander during the 2014 Civic Leaders Study Tour.

CONVENING THE COMMUNITY

JCRC convenes members of the Greater Boston Jewish Community during times of crisis.

During the Gaza crisis in the summer of 2014, JCRC convened four public gatherings — 200 people attended a vigil for the safe return of three kidnapped Israeli boys; 700 people took part in a memorial service upon the tragic discovery of their murder; 1,000 people attended a solidarity rally at Congregation Mishkan Tefillah in Chestnut Hill. The final gathering, co-sponsored by more than 100 area synagogues and Jewish organizations, drew over 3,000 people to City Hall Plaza in Boston. This was the largest pro-Israel gathering in New England throughout the conflict and the first outdoor rally convened by the organized Jewish community in five years.

Following terrorist attacks in Paris in January, 2015, more than 450 people came together at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley to show solidarity with French Jews. Fabien Fieschi, the Consul General of France in Boston assured the crowd that France is taking all possible steps to protect its Jewish citizens.

Over 3,000 people attended a pro-Israel rally at City Hall Plaza (above and top right). Rally Photo Credits: Elan Kawesch

MA elected officials in Israel during the 2014 Civic Leaders Study Tour.


“Rally Photo Credits: Elan Kawesch

Fabien Fieschi, Consul General of France in Boston, spoke to an audience gathered to show solidarity with French Jews.

“For my colleagues who had never been to Israel, this was an eye opening experience — a rare opportunity to get beyond the headlines and learn more about a country and a region that we often see only on the news.”

— JOSH ZAKIM, BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR

Over 3,000 people attended a pro-Israel rally at City Hall Plaza (above and top right). Rally Photo Credits: Elan Kawesch

Rabbi Carl Perkins and Rev. Jennifer Hitt flank an IDF soldier during the 2015 Christian Clergy Study Tour.
The JCRC Council’s Community Representatives include the Officers, the Board of Directors and the following individuals:

**Dan Barenboym**
**Vladimir Fogelman**
**Dan Freedman Belt**
**Samuel Gechter**
**Barbara Berke**
**Janet Goldenberg**
**Aimee Bierman**
**Allison Gordon**
**Gil Bloom**
**Paul Hattis**
**David Borus**
**Jonathan Klein**
**Marna Dolinger**
**Joe Kriesberg**
**Andrew Fischer**
**Dan Barenboym**
**Vladimir Fogelman**
**Dan Freedman Belt**
**Samuel Gechter**
**Barbara Berke**
**Janet Goldenberg**
**Aimee Bierman**
**Gil Bloom**
**Paul Hattis**
**David Borus**
**Marna Dolinger**
**Andrew Fischer**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
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Justin Wyner

**ACTION FOR POST-SOVET JEWRY**
Barbara Anatolev

**THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND DESCENDANTS OF GREATER BOSTON, INC.**
Issac Kot

**AMERICAN FRIENDS OF MAGEN DAVID ADOM**
TBD

**AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**
Jeffrey F. Stonberg  
TBD

**AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**
Michael M. Davis  
Michael Tichnor  
AMIT  
TBD

**ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE**
Jerry Goldstein  
Neal Levan  
ANNUAL BRITH INTERNATIONAL  
Robert Golden  
BBYO  
TBD

**COMMITTEE FOR ACCURACY IN MIDDLE EAST REPORTING IN AMERICA**
Andrea Levin  
Alex Safian

**COMBINED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES**
Elise Buny  
Cantor Steven Weiss  
TBD (2)

**FEDERATION OF JEWISH MEN’S CLUBS**
Elliot Feldman  
Kenneth A. Turkewitz

**HADASSAH, BOSTON CHAPTER**
Varda Farber (Jan – Sept)  
Brenda Tracey  
Ellen Zarrow-Nissenbaum (Oct. – Dec)

**HADASSAH, NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGION**
Dana Fine  
Kathy Kerstein  
HADASSAH, SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGION  
Benita Ross  
Leslie Zade

**HILLEL COUNCIL OF NEW ENGLAND**
Samuel Mandales  
Garry Shillin  
J STREET EDUCATIONAL FUND

**JEWISH ALLIANCE FOR LAW AND SOCIAL ACTION**
Barbara Anatolev

**JEWISH COMMITTEE CENTER**
TBD (2)

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF THE NORTH SHORE**
Michael Eschelbacher  
Martin Schner

**JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE**
Rabbi Barbara Penzner

**JEWISH WAR VETERANS**
Jack Remo  
Harvey Weiner

**JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL**
TBD

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF THE NORTH SHORE**
Michael Eschelbacher  
Martin Schner

**JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE**
Rabbi Barbara Penzner

**JEWISH WAR VETERANS**
Jack Remo  
Harvey Weiner

**JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL**
TBD

**ORTHODOX UNION**
TBD (2)

**ORT AMERICA**
Marlene Sheena

**SHOMRIM SOCIETY**
Michael Silmich

**SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS**
Richard Wisorke

**UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM**
TBD (2)

**UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM**
Aimee Close  
TBD

**VAAD HARARONIM**
Rabbi Zalman Krems

**VILNA SHUL BOSTON’S CENTER FOR JEWISH CULTURE**
Barnet Kessel

**WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM**
TBD (2)

**WOMEN’S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM**
Phyllis Brody  
Sue Linden

**WORKMEN’S CIRCLE**
TBD

**ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA**
Dr. Henry H. Silverman
We extend our sincere gratitude to those listed in this report who have chosen to support the Jewish Community Relations Council. The donor report is reflective of gifts made in FY 14 and FY 15 as of August 26, 2015. We have made every effort to recognize our donors correctly. Please excuse any typographical errors and omissions. Please direct any corrections and concerns to: Alex Friedman at afriedman@jcrcboston.org. Thank you again for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

$75,000+
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Valerie & Mark Friedman

$1,000–$2,499
Samantha Joseph
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

CJP Grants 2,136,745
Support from Grants & Foundations 87,500
Individual Donors 460,664
Event Revenue 161,578
Other Income 7,509
Total support and revenue 2,853,996

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
Dnepropetrovsk Kehillah Project 545,440
Learning Exchange 117,098
Ethiopian Jewry/Shiluvim 91,348
TOTAL 753,886

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS
TELEM 383,180
Synagogue Organizing 102,995
Community Relations 140,674
Holocaust Programs 64,179
Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy 172,130
ReachOut! 97,040
TOTAL 960,198

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
Disability Advocacy 108,190
Anti-gun Violence Advocacy 102,580
General Government Affairs 261,740
TOTAL 472,510

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT 123,384

Total program expenses 2,309,978
Administrative and development expenses 360,345
Total expenses 2,670,323

Net Surplus/ (Deficit) 183,673

EXECUTIVE TEAM
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Executive Director
Elana H. Margolis
Associate Director
Nahma Nadich
Associate Director

LEADERSHIP TEAM
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Jeff Landis
Director, Communications
Emily Reichman
Director, Service Initiatives
Michael Selzman
Director, Finance and Administration

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Jean Connolly
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Shoshana Czik
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Ariella Hellman
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Director, Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy
JCRC defines and advances the values, interests and priorities of the organized Jewish community of Greater Boston in the public square.