



ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018

JCPA | JEWISH COUNCIL
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
STRENGTHENING THE JCRC NETWORK	5
PROGRAM INITIATIVE	6
POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY	7
ISRAEL	14
NATIONAL CONVENINGS.....	15
JCPA EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM.....	17
COMMUNICATIONS.....	17
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	24

INTRODUCTION

Overview of JCPA's work

More than 70 years after its creation, JCPA's mission is as relevant as ever as we lead the field in outreach to legislators and racial, ethnic, faith, and civic leaders. By building consensus within the Jewish community and working in coalition with others, JCPA worked to protect and promote the values and interests of the Jewish people.

There was much happening in the world that impacted the Jewish community relations field, from Israel's role in the global arena and growing antisemitism to the rollbacks on immigration, civil rights, and poverty assistance programs in the U.S. The community relations field was increasingly called upon for leadership and rapid response. Recognizing this changing landscape, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) focused on strengthening the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) network to meet today's current challenges.

For 2017-2018, JCPA set out five strategic goals:

- Strengthen our national agencies engagement around policy collectively and elevate and activate the Jewish community on domestic policy priority issues;
- Increase our involvement in diverse coalitions to ensure a strong Jewish voice on critical issues, a robust democracy, respect for civil and human rights, and deterrence against antisemitism;
- Onboard and provide services to JCRCs, such as JCRC staff trainings and resources to support their work at the local level and engagement and mobilization around key issues.
- Make the case for community relations within the Federation system; and
- Diversify JCPA's revenue streams.

JCPA enhanced its field facing efforts to put in place an infrastructure to ensure that when needed the JCRC Network could act nimbly and effectively join together in taking action on important issues nationally and locally in a timely way. We continued to encourage and provide training for stronger JCRC engagement with leaders of racial, ethnic, religious, and civic organizations to work in common cause on major issues of the day.

Throughout 2017-2018, JCPA's policy priorities included support for Israel, health care, immigration, religious liberty, and more. [Click here to read JCPA's End of Year Message to the Board – December 2017.](#)

JCPA's top six achievements in 2017-2018:

- Strengthened the grassroots network to ensure a significant Jewish public affairs presence on important issues facing our nation. We held the first ever JCRC Shabbat Retreat for more than 20 “new(ish)” JCRC Directors and a three-part Virtual Retreat for JCRC Chairs and Professionals. Through our webinars we provided professional training to 50 additional JCRC directors.
- Launched JCPA's Criminal Justice Reform Initiative with a matching grant of more than \$400,000 from the Leon and Toby Cooperman Foundation, completed a year-long education campaign on the issue, produced the first edition of the [In Your Backyard: A Toolkit for Addressing Criminal Justice at the Local Level](#), and led a mission to D.C. to strategize with heads of national civil rights organizations.
- Advocated on crucial legislative priorities such as successfully defeating efforts to weaken the Johnson Amendment and cut Medicaid. We also rallied Jewish communities to oppose rollbacks on U.S. immigration and refugee policy, including the “zero tolerance” family separation policy at the border and the significant cuts to the refugee resettlement program; passing a clean Dream Act; and ending the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya people.
- Pioneered the use of digital platforms to hold nearly 35 educational webinars for our network with thousands of viewers, including the popular “CRCast: a regularly scheduled webcast that addresses concerns related to Jewish advocacy and community relations.
- Led a 29-person mission to Israel where participants met Knesset members, NGO representatives, as well as Palestinians and Israelis of diverse backgrounds and interests. We mentored 13 rising Jewish leaders and provided them with the knowledge and experience to be effective, nuanced Israel advocates.
- Adopted a new governance structure at the JCPA2018 National Conference, that revised the role and size of the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee and created a Delegates Assembly as the main deliberative body on domestic and international policy priorities for the community relations field.

Advocating for the Community Relations Field

In partnership with Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and the Israel Action Network (IAN), JCPA launched a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Community Relations made up of 25 JCRC and Federation leaders to set a path forward for JCPA and JFNA on community relations. The Task Force work included surveying the field: interviewing select CEOs, JCRC leaders and influencers, as well as holding a retreat in Chicago in May to review materials and develop recommendations. The resulting report and recommendations became the basis for advocacy with Federations for the adoption of this new vision for the future of the community relations field. [Click here](#) to read the report.

We also partnered with the respected Reut Institute to hold a strategic planning process for JCPA, developing a long-term strategic plan for how JCPA can strengthen the JCRC network. The process resulted from a Reut Institute report highlighting the important role the community relations field plays in ensuring American Jewry's safety and security, and the imperative that it be strengthened.

- JCPA supported the creation of ten new JCRCs. For the first time in more than two decades, Federations that had previously cut their JCRCs were now re-investing. Some smaller Jewish communities with no history of community relations were also developing a community relations program.

- JCPA regularly convened JCRCs to respond to the numerous events taking place in the country and in Israel. These Zoom meetings and calls provided an opportunity for education and guidance, and for the JCRCs to share strategies and ideas.

- JCPA launched a JCRC Chairs' Initiative with a three-part virtual retreat in the fall, which was attended by more than 40 communities. The aim of the initiative was to ensure that the JCRC chairs, as the local leaders of the community relations field, were part of the JCPA

5

PROGRAM INITIATIVE

Criminal Justice Reform

JCPA formally launched its Criminal Justice Reform Initiative to engage the Jewish community in ending mass incarceration and developing closer relationships with Black communities. In October, JCPA launched a comprehensive new toolkit, [*In Your Backyard: A Toolkit for Addressing Criminal Justice at the Local Level*](#). The toolkit provided overall guidance, tips, and tools to help JCRCs educate, advocate, and mobilize around criminal justice reform. Our pilot education program and toolkit so effectively showcased the potential of the program, that as a result JCPA received a three-year \$400,000 matching grant from the Leon and Toby Cooperman Foundation which allowed JCPA to hire a Project Manager.

Highlights included:

- David Bernstein, JCPA's President and CEO, along with a number of other national Jewish organization presidents, briefed 22 senators on the priorities of our Jewish organizations. Bernstein's remarks, which focused primarily on criminal justice and the critical need to reduce mandatory minimums, were well received by the Senators, who discussed their own efforts on this issue.
- In October 2017, a JCPA delegation met with leaders of organizations that represent communities of color in order to strengthen and create new relationships, understand their policy priorities, and forge partnership in areas where we have synergy. JCPA's leaders welcomed the new NAACP President, Derrick Johnson.
- JCPA officially sponsored the National Council of Churches' ACT to End Racism Rally in Washington, D.C., on April 4, marking the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination in 1968. By joining this initiative, JCPA and our partners committed to finish the work of eradicating the entrenched racism and racial inequities that grip our nation. [Click here](#) for more information.
- JCPA participated in an advocacy day on bail reform in Columbus, Ohio, organized by the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, which brought together 25 Jewish, black, and Latino leaders to lobby state lawmakers and influencers. [Click here](#) to read the news coverage.
- JCPA and its civil rights partners urged Members of Congress to make crucial improvements to the First Step Act, working with legislative offices for months to register our opposition and secure changes. JCPA believes that while prison reform is certainly necessary, without sentencing reform to reduce the number of people sent to prison, the bill would do little to reduce the overall prison population.



POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

JCPA consolidated its policy, advocacy, and legislative work. The majority of the coalition work was carried out virtually from New York by JCPA policy staff and a consultant in D.C. for special initiatives. We reviewed our coalition engagement and set a strategy to ensure that we had a stronger presence with our national interfaith and civil rights coalitions that matched our priority concerns, building up our reputation as a trusted source of information and a reliable partner. The new approach enabled JCPA to expand its policy positions, advocacy actions, and statements.

As part of this strategy, JCPA relaunched the “Washington Reps” group of Jewish legislative offices to provide an opportunity to share priorities, strategy and, where appropriate, opportunities, for joint activism or coordination to elevate Jewish national concerns. The group was well received by our national agencies and quickly grew to include 25 or more high-level representatives from all Jewish nonprofits with legislative offices in D.C.

- JCPA’s public policy priorities included: immigration, criminal justice, civil rights and religious liberty, health care, and poverty issues.
- JCPA elevated Jewish advocacy on these concerns, providing opportunities for national, state, and local Jewish groups to speak out on public matters by participating in sign-on letters and national advocacy campaigns.
- JCPA played a leading role in advocating against cuts to Medicaid by developing and distributing action alerts, petitions, and organizing visits on Capitol Hill.
- JCPA opposed the Administration’s efforts to cut refugee resettlement, repeal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), institute a transgender military ban, and undermine SNAP and Medicaid.
- When news of the “zero tolerance” family separation policy at the border broke in late spring, JCPA was quick to mobilize unprecedented Jewish unity in condemning family separation and detention—an issue that remains high on our agenda.



JCPA Advocacy Day in Washington D.C.

JCPA provided more opportunities for engaging lay leaders in its policy work, including organizing fly-in days. In March 2018, JCPA organized an Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., where 40 JCPA leaders, including Board Members and Frank Fellows, participated along with representatives from JCPA national member agencies. The aim of the day was to amplify the voice of the community relations network on our priority concerns with Congressional leaders.

The successful day included a luncheon with Members of Congress, over a dozen Hill visits, and briefings from our faith partners and the Washington representatives of several JCPA member agencies. [Click here for a recap of the day.](#)

Our five priority issues were: [Federal Budget](#), [Ending Gun Violence](#), [Criminal Justice Reform](#), [Immigration](#) as well as the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, for which there was an [Issue Brief](#) and an [Overview](#).

2020 Census

JCPA joined over 100 civil rights groups in urging the Commerce Department to reject the Justice Department's request to add a question about citizenship status to the 2020 Census. This addition would adversely affect outreach, response rates, and many other aspects of the nation's largest and most complex peacetime activity. [Click here](#) to read the full letter. JCPA also endorsed the Every Person Counts Act (S. 2580), which would prohibit the Census Bureau from asking a question on citizenship or immigration status. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Voting Rights

JCPA joined several civil and immigrant rights organizations, along with the law firm, Steptoe Johnson, LLC, in filing an amicus brief in *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute*, the U.S. Supreme Court Ohio voter purge case. Though the case could have been pivotal in the civil rights fight against voter suppression tactics, in a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court upheld Ohio's law in September 2018. [Click here](#) to read more.



Separation of Church and State

In late 2017, the House of Representatives' released a comprehensive tax reform bill that included language to weaken the Johnson Amendment, which prohibits tax-exempt organizations like houses of worship from endorsing or opposing political candidates. In response, JCPA partnered with JFNA to circulate a sign-on letter joined by 55 Jewish groups. The letter urged Congress to reject any provisions that would undermine the Johnson Amendment. JCPA successfully defeated this effort, as well as several similar provisions in the appropriations bills throughout the year. We also encouraged local advocacy in key districts around the country. [Click here](#) to read our letter. See coverage in the [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#) and the [Forward](#), and also in [Haaretz](#), [Times of Israel](#), and the [Jerusalem Post](#).



Health Care and Human Needs

JCPA mobilized its network in 2017 to oppose a Senate's health care bill that would have taken away health insurance for more than 22 million people and made severe cuts and changes to Medicaid. The legislation would have been devastating to millions of low-income children, older adults, and people with disabilities who depend on Medicaid, as well as to the large network of Jewish health and social service providers who care for them. States and philanthropies simply would not have been able to make up the losses from such steep cuts. As a result of our advocacy, we helped delay the Senate's health care vote, and ultimately defeated it.



Highlights of JCPA's work included:

- JCPA led a [petition to the Senate](#), “Jews United to Prevent Harmful Cuts to Health Care to Jewish Social Services and Millions of the Most Vulnerable,” which garnered nearly 3,000 signatures from around the country in just four days.
- JCPA issued an action alert [urging Senators to oppose cuts to Medicaid](#) that focused on targeting undecided Senators during the Senate break.
- JCPA signed onto the “National Jewish Organization Letter on Senate Health Care Bill”
- JFNA made this issue its number one priority. To learn more, [read JFNA's backgrounder](#) on the impact of Medicaid changes and William Daroff's article, [“Would the Senate healthcare bill work for you?”](#)

In coordination with MAZON, JCPA joined with other Jewish and faith-based groups to successfully defeat a partisan House Farm Bill that severely cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which would have hurt over 41 million food insecure Americans. JCPA worked with JCRCs to ensure that lawmakers were aware of the community's support for this vital anti-hunger program. [Click here](#) to read the interfaith letter on the Farm Bill.



Antisemitism and White Supremacy

Since 2016, violent antisemitism and white supremacy have increased significantly each year. In response, JCPA spoke out about white supremacist violence in Charlottesville and held a high-level meeting of our member agencies to set out a long-term strategy and united front to respond. To read our statement, Jewish Council for Public Affairs Condemns White Supremacist Violence in Charlottesville, [click here](#).

JCPA advocated for the appointment of a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo [committed to filling the position](#) at a House of Representatives



hearing. Despite rising national and global anti-Semitism and xenophobia, the position had remained unfilled. JCPA joined a [Human Rights First sign-on letter](#) and rabbi and JCPA Board member Neal Borovitz wrote a [Times of Israel op-ed on rising antisemitism](#).

The Rochester JCRC featured JCPA as guest speakers on combatting antisemitism and strengthening government affairs and advocacy work with 17 public school superintendents.

JCPA also advocated for the Never Again Education Act (H.R. 5460), a bipartisan bill that would use private donations to provide educators with the resources to teach children the important lessons of the Holocaust and the consequences of bigotry and hate.

JCPA urged the Polish president to reject the Holocaust Complicity bill. We strongly opposed a bill passed by the Polish parliament that would criminalize speech that ties the Polish nation to atrocities committed during the Holocaust. [Click here](#) to read the full statement.

International Human Rights

JCPA worked with American Jewish World Service (AJWS) to create a coalition of Jewish groups to respond to the Burmese military's ethnic cleansing campaign against the Rohingya people. JCPA drafted a letter urging the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to pass the Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act that was signed by over 300 Jewish organization in a show of unprecedented Jewish unity. Our letter was cited as the reason the Committee took up and passed the bill. Unfortunately, the Senate Majority blocked the legislation from consideration by the full Senate. [Click here to read the letter](#).

JCPA also co-hosted a webinar with AJWS to educate and call to action the Jewish community entitled, "[Jewish Response to the Ethnic Cleansing of the Rohingya People](#)," which garnered a \$10,000 anonymous donation to a fund for grantees in Burma and Bangladesh set up by JCPA and AJWS in which 100% of the proceeds would go to grantees on the ground.

In June 2018, JCPA endorsed the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act (S. 1158/H.R. 3030), which would create an interagency Mass Atrocities Task Force to coordinate U.S. government action to prevent and address genocide and mass atrocities, as well as formally establishing the Complex Crises Fund, which provides flexible resources for USAID and State to rapidly respond to emerging or unforeseen crises and conflict. Congress never formally authorized the account, although it has received funding since 2010. The bill would also have required new reporting mechanisms and U.S. Foreign Service Officer training. [Click here](#) to read the organizational statement of support. Congress has not yet taken up the bill.



Featured Issue: Immigration

In 2017-2018, dismantling the U.S. immigration system became the focus of the Trump Administration with an eye toward ending many of the policies that JCPA had worked to institute throughout its history. A strong supporter of comprehensive immigration reform, JCPA was concerned about the country's shift toward hardline policies that undermined our values of a robust immigration system that protects refugees and asylum seekers and promotes human rights and dignity.



JCPA worked diligently to support Dreamers through litigation and legislative advocacy throughout 2017-2018. As part of a week of escalated action in support of the Dream Act, JCPA and its partners took to Capitol Hill to urge immediate passage of legislation that would protect over 800,000 Dreamers. JCPA spoke at an historic Latino-Jewish press conference on Capitol Hill with 140 Dreamers, joined by Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ), Dreamers, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the Hispanic Federation, as well as the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the JCRC of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. [Click here to watch the full press conference.](#)

On behalf of a broad coalition of 25 national Jewish organizations, JCPA [sent a letter](#) urging Congress to ensure that a clean Dream Act is included in the must-pass spending bill. [Click here to read the full letter.](#) JCPA worked with its Interfaith Immigration Coalition to connect our local affiliates at the grassroots level to arrange meetings with Congressional offices, organize press conferences, and write op-eds. More than 18 JCRCs participated in local events as part of the Dream Act Week of Action in February, including a press conference in Atlanta where JCPA Board member Lois Frank spoke in support of Dreamers. JCPA's campaign successfully elevated the issue within the Jewish community, although unfortunately, Congress did not reach a Dream Act deal. JCPA did however help successfully defeat a hardline anti-immigration bill, the SAF Act in the House of Representatives by sharing our opposition with House offices and mobilizing the Jewish community.



The Administration's decision to separate families and increase detention while eliminating opportunities for asylum was the impetus for much Jewish activism during this time period. JCPA played a leading role in partnership with its national agencies to elevate the Jewish voice nationally and provide opportunities for Jewish community members to add their voices. JCPA first brought this issue to our field's attention at [our April conference](#).

In May 2018, JCPA condemned the "Zero Tolerance" family separation policy. [Click here](#) to read JCPA's full statement. We then co-sponsored a letter with ADL, HIAS, and the RAC signed by 26 national Jewish organizations, which can be read by [clicking here](#). We also organized



a sign-on letter that [garnered over 350 Jewish organizational sign-ons](#) urging the Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen to immediately terminate the policy. Finally, in response to the executive order seeking to replace family separation with family detention, JCPA [issued a statement](#) voicing our opposition to family detention and urging the Administration to reunite families immediately.

JCPA has strongly opposed all versions of the Muslim travel ban since its first iteration, concerned about the ban's discriminatory nature and the suffering it would inflict on both American citizens and those seeking refuge in the United States. We publicly stated our opposition and signed on to amicus briefs in court cases challenging the travel bans. JCPA joined ADL in filing an [amicus brief](#) urging the Supreme Court to uphold lower court rulings that blocked the President's prohibition on travel to the United States from six majority-Muslim nations. JCPA [issued a statement](#) about a Supreme Court Ruling upholding the travel ban.

During this time, JCPA also advocated for generous refugee policies that balance the protection of civil and human rights with national security concerns, successfully defeating a harmful bill that would have cut legal immigration in half over the next 10 years, capping refugee resettlement at a maximum of 50,000 annually and restricting family visas. To read our statement, JCPA Opposes Efforts to Slash Legal Immigration, click here. JCPA also signed onto a faith letter with [600 faith leaders and organizations](#) against the RAISE Act that was delivered to all members of Congress.



Featured Issue: Gun Violence

Gun violence as a national issue tragically rose to prominence again with a spate of mass shootings, beginning with what is now the deadliest shooting in our nation's history:

- In Las Vegas, which left 50 people dead and 400 more injured. JCPA condemned the massacre and urged the nation to come together to address the underlying causes of gun violence.”

[Read our statement here.](#)

- In February 2018, a school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killed 17 innocent students and teachers and left 15 more injured. With the alarming increase in mass shootings, JCPA called on legislators, in keeping with our longstanding policy, to make our society safer. [Click here for our full statement.](#)
- Ahead of the [March for Our Lives](#), JCPA organized an open letter in March 2018 on ending gun violence signed by 22 national Jewish organizations, including all four religious denominations of Judaism. The letter outlined our collective principles for ending gun violence in the U.S. and called for immediate action based on the 2013 JCPA Resolution on Mass Violence. [Click here](#) to read our open letter. At the same time, we continued to support the field's state-level advocacy.



ISRAEL



JCPA's Israel advocacy work focused on ensuring that the community relations field had the nuanced understanding of the complexities, challenges and successes of young nation state. JCPA ran an annual Leadership Mission to Israel and engaged with the Israeli consulate and government to share feedback on Israel policy. JCPA supported coexistence programming and efforts for peace while also ensuring that Israel remains a strong and secure homeland for the Jewish people.

2018 Leadership Mission to Israel

The JCPA leadership Mission to Israel mission provided community relations leaders with hands on experience to be effective and nuanced advocates for Israel. High-level meetings with governmental and civil-society leaders provided attendees personal knowledge about Israel's efforts for peace, policies to advance pluralism, and efforts to ensure the security of its citizens. Many JCRC leaders are responsible for Israel advocacy and countering delegitimization at the grassroots level and often lead missions of their own for government officials and the non-Jewish community.

Twenty-nine people participated in our week-long 2018 mission to Israel, which included high level meetings with Knesset members, the prime minister's office, faith leaders, and Palestinians. We took the temperature on peace efforts, explored issues such as asylum-seekers, egalitarian prayer, gender representation in government, and much more. Highlights included:

- Meeting with women of all denominations from Reform to Haredi who are working for gender equity and representation in both religious and political life. There are more women in the Knesset than ever before (34%), and women are working on a number of issues we care about from equality to Diaspora relations to ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Discussing Israeli-diaspora relationships with Knesset members from Labor, Meretz, and Atid.
- Visiting South Tel Aviv and meeting with Eritrean and Sudanese refugees and the experts and NGOs that work with them.
- JCPA spoke out against the Israeli government's decision on the Western Wall. JCPA responded to the Government of Israel's decision to defer the creation of the egalitarian wall at the Kotel. As the umbrella body of diverse Jewish communal organizations, JCPA issued a consensus statement, the only one with the Orthodox Union's input. [Click here](#) to read the statement.
- JCPA urged the Israeli government to suspend plan to deport Sudanese and Eritrean asylum-seekers. JCPA fully acknowledged Israel's security concerns, but urged it to balance such concerns with its historic commitment to welcoming the stranger and protecting refugees. [Click here](#) to read the full statement.

NATIONAL CONVENINGS

Fall Meeting

More than 80 national leaders gathered in New York for two days of meetings. The meetings set the fall agenda, which focused on protecting hard-won domestic policies against rollbacks, and advocating for civility at the local level. Attendees heard from experts on urgent issues, such as pluralism in Israel, Iran, antisemitism, and more.

To learn more, [click here](#) for the full meeting recap.



JCPA2018 National Conference

THE POWER OF THE NETWORK
JCPA 2018 | APRIL 22-24
Sheraton Times Square, NYC

Tackle Pressing Issues, Engage with Leaders, Empower the Network

SPEAKERS — Media Luminaries, Policy Experts & Civic Leaders



PLENARIES & BREAKOUTS
The State of American Democracy • Gun Violence Prevention • #MeToo in the Jewish Community • Criminal Justice Reform • Polarization Management and Coalition Building • Voting Rights and the 2020 Census • Israel at 70 • Immigration • Civil Society Efforts to Foster Peace in Israel • and much more...

Set
policy priorities of our communities and calls to action.

Learn
best practices, strategies for dialogue, and tools to strengthen civility and civic involvement.

Connect
with community relations leaders for three days of inspiring plenaries, breakouts, and trainings.

Join us at JCPA's National Conference
REGISTER TODAY!
jewishpublicaffairs.org/JCPA2018

JCPA | JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JCPA2018 brought together more than 250 Jewish professionals and lay leaders for an impactful three-day conference in New York. JCPA2018's sessions focused on strengthening the Jewish community's civic engagement to promote a more just society and protect our democratic institutions. These sessions touched on the day's most pressing policy issues and provided tools for civic engagement, education, and advocacy. [Click here for the full recap](#) with photos and links to panel recordings.

Over 300 people attended the Chair's Awards Dinner, a banquet held annually in honor of outstanding leaders in the Jewish communal world and the field of public affairs. In 2018, we honored Cheryl Fishbein, JCPA Chair, for her extraordinary leadership. The 2018 Tikkun Olam Awards were presented to Susan K. Stern, a local national and international civic and Jewish communal leader, and Rabbi Rachel Ain of Sutton Place Synagogue, a tireless inspiration to the next generation; the Albert D. Chernin Award was given to Floyd Abrams, who has been described as "the leading First Amendment lawyer of our age."

JCPA also adopted three new policy resolutions by consensus:

- [Resolution on White Supremacy.](#) JCPA rejected white supremacy and all other forms of bigotry, and affirmed both the importance of exposing and rejecting the hateful message of white supremacists, as well as underscoring our obligation to protect and support all targets of white supremacist harassment and attacks.
- [Resolution Reaffirming Commitment to Racial Justice Within the Jewish Community.](#) In the current climate of emboldened discrimination and significant challenges to racial equity in society, we reaffirmed and recommitted to the pursuit of racial equity and justice.
- [Resolution on Israeli-Palestinian Coexistence.](#) JCPA supported and promoted “contact, cooperation, dialogue, shared community building, peaceful coexistence, joint economic development, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians” through civil society projects, economic development and other such strategies that can bring about a peaceful future for Israelis and Palestinians alike.



JCPA EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

In 2017, JCPA ran its fourth Frank Fellow cohort through its Frank Fellowship Leadership Program for Emerging Leaders. Generously supported by Lois and Larry Frank, JCPA trained 14 rising leaders, our largest cohort to date. They participated in a year-long curriculum on community relations and traveled to Poland and then joined the Israel Mission. The fellowship included Ami Abramson, Charleston, SC; Leslie Anderson, Atlanta; Andrew Fox, Tidewater; Dori Gerber, Orlando; Margo Levin, Reading; Eva Lippmann, Silicon Valley; Ashley Noell, Richmond; Thorn Pozen, Washington, D.C.; Dan Rapp, Cincinnati; Todd Resnick, Cincinnati; Corey Shapiro, Louisville; Laura Sohinki, Pittsburgh; and Brooke Weiner, Palm Beach County.



COMMUNICATIONS

Technology has provided new avenues for educating our field and the broader public. This allowed us to organize people in new and creative ways, highlight best practices in the field, provide online education and training, and position JCPA as a vital network hub. During this time period, JCPA implemented a number of new programs to better reach and mobilize our grassroots network around the country:

- JCPA's E- Update newsletter, distributed to over 80,000 people, averages a 20-23% open rate - up to 25%, which is more than double the industry standard. To view E-Updates from 2017-2018, [click here](#).
- JCPA held 24 webinars including community-wide programs on a variety of current event topics in the U.S. and Israel, and educational programs for JCRC leaders, such as a five-part series examining the future of a two-state outcome and settlements, and a four-part series on Muslim-Jewish Relations 101. To review the list of webinars, [click here](#).
- JCPA's CRCast, a regular webcast, featured special guest experts and practitioners discussing the most pressing topics affecting the Jewish community and the community relations field. Issues ranged from the rise of antisemitism worldwide to the U.S. Administration to the challenges facing Israel, providing both insight into these complex issues, and practical solutions for them. To review the list of CRCasts, [click here](#).



Sign-On Letters (July 2017-June 2018)

2017

July

- *Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance* Follow-up Letter on FY18 Foreign Aid Appropriations
- *Leadership Conference* Letter Opposing the Data Request by the Pence-Kobach Commission
- *Leadership Conference* Letter Opposing the “Better Care Reconciliation Act”
- *Prevention and Protection Working Group* Letter Urging Asst. Sec of State for African Affairs Nomination
- *Leadership Conference* Faith Letter Opposing the Pence-Kobach Commission
- WISC Faith Budget Preamble
- *Jewish Coalition for Refugees* Letter in Support of Funding for Refugee Protection and Resettlement
- *Jewish Disaster Coalition* \$20,000 allocation to Abayudaya community to alleviate famine

August

- *HIAS* Letter Opposing the “RAISE Act”
- *Interfaith Immigration Coalition* Letter Opposing Rescission of DACA
- *Prevention and Protection Working Group* Letter Urging State Department Action in the Central African Republic
- *Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)/HIAS* Letter in Support of Funding for the Unaccompanied Alien Child (UAC) Program
- *Hate Crime Coalition* Department of Justice Post-Hate Crime Summit Recommendations
- *Interfaith Immigration Coalition* Letter in Support of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) as a Humanitarian Tool
- *Interfaith Immigration Coalition* Letter in Support of Admitting at Least 75,000 Refugees

September

- *IRS Rule Making Team* Letter Opposing All Finance Riders in the House Budget
- *Human Rights Watch* Letter on United Nations Action to Intervene in Rohingya Genocide

October

- *Interfaith Immigration Coalition* Letter Opposing the Termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Sudan
- Faith Letter on US response to the hurricanes in the Caribbean region
- JCPA Letter in Support of the Dream Act
- *IRS Rule Making Team* Letter Opposing Johnson Amendment Riders in Tax Reform
- *Justice Roundtable* Letter in Support of the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2017 (S.1917)
- *Human Rights Watch* Letter on U.S. Action Regarding Rohingya Crisis
- *Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance* Letter in Support of FY18 Humanitarian and Development Funding

November

- JCPA/JFNA Letter Supporting the Johnson Amendment Signed by 55 Jewish Organizations

December

- JCPA/AJWS Rohingya Letter to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
- *Domestic Human Needs Working Group* 2017 Farm Bill Priorities
- *Interfaith Immigration Coalition* Letter in Support of the Dream Act

2018

January

- *Leadership Conference* Letter Opposing DOJ Request to Add a Citizenship Question to the 2020 Census
- *Coalition Against Religious Discrimination* Response to Request for Information (RFI) on “Removing Barriers for Religious and Faith-Based Organizations to Participate in HHS Programs and Receive Public Funding”
- *Leadership Conference* Amicus Brief Supporting Respondents in Janus v. AFSCME
- *First Focus Campaign for Children* Letter Urging Congress to Extend Children’s Health Insurance Program

February

- *JCPA Endorsement of Blumenthal Amendment to Mark First Muslim Ban Anniversary, Call for Resettlement of 45,000 Refugees in FY18 and 75,000 in FY19*
- *NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice National Faith-Based Organizational Letter Supporting the Dream Act and USA Act*
- *NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice Letter Opposing Inclusion of a Citizenship Question in the 2020 Census*
- *Search for Common Ground Letter to Ambassadors Haley, Pierce, and Delattre Urging Use of U.N. Security Council Briefing on the Central African Republic to Affirm Support for MINUSCA and Peace*
- *Interfaith Immigration Coalition Letter Supporting Iranian Religious Minorities*

March

- *Leadership Conference Letter Opposing Elimination of FY19 Funding for the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice*
- *JCPA Coalition Letter on Gun Violence Signed by 20 National Jewish Organizations*
- *Sentencing Project Letter Opposing Death Penalty for Drug Offenses*
- *JCPA Endorsement of Every Person Counts Act (S. 2580)*
- *ADL Amicus Brief in Supporting Respondents in Trump v. Hawaii*

April

- *Prevention and Protection Working Group Letter Urging Full Funding for FY19 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations*
- *SEIU and the Leadership Conference Letter Urging House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Oversight Hearing on 2020 Census Citizenship Question*
- *SEIU and the Leadership Conference Letter Urging Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs Oversight Hearing on 2020 Census Citizenship Question*

May

- *Leadership Conference Letter Opposing the FIRST STEP Act*
- *Domestic Human Needs Working Group 2018 Principles for a Faithful Farm Bill*
- *Prevention and Protection Working Group Letter to House and Senate Appropriators Opposing Complex Crises Fund Rescissions*

- *Leadership Conference* Short Letter Opposing the FIRST STEP Act
- *Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition* Letter to Chairman Grassley in Support of the Second Chance Reauthorization Act
- *Jewish Rohingya Justice Network* Letter Urging the House Foreign Affairs Committee to Markup the BURMA Act (H.R. 4223)
- *Jewish Rohingya Justice Network* Letter to Amb. Brownback in Support of the Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act (S. 2060)/BURMA Act (H.R. 4223) and to Request a Meeting
- *Prevention and Protection Working Group* Letter Urging the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to Markup the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act

June

- *JCPA, ADL, RAC, and HIAS* Letter Signed by 26 National Jewish Organizations Opposing Family Separation
- *Leadership Conference* Letter Opposing Family Separation
- *Americans United for the Separation of Church and State Coalition* Letter Opposing Appropriations Bill Amendment Undermining the Johnson Amendment
- *JCPA, ADL, RAC, and HIAS* Letter Signed by 350+ Jewish Organizations Opposing Family Separation
- *Muslim Advocates* Muslim Ban Decision Day Event at the Supreme Court
- *Value Our Families Campaign* Letter Opposing Goodlatte Immigration Bill
- *Interfaith Immigration Coalition* Statement Opposing the Ryan and Goodlatte Immigration Bills
- *Leadership Conference* Amicus Brief Supporting Plaintiffs in *New York v. United States Department of Commerce*
- *Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition* Letter Supporting the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act
- *HIAS* Letter in Support of the Lautenberg Amendment
- *ACLU* Letter Opposing Changes to Transgender Offender Manual
- *JCPA* Letter Opposing to the Ryan and Goodlatte Immigration Bills

Statements

- [The Jewish Council for Public Affairs Reacts to Israeli Government Decision on Western Wall](#) June 27, 2017
- [Jewish Council for Public Affairs Opposes Efforts to Slash Legal Immigration](#) August 4, 2017
- [JCPA Condemns White Supremacist Violence in Charlottesville](#) August 14, 2017
- [Jewish Council for Public Affairs Opposes Ban on Transgender Military Service](#) August 29, 2017
- [Jewish Council for Public Affairs Urges White House to Defend DACA and Protect Dreamers](#) August 30, 2017
- [Jewish Council for Public Affairs Strongly Opposes the Administration's Repeal of DACA](#) September 5, 2017
- [Jewish Council for Public Affairs Deeply Troubled by Record-Low Refugee Cap](#) September 28, 2017
- [Jewish Council for Public Affairs Horrified by Mass Shooting in Las Vegas](#) October 2, 2017
- [JCPA Condemns the Terrorist Attack in NYC](#) November 1, 2017
- [JCPA Welcomes Jerusalem Decision](#) December 6, 2017
- [300 Jewish Organizations Call on Senate to Advance Burma Sanctions to Address Crisis of the Rohingya People](#) January 9, 2018
- [JCPA Urges Israel to Suspend Plan to Deport Eritrean and Sudanese Asylum-Seekers](#) January 17, 2018
- [Jewish Council for Public Affairs Joins Forces with Dreamers, Latino Organizations, and Jewish Activists to Call for Immediate Passage of Dream Act](#) January 18, 2018
- [Floyd Abrams to Receive Jewish Council for Public Affairs Prestigious Albert D. Chernin Award](#) January, 2018
- [Jewish Council for Public Affairs Urges Polish President to Reject Holocaust Complicity Bill](#) February 2, 2018
- [Jewish Groups Send Letter to Department of Commerce on Addition of Citizenship Question to 2020 Census](#) February 16, 2018
- [JCPA Expresses Outrage at Mass Shooting at Parkland High School and Calls for Action to Combat Gun Violence](#) February 20, 2018
- [American Jews Speak Out Against Gun Violence in Open Letter](#) March 23, 2018
- [JCPA Opposes Decision to Add Citizenship Question to 2020 Census](#) March 28, 2018
- [JCPA2018 Annual Conference Calls for Strengthened Jewish Community Engagement to](#)

[Build a Strong Democratic America and Israel](#) April 24, 2018

- [JCPA Adopts Resolution Supporting Israeli-Palestinian Coexistence](#) May 22, 2018
- [JCPA Strongly Condemns Separation of Children and Families at the Border](#) May 29, 2018
- [26 Jewish Groups Urge Administration to End Family Separation Policy](#) June 13, 2018
- [JCPA Urges Administration to End the Family Separation Policy and Uphold Our Nation's Values of Family Unity and Justice](#) June 13, 2018
- [Hundreds of Jewish Organizations Join Together to Urge the Administration to End "Zero Tolerance" Family Separation Policy](#) June 21, 2018
- [JCPA Condemns Executive Order for Maintaining "Zero Tolerance" Policy](#) June 21, 2018
- [JCPA Deeply Disappointed with Supreme Court Decision Upholding Travel Ban](#) June 26 2018

Resolutions

- [Resolution on White Supremacy.](#)
- [Resolution Reaffirming Commitment to Racial Justice Within the Jewish](#)
- [Community Resolution on Israeli-Palestinian Coexistence](#)

JCPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

Executive Committee

Chair: Cheryl Fishbein, *New York*

First Vice Chair: Michael Fromm, *Reading*

Treasurer: Jon Ellis, *Tampa*

Secretary: Harold Goldberg, *Silicon Valley*

Vice Chairs:

David Bohm, *St. Louis*

Rabbi Neal Borovitz, *New York*

Suellen Kadis, *Jewish Federations of
North America*

Marci Gerston, *Silicon Valley*

Shelley Niceley-Groff, *Miami*

Jeff Pasek, *Philadelphia*

Natalie Silverman, *Springfield*

David Steirman, *San Francisco*

Warren Wolfson, *Cleveland*

Voting Past Chairs:

Larry Gold, *Atlanta*

Susan W. Turnbull, *Washington, D.C.*

President and CEO: David Bernstein

Board of Directors

Vivian Bass, *Jewish Women International*

Gale S. Bindelglass, *Northern New Jersey*

Martin Bresler, *New York*

Ruth Cole, *Northern New Jersey*

Sheila Derman, *Baltimore*

David Dranikoff, *Greater Metro West*

Glenn Dubin, *New York*

Diane Fisher, *JCRC Directors Association*

Marci Gerston, *Silicon Valley*

Laurel Gross, *Upper Fairfield County*

Samuel Kaplan, *Washington, D.C.*

Karen Kasner, *New York*

Harold Kirtz, *Atlanta*

Michelle Kohn, *Palm Beach County*

David Luchins, *Orthodox Union*

Rabbi Jack Luxemberg, *Washington, D.C.*

Susan Penn, *Northern New Jersey*

Harvey Reiter, *Washington, D.C.*

Maxine Richman, *Rhode Island*

James Rosenstein, *Philadelphia*

Stephen Sacks, *Union for Reform Judaism*

Jane Schiff, *Collier County*

Walter Spiegel, *Cincinnati*

Steve Stone, *Springfield, IL*

Jordan Weiss, *Detroit*

Randy Whitlach, *Pittsburgh*

Marc Zucker, *Philadelphia*

Past JCPA Chairs:

Marie Abrams, *Louisville*

Michael Bohnen, *Boston*

Leonard Cole, *Northern New Jersey*

Lois Frank, *Atlanta*

Conrad Giles, *Detroit*

Jacqueline Levine, *Greater Metro West*

Lynn Lyss, *NCJW*

Theodore Mann, *Philadelphia*

Michael Newmark, *St. Louis*

Arden Shenker, *Portland, OR*

Andrea Weinstein, *Dallas*

JCPA | JEWISH COUNCIL
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

25 Broadway
Suite 1700
New York, NY 10004
212-684-6950

jewishpublicaffairs.org

