



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2019 - FEBRUARY 2020

JCPA | JEWISH COUNCIL
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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INTRODUCTION AND IMPACT



JCPA had an exceptional year from 2019-2020. It began with the launch of a new vision for the community relations field and ended with the advent of a global pandemic. Throughout this year, JCPA, the national network hub of the community relations field, enhanced its leadership, education and advocacy initiatives. It aimed to ensure that the community relations field had the skills, tools, and knowledge to effectively carry out its mission.

This Annual Report will cover JCPA's period of work from July 2019 - February 2020 when our national conference concluded and the pandemic began. During this period, JCPA implemented several important initiatives that launched the Network forward to strengthen its relationships with diverse communities working in common cause on important concerns taking place in the United States. These issues included professional development and support to the JCRC directors, criminal justice reform, immigration, Israel, and combating growing antisemitism. JCPA organized almost back-to-back fact-finding missions including a civil rights mission in May to Georgia and Alabama, and an immigration mission to the Arizona-Mexico border in September. These programs were followed by a criminal justice conference in New York (which catalyzed the creation of a new local coalition), an Israel Mission in December, and our national conference - JCPA2020, in February. When the pandemic hit the U.S. in March, JCPA promptly pivoted to virtual programming and emergency response support.

JCPA recognized the increase in antisemitism and the important need to strengthen community relations and to engage in building a just America in common cause with other racial, ethnic, faith and civil leaders. This is the core of our work and we are committed to this effort both nationally and locally. To that end, JCPA's Conference focused on creating a roadmap to combat antisemitism. This recognition was also reinforced during the JFNA Fedlab meeting in October.

Strategic Goals Met

- Ensured a cohesive network of Jewish Community Relations Councils (JCRCs) by coordinating, convening, and providing resources and educational opportunities to support their work at the local level and their engagement in the national JCPA network.
- Advocated and mobilized the Jewish community on JCPA's policy priorities and amplified the consensus view of the network on major issues of the day to influence government officials and reduce polarization on critical issues.
- Strengthened relationships with leaders of diverse communities and engaged in issue-based coalitions working in common cause with other racial, ethnic, faith, and civil leaders at both the local and national level.

This Annual Report ends in February 2020. After that, JCPA pivoted its work to respond to the global pandemic emergency. To read the 2020 End of Year report [click here](#). Continue reading to find out how the need for JCPA and its mission is as crucial today as when it was first created.

JCRC NETWORK

JCPA convenes, mobilizes, trains, and supports 125 Jewish community relations councils around the country. Over the past several years, JCPA has increased its leadership development offerings to the JCRC professionals and JCRC Chairs. This includes onboarding new JCRC directors, providing strategic community relations support, partnering on advocacy priorities, sharing of best practices on program initiatives, skill-building, and educational opportunities.



Highlights of this work included:

Professional Development

JCRC Professional Development Summer Institute

Throughout the year, JCPA held special training and meetings on topical issues for JCRC Professionals. During the summer, JCPA held its second annual summer professional development series. More than 200 JCRC professionals participated in these sessions, gaining invaluable expertise in communications, security, and more. The classes focused on communications, complex external relations, interfaith landscape, leadership recruitment and retention, and security of the Jewish people. For the full schedule, [click here](#).

JCPA meetings with JCRC Pros

JCPA and the JCRC professionals met in February to outline an annual joint strategic planning calendar that will strengthen the field and ensure seamless communication as well as elevate opportunities that can exist between JCRCs and the JCPA. These included a strong national platform of influence on our priority concerns, best practices across the Network, professional development opportunities, and ensuring that directors have the information they need to lead at the local level including emergency response and emerging issues. JCPA also proposed the production of an annual state of community relations publication. Immediately after this meeting, the pandemic hit, and the JCRCs and JCPA pivoted their work to be in lockstep to lead the Jewish community in response to the many issues that arose during the pandemic.



JCRC Chairs Initiative

JCPA implemented its third year of the JCRC Chairs Initiative by onboarding the new JCRC Chairs and providing them with a playbook, background material, and training they need to carry-out their work as lay leaders and advocates for their local JCRCs. The Initiative also provided an opportunity for the 30 Chairs that attended the JCPA2020 Conference to meet in person and network with those who have similar responsibilities and challenges across the country. During the pandemic the JCRC Chairs met monthly and will continue to do so moving forward.

PROGRAM INITIATIVES

This section will highlight JCPA's program initiatives in the second half of 2019. These programs were the result of several years of engaging the community relations field in JCPA's priority work on civil rights, combating hate, and ensuring a compassionate immigration system.

In 2019, JCPA took a deeper dive into its work by implementing both domestic and international fact-finding missions to give JCRC lay and professional leaders a firsthand experience regarding priority concerns. The impact was profound and leaders who participated in our programs learned new skills and became more informed and passionate about taking action to fix societal ills.

Here are highlights of our work:

Criminal Justice Reform

Rooted in the belief that justice must be tempered by compassion, JCPA advocates to end the injustice of mass incarceration and mass criminalization. JCPA's Criminal Justice Initiative, launched in 2016, in partnership with Black communities at the local and national levels, leads the Jewish community in efforts to end mass incarceration. The inequities people of color suffer at the hands of the justice system constitute one of the most pressing civil rights crises the United States faces today. Since the 1990's the U.S. prison population has exploded. The phenomenon is referred to as mass incarceration. Despite representing just 4% of the world's population, the U.S. imprisons roughly 25% of the world's inmates.



In 2019, JCPA produced the following:

- A four-year impact report of its work. To learn about the impact and achievements of the Initiative [click here](#).
- Overview of JCRCs criminal justice efforts across the country as of September 2019. To read [click here](#).
- Op-ed: "We Must Renew our Commitment to the Civil Rights Movement". To read [click here](#).

JCPA convenes Criminal Justice Conference in New York

In 2019, JCPA was tasked by UJA Federation of New York to join diverse groups within the Jewish community around criminal justice reform. The results exceeded our expectations. More than 225 people attended the one-day conference on criminal justice reform for New Yorkers on September 15, 2019. Entitled "A Jewish Call To Action: Ending Mass Incarceration in New York", this conference was organized by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) in partnership with UJA-Federation of New York, and the JCRC of New York, and was [cosponsored by 35 local Jewish organizations](#).

The Conference brought attention to the various issues in criminal justice reform and urged the Jewish community to be activated in this modern-day civil rights crisis.

High-level speakers discussed topics such as mass incarceration, bail reform, interfaith work and strategies, the importance of our role in assisting people as they reenter society, and criminal justice reform specifically in New York. It concluded by building a roadmap for action which resulted in the creation of the New York Coalition on Criminal Justice Reform. The Conference was made possible by funding from UJA Federation of New York and was supported by The Margaret and Daniel Loeb Foundation, and the Leon Toby Cooperman Family Foundation. To read the recap, [click here](#).



Press coverage:

- [Blacks, Jews Standing Together Again](#), the New York Jewish Week
- NY1: [In Focus with Cheryl Wills on the Criminal Justice Conference](#)

Resources:

- [Program Agenda](#)
- [In Your Backyard: A Toolkit for Addressing Criminal Justice at the Local Level](#)
- [Memo on New York State's Criminal Justice Reform Landscape](#)
- [Overview of JCPA's Criminal Justice Initiative](#)
- Podcast: [Wrongful Conviction with Jason Flom](#)
- [“The Punishment Bureaucracy: How to Think About “Criminal Justice Reform,”](#) Yale Law Journal



Immigration Advocacy

Concern about the increasing dehumanization and criminalization of asylum seekers and migrants led JCPA to prioritize immigration as a major concern. Throughout the year, JCPA worked with its interfaith and immigration coalitions to monitor and take action on immigration policies and regulation rollbacks focusing on detention and separation of families. JCPA has supported a robust and compassionate immigration system since its founding.



Fact-finding trip to the Arizona-Mexico border

JCPA organized an Arizona-Mexico Border Fact-Finding Trip on September 8-11, 2019 that included 23 people representing 12 states and Washington, D.C. Participants saw for themselves the situation at the border and learned from advocates, asylum seekers, government officials, and others about efforts being made to manage the crisis so they could bring firsthand knowledge back to their communities and be equipped to take action locally and nationally. To read JCPA's media advisory [click here](#).



Here are links to some of our participants' reflections when they returned home:

- [A Letter to Fellow American Jews about the Humanitarian Crisis on our Border](#), by mission participants
- [National Delegation Bears Witness to Border Immigration Issues](#), the Arizona Jewish Post
- [Border Justice Tops Jewish History Museum Agenda](#), the Arizona Jewish Post
- [Southern Border Visit Shows Visitors Broken System, 'Cruel' Policies](#), by Louisville JCRC Chair Beth Salamon
- [Impressions and Reflections on My First Experience of the US-Mexico Border](#), by JFNA and the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies Representative Darcy Hirsh
- NPR, [Visit To US-Mexico Border Brings New Perspective To A St. Louis Organization](#)
- KSDK Morning Show [Interview with St. Louis JCRC Director Maharat Rori Picker Neiss](#)
- TMJ4 Interview with [Milwaukee JCRC Director Elana Kahn, Rabbi David Cohen, and Lay Leader Reenie Kavalur](#)
- NPR [Interview with St. Louis JCRC Director Maharat Rori Picker Neiss](#)
- [Presentation](#) by Rabbi Daniel Cohen at Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel in South Orange and JCPA Board Member from Greater MetroWest Leslie Dannin Rosenthal



Legal advocacy

JCPA took two major advocacy actions in the fall to support immigrants beyond our Congressional advocacy. JCPA filed a lawsuit with co-plaintiff JCRC of Greater Washington challenging the Department of Homeland Security's new rule penalizing low-income immigrants and greatly expanding the criteria for determining who is likely to become a "public charge," which is a ground for denying a visa or green card. Federal courts temporarily blocked the rule, but legal immigrants are already choosing between risking their legal status and meeting their family's basic needs. The Justice Department will file motions to dismiss, to which JCPA will respond. JCPA thanks Harvey Reiter and his law firm, Stinson LLP, for their pro bono representation. To read JCPA's complaint [click here](#).

In addition, JCPA led an interfaith amicus brief in support of the U.S. refugee resettlement program. The brief, joined by 28 of JCPA's interfaith partners, responded to a lawsuit challenging an Executive Order permitting state governors and county executives to veto refugee resettlement within their borders. The brief supports a motion for preliminary injunction, which would halt the Executive Order's implementation while the case proceeds. The Executive Order would force the nine U.S. resettlement agencies, including HIAS, to obtain written consent from the states and localities in which they plan to resettle refugees. Without that consent, resettlement will cease, preventing refugees from reuniting with friends and family and undermining resettlement infrastructure. The lawsuit was filed by HIAS, Church World Service, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. To read JCPA's press release [click here](#).

Combating Antisemitism and Hate

Amid growing concerns of antisemitic violent crimes in the U.S., JCPA strengthened its work combating hate. JCPA was proud to be a cosponsor of the “No Hate, No Fear” Solidarity March, organized by the JCRC of New York, UJA-Federation of New York, NY Board of Rabbis, ADL, and AJC Global. The day was a meaningful and important show of unity to rally against growing antisemitic hate crimes and violence. More than 25,000 people from across the U.S. attended, underscoring the importance of including antisemitism in the fight against hate, bigotry, and racism. At this gathering, we stood together, Jews and non-Jews, minority and civic leaders, to say, “No” to hate and “No” to fear. To watch the recording, [click here](#).



Op-Eds from the Community Relations field

- [Here's what Congress can do to combat antisemitism](#), The Hill
- [We've had enough. We must stand together against antisemitism, all forms of hate](#), Louisville Courier Journal
- [Amid rise of antisemitism, friends stand with us](#), The Buffalo News
- [Antisemitism is not a Jewish problem](#), The Boston Globe

POLICY ADVOCACY WORK

JCPA carries out its robust policy advocacy working in close coordination with the JCPA Policy Advisory Committee. JCPA priorities are informed by the priorities set out in our coalition work with other faith and civil rights groups. JCPA also convenes our national Jewish organizational members through the Washington Representatives groups of Jewish organizations, to lift-up our consensus positions and the Jewish voice in areas where a majority of organizations are working together. JCPA plays an important role keeping the Jewish community relations field connected and updated on priorities in the public square and mobilizing the Jewish community to action. To read JCPA's 2019 Public Policy Positions [click here](#).

JCPA's legislative priorities during this period included:

- [Immigration Detention](#)—End the detention of asylum seekers, families and children and reallocate funding to community-based alternatives.
- [Refugees and Asylum Seekers](#) —Support an annual refugee admissions floor of 95,000—the historic average—and repeal the discriminatory Muslim travel bans.
- [Criminal Justice and Higher Education](#)—Expand access to higher education during and after prison, which is proven to reduce recidivism, and help justice-involved individuals overcome obstacles, prepare for the workforce and successfully reintegrate into society.
- [Partnership Fund for Peace](#) — Pass the bipartisan Partnership Fund for Peace Act, which would create people-to-people partnerships and joint opportunities for economic development among Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans. JCPA prepared a [toolkit](#) for the JCRC Network to provide the substance they need to advocate on priority issues during home visits with their Congressional delegations.



Administrative Advocacy

With Congress deadlocked, the Administration turned to government regulations as a means of implementing policy changes, many of which would directly undermine the values and programs for which JCPA advocated for decades. Below are some of the rules and regulations on which JCPA submitted public comments.

Preserving the separation of church and state

The Health and Human Services Department (HHS) Proposed Rule Overturning Nondiscrimination Protections would allow HHS grant recipients to discriminate on the basis of religion, sex, gender identity, as well as sexual orientation across a range of important programs including foster and adoption services, health care, and social service programs for food, shelter, elder care, and violence prevention. To read the full comment [click here](#).

Protecting immigrants

The Proposed Rule on Citizenship and Immigration Fee Schedule Changes would significantly increase fees on legal immigrants for naturalization, work authorization, and permanent residence

applications. For the first time this proposal would also impose application fees on asylum seekers and eliminate fee waivers for those unable to pay. If enacted, these barriers would undermine access to legal status for millions of qualified immigrants. To read the full comment [click here](#).

Fighting poverty

JCPA joined The Jewish Federations of North America and the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies in submitting comments on three poverty-related proposals:

- The Proposed Rule on SNAP Standardization of State Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowances would cut SNAP (formerly “food stamps”) benefits by \$4.5 billion over five years, exacerbating food insecurity for one in five SNAP households and forcing many low-income people to choose between paying for food or utilities. To read the full comment [click here](#).
- The Proposed Rule on Categorical Eligibility in SNAP would reduce states’ flexibility in administering SNAP, making it more difficult for millions of hungry Americans to access the food through the program and leaving 3.1 million SNAP recipients, including an estimated 1 million children, at risk of hunger. To read the full comment [click here](#).
- The Proposal to Change the Poverty Threshold Calculation would lower the poverty threshold used to determine eligibility for Health and Human Services (HHS) programs like Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, and subsidized school meals, ultimately reducing or eliminating assistance for millions of low-and moderate-income Americans. To read the full comment [click here](#).

Coalition advocacy

Much of JCPA’s policy and government affairs work is carried out in coalitions through joint events and Hill meetings, as well as sign-on letters and statements. Here is a list of letters that we signed on to that reflect our advocacy during this time period.

December

- JCPA/Catholic Charities Interfaith Amicus Brief in *HIAS, CWS, and LIRS v. Trump Challenging the Executive Order Authorizing States and Municipalities to Veto Refugee Resettlement in their Localities* (Signed by 27 Amici)
- Interfaith Coalition on Foreign Assistance Letter Raising Concerns About Conditioning Foreign Aid on Religious Freedom
- JCPA Public Comment Opposing HHS Proposed Rule to Overturn Nondiscrimination Protections
- JCPA Public Comment Opposing DHS Proposed Rule on Immigration Application Fee Increases (Through Stinson, LLP)

November

- Faithful Democracy Coalition Statement of Voters' Covenant
- Leadership Conference Voting Rights Task Force Letter Supporting the Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4)
- JFNA/NJSHA/JCPA Public Comment Opposing USDA Proposed Rule Removing State Flexibility on Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowances

October

- Leadership Conference Hate Crimes Task Force Letter Endorsing the Khalid Jabara and Heyer NO HATE Act (S. 2043/H.R. 3545)
- Interfaith Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Letter Urging the Senate to Move VAWA Reauthorization

September

- Recruitment of JCRCs to Get State and Local Elected Officials to Sign HIAS Letter to Affirmatively Agree to Resettle Refugees
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Letters Supporting the EITC and CTC
- MAZON Letter Opposing USDA Proposed Rule to Alter Categorical Eligibility for SNAP
- JFNA/NJHSA/JCPA Public Comment Opposing USDA Proposed Rule to Alter Categorical Eligibility for SNAP
- DC Government Campaign Endorsement of DC Statehood
- Lawyers' Committee, Anti-Defamation League, and Leadership Conference Amicus Brief in DHS v. University of California, Trump v. NAACP, and McAleenan v. Vidal in Opposition to the Termination of DACA

August

- Jewish Rohingya Justice Network CEO Letter Urging Treasury Department to Use the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to Sanction Burmese Military Officials Involved in Rohingya Genocide
- JustForeignPolicy Faith Letter Urging Congress to End Intelligence Sharing and Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia and UAE in NDAA (Supporting Amendments 26, 438, 23)

July

- Refugee Council USA Faith Leader Letter Requesting a Meeting with Sec. Pompeo on the Future of the Refugee Resettlement Program
- Church World Service Letter Endorsing the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act
- Washington Interreligious Staff Community Faith Leader Letter Urging Congress to Lift Budget Caps for Discretionary Non-defense Programs
- Leadership Conference Justice Task Force Letter Endorsing the MORE Act Supporting Federal Marijuana Decriminalization

JCPA2020 NATIONAL CONVENINGS

JCPA2020 National Conference: February 8–11, Washington, DC

The JCPA2020 National Conference brought together 300 Jewish professionals and civic lay leaders to learn from experts. This conference provided the skills, strategy setting and network opportunities to be successful in community relations work across the country.

Highlights

- Launched with a Saturday evening screening of “Who Will Write Our History”, followed by conversation with the movie’s writer and director. Also on the panel were representatives of the JCRC of Greater Washington and Hadassah to discuss the importance of Holocaust education and their work in that arena.
- Development of a [strategic roadmap](#) to combat antisemitism and hate by leveraging the power of the community relations field.
- Presentation of a criminal justice reform track focusing on elevating the faith voice in ending mass incarceration;
- Israel sessions on politicization, understanding current events, and countering delegitimization on campus.
- Diverse workshops on JCPA’s public policy priorities, including immigration, gun violence prevention, civil rights, and religious liberty.



To read the recap, [click here](#).



Combating antisemitism roadmap

Antisemitism remained a priority issue for the JCPA2020 national conference, which included several plenary sessions on the topic, an expert panel, innovative projects from JCRCs around the country, and two interactive sessions to build a roadmap to combat antisemitism and hate. The roadmap was adopted, but due to the pandemic, it has been paused. The Delegates Assembly voting session also adopted the IHRA working definition of antisemitism as a non-legally binding guide. To read the roadmap [click here](#).



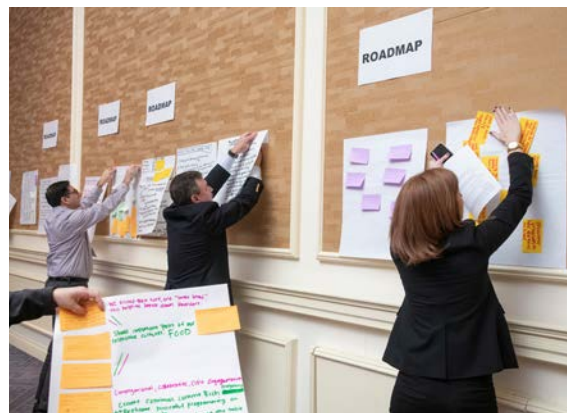
The Sunday morning plenary session opened with a panel of experts, including Deborah Lipstadt, Eric Ward, and Dove Kent, each presenting ideas on where the community relations field can best make an impact. This was followed by the first of two interactive participant conversations, in which conference attendees shared innovative programs and advocacy strategies within table groups.

The first “Building the Roadmap” session showcased additional strategies and best practices from the field including JFNA’s Fedlab report recommendations on antisemitism, an example of state advocacy on hate crimes legislation in Indianapolis, the development of a diverse coalition to collect hate crime data in Milwaukee, the presentation of a community summit with follow-up action in Cincinnati, and the formation of a center against hate in Rochester. To watch the presentation [click here](#).



The second session showcased examples of national legislative advocacy best practices. JFNA highlighted the Non-Profit Security Grant Program and ADL presented on its Backspace Hate Campaign and the No Hate Act.

A final participant-roundtable session helped to develop the roadmap, identifying the following eight strategic priority areas of focus.



Eight priority strategic goals of roadmap to combat antisemitism

1. Strengthen relationships and work in common cause in coalition with other ethnic, racial, and faith communities.
2. Hold courageous conversations within the Jewish community and with coalition partners.
3. Organize educational programs and summits and develop centers to address antisemitism and hate, building allies in your community, and online.
4. Mobilize and advocate at the local, state and national levels on legislative priorities to combat antisemitism and hate.
5. Promote active civic engagement in local and state government, committees, commissions, and NGOs through a Jewish lens.
6. Work with local and statewide K-12 and higher education students and administrative leadership – both institutional and organizational – to build awareness, educate, and provide curricular and other resources on antisemitism and hate.
7. Support increased awareness and understanding of communal security needs and build out the capacity of securing both Jewish and other institutions.
8. Educate and unite the Jewish community on the distinction between criticism of Israel and antisemitism.

JCPA's Delegate Assembly

JCPA's Delegate Assembly members met late into the night debating resolutions that had been written and vetted by the community relations field. The resolutions session was the culmination of a more than six-month process. The adopted resolutions are now part of JCPA policy which guides our advocacy work and supports the field in their local efforts. Below are the resolutions that passed the Delegates Assembly.



Resolutions

- [Gun Violence Prevention](#) - outlines a range of measures the Jewish community should support to help prevent gun violence, argues for greater restrictions on concealed and open carry, and calls on the Jewish community to work with partners on gun violence prevention.
- [Adopting the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism \(IHRA\)](#) - adopts the IHRA non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism for use by the Jewish community relations field.
- [Restorative and Rehabilitative Justice](#) - urges the Jewish community relations field to support a restorative and rehabilitative justice approach to public safety.
- [Government Workers' Right to Unionize](#) - calls on the Jewish community relations field to advocate for legislation that guarantees federal government workers' right to bargain collectively at the state and local government level.
- [Federal Judicial Nominations](#) - calls on the President and the Senate to ensure that federal judicial nominees are qualified, impartial arbiters of justice dedicated to upholding civil liberties and constitutional rights and who also reflect the diversity of the American public.
- [The Provision of Kashruth Food at JCPA-Sponsored Meetings](#) - codifies JCPA's existing practice of providing food at our meetings that meets the needs of our constituency.

JCPA2020 awards reception



Nathan Lewin receives prestigious Albert Chernin Award

Nathan Lewin, renowned First Amendment rights advocate, was honored with JCPA's 2020 Albert D. Chernin Award, presented by [Nancy K. Kaufman](#), CEO Emerita of NCJW and 2019 Chernin Award recipient.

Named after JCPA's Executive Vice Chair Emeritus Albert D. Chernin, the Award is given to Jewish leaders whose life work best exemplifies a commitment to freedom and the protection of the U.S. Bill of Rights. Past recipients include Senator Ron Wyden, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Rabbi

David Saperstein, Professor Lawrence Tribe, and Alan Dershowitz. This year we are honored to present the Award to Nathan Lewin. To read the press release [click here](#). To watch the video [click here](#).

Tikkun Olam Award recipients

JCPA presents its *Tikkun Olam* Award: Partner in Repairing the World annually to individuals who have displayed extraordinary efforts to make the world a better place and a passion for civic engagement and justice. The Awards were presented by Michael Fromm, JCPA Chair. To read the press release [click here](#).



David Bohm

Danna McKittrick, P.C./
JCPA Policy Advisory
Committee Chair
To watch the tribute video
[click here](#).



Jason and Allison Flom

Lava Records, Wrongful
Conviction podcast,
and author, Lulu Is A
Rhinoceros (respectively)
To watch the tribute video
[click here](#).



Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi

President, RespectAbility
To watch the tribute video
[click here](#).

St. Louis JCRC receives the 2020 Program Excellence Award

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of St. Louis was awarded JCPA's 2020 Program Excellence Award for their day camp for refugee children at the International Institute of St. Louis. The award recognizes an exemplary, outstanding, and/or innovative program that advances the goals of the Jewish community relations field and serves as a model for other communities. Launched in 2016, the Jewish Coalition for New Americans Day Camp is a four-week, half-day camp for refugee children that helps support new American families by removing roadblocks to success in the United States. To read the press release [click here](#).



LEADERSHIP

Israel

JCPA Leadership Mission to Israel

JCPA's Leadership Mission took a 30-person delegation to Israel in December. The delegation was made up of JCRC professionals, JCPA Board members, elected officials, and emerging leaders. The group held more than 30 meetings with representatives from all segments of Israeli society. JCPA's mission is to ensure that JCPA leaders are well-equipped to help the community relations network have hands-on experience so that they can be effective and nuanced advocates for Israel.



The mission focused on areas including:

- Integration of the LGBTQ community into Israeli society
- Response to racism and police profiling
- Meetings with Knesset Members and Foreign Ministry Leaders
- Understanding the Haredi Community and the status of women in Israel
- Israel Diaspora Relations
- Interfaith and Israel's Relations with the Christian Communities
- Gaza Border and Women Wage Peace
- Meetings with Palestinian Leaders and the experience of refugee camps and checkpoints
- Briefing on Maps - Semalene Tour of Jerusalem with Shaul Arieli
- Dinner and presentation with Yossi Klein Halevi





Reflections from our mission participants:

- [Israel: A pluralistic democracy in transition](#), Times of Israel
- [We were right to lead the effort against BDS, Livingston councilman says](#), NJ.com
- [Four mindsets to bring with you on your next trip to Israel](#), Times of Israel
- [Lessons in solidarity: How to defeat antisemitism](#), Times of Israel
- [Reflections on JCPA's Leadership Mission to Israel](#), by Carol Brick-Turin
- [Reflections on JCPA's Leadership Mission to Israel](#), by Miriam Smulevitz Dant

Frank Family Leadership Institute

Each year JCPA's Emerging Leaders Frank Fellowship provides young leaders with an immersive year-long study into community relations. The Fellowship is made possible through the generous support of the Frank Family Foundation. The program begins in the Fall and goes through the Spring. The Fellowship is a unique mentoring opportunity for emerging leaders in the community relations field who want to be active in the areas of public policy, public affairs, and intergroup/interfaith relations at both the local and national levels. This year's cohort was made up of eight emerging leaders: Farrah Azizi, Los Angeles; Albert Bloomfield, Washington, DC; Eytan Davidson, Atlanta; Alexa Kaskowitz, Silicon Valley; Kerry Kertesz, Cleveland; Gabriel Mathless, Charlotte; Brian Shulman, Charleston; and Amy Susskind, Cincinnati.



The Fellows participated in a year-long curriculum that included a mission to Poland and joining the JCPA Leadership Mission to Israel in December as well as the JCPA national conference. This year's experience was unusual due to the pandemic hitting during the middle of their fellowship. This caused us to extend the program through December 2020. The Fellows continued to engage with JCPA and concluded with a special project creating a get out the vote campaign.

COMMUNICATIONS

Webinars and CRCasts

During 2019-2020 JCPA provided educational and advocacy opportunities through webinars and outreach which allowed us to reach 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.

JCPA held more than 30 webinars that covered topics including Israel and the Middle East, antisemitism, immigration, human rights, and criminal justice reform. JCPA continued our popular CRCast, featuring interviews with guest experts or practitioners about the most pressing topics that are affecting the Jewish community and the Community Relations field. For a list of our programs [click here](#).



JCPA Presentation at JPRO

During the summer of 2019, JCPA was invited to run a track on civil discourse at the JPRO19 conference in Detroit. JPRO is the Jewish professionals' association attended by hundreds of professionals nationwide. JCPA organized two workshops: "Toolkit for Building Civil Discourse and Consensus in a Polarized Era - Within and Beyond the Jewish Community" and "Coalition-Building in an Era of Political Complexity, Messiness and Polarization." Staff also led several panels.



Statements and Press Releases

JCPA issued statements and press releases on issues of importance throughout the 2019-2020 period, covering a range of issues:

- [JCPA Condemns President Trump's Tweets](#) - July 17, 2019
- [JCPA Outraged at Latest Round of Mass Shootings](#) - August 5, 2019
- [Media Advisory: JCPA Leads JCRC Border Trip to Arizona](#) - September 6, 2019
- [A Letter to Fellow American Jews about the Humanitarian Crisis on our Border](#) - October 5, 2019
- [JCPA Expresses Grave Concerns About the Plight of the Kurds](#) - October 11, 2019
- [First Amendment Advocate Nathan Lewin to Receive JCPA Albert D. Chernin Award](#) - November 26, 2019

- [JCPA Files Interfaith Amicus Brief in Support of the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program](#)- December 19, 2019
- [JCPA Announces 2020 *Tikkun Olam* Award Winners](#)- December 19, 2019
- [JCPA Presents *Tikkun Olam* Award to Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, Leading Disability Rights and Jewish Advocate](#) - January 1, 2020
- [St. Louis JCRC Receives JCPA Program Excellence Award](#) - February 5, 2020
- [Jewish Community Relations Field Adopts Six New Public Policy Positions on Key Issues at the JCPA2020 National Conference](#) - February 14, 2020
- [Jewish Organizations Express Solidarity to Chinese American and Chinese Communities with a Letter of Support](#) - February 25, 2020

JCPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

Executive Committee

Chair: Michael Fromm, *Reading*

Treasurer: Jon Ellis, *Tampa*

Secretary: David Bohm, *St. Louis*

Vice Chairs:

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Suellen Kadis, *Cleveland*

Karen Kasner, *New York*

Shelley Niceley-Groff, *Miami*

David Steirman, *San Francisco*

Voting Past Chairs:

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

President and CEO: David Bernstein

Board of Directors

Susan Abravanel, *Washington, D.C.*

David Ackerman, *Philadelphia*

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Diane Fisher, *JCRC Directors Association*

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Julie Wise Oreck, *New Orleans*

Jeffrey Pasek, *Philadelphia*

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Leslie Dannin Rosenthal, *Greater Metro West*

Corey Shapiro, *Louisville*

Natalie Silverman, *Springfield, IL*

Walter Spiegel, *Cincinnati*

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Michael Bohnen, *Boston*

Leonard Cole, *Northern New Jersey*

Lois Frank, *Atlanta*

Conrad Giles, *Detroit*

Larry Gold, *Atlanta*

Jacqueline Levine, *Greater Metro West*

Lynn Lyss, *NCJW*

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