

2023 Impact Report



2023-2024

Council Member Organizations

ADL Heartland
American Israel Public Affairs Committee (non-voting)
American Jewish Committee St. Louis
Bais Abraham Congregation
B'nai B'rith St. Louis
Central Reform Congregation
Congregation B'nai Amoona
Congregation Shaare Emeth
Congregation Temple Israel
Hadassah St. Louis Chapter
Hillel at Washington University in St. Louis
Jewish Community Center
Jewish Family Services
Jewish Federation of St. Louis
Jewish War Veterans
Jewish Women International, St. Louis
Jews United for Justice
J Street St. Louis
Kol Rinah
Maryville University Hillel
MaTovu
Midwest Jewish Congress
NA'AMAT USA, St. Louis
National Council of Jewish Women, St. Louis
Next Dor STL
Nusach Hari B'nai Zion
Shir Hadash Reconstructionist Community
St. Louis Rabbinical and Cantorial Association
St. Louis Rabbinical Council
Temple Emanuel
Traditional Congregation
United Hebrew Congregation
Vaad Hoair
Young Israel of St. Louis
Zionist Organization of America, St. Louis

Council Community Members

Hila Ben Abraham
Emilie Fan
Connie Flachs
Lauren Rodriguez-Goldstein
Rhona Lyons
Jenifer Newmark
Dana Silverblatt
Patrick Thimangu
Richard Wolkowitz

Board of Directors

Joel Iskiwitch, Chair
Anna Shabsin, Vice-Chair
Julia Mendelow, Secretary
Jane Rubin, Treasurer
David Rosenstock, Development Chair
Nancy Solomon Desloge, Nominating & Governance Chair
Paul Sorenson, Programming Chair
Deborah Price, Immediate Past Chair
Sally Altman
Karen Aroesty
Shira Berkowitz
Susan Block
Laura Horwitz
Michael Novack
Isaac Pollack
Nikki Weinstein

Our Guiding Vision

A vibrant and secure Jewish community in a thriving and just St. Louis region

What We Do

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) partners with other religious, civic, and ethnic organizations in the St. Louis community that share our goal of a just democratic and pluralistic society. As allies, we stand together in promoting the security of Israel and Jews everywhere as well as a better region. We are guided by Jewish values as we take action – whether leading the change or supporting our coalition partners.

How We Do It

We educate, collaborate, and mobilize action on issues important to the Jewish community. The JCRC advocates for policies and positions developed by our Council, which is comprised of 35 member organizations, up to 10 community members, and our Board of Directors. We engage in civil discourse and work together to create policy positions that consider the diverse viewpoints of the St. Louis Jewish community.



Stronger in Relationship

The St. Louis Jewish community is passionate and ambitious, but we know we cannot change the world on our own. We collaborate, partner, and build relationships through dialogue and shared action. In 2023, we proudly continued strengthening our relationships - these are just a few highlights:

Why Faith Leaders Believe in a Clean Slate virtual town hall meeting brought together faith leaders for a conversation about forgiveness, community healing, and automatic expungement.



*Ten local social services agencies received **Jewish Fund for Human Needs** grants totaling \$34,000. **Mazel tov to Sue Picus, longstanding volunteer for JFHN who was honored with a 2023 Jewish Light Unsung Hero award!**



JCRC worked in partnership to advocate for education equity issues, including submitting 15 pieces of testimony, five trips to Jefferson City, and helping Student to Student and LeadSTL program participants have their voices heard both in Jefferson City and via an editorial in the Jewish Light.



***The Handshake that Shook the World: A 30 Year Reflection on the Oslo Accords** program offered a unique look into Israel and the pivotal moment between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.



**These programs were made possible in part through the generosity of the Lubin Green Foundation, a supporting foundation of Jewish Federation of St. Louis, and is part of the Sh'ma Listen Speakers initiative.*

JCRC Honored by the NAACP

Student to Student, a program of the Newmark Institute at JCRC, received the St. Louis City NAACP's Frankie Muse Freeman/Norman R. Seay Commitment to St. Louis Award and former Deputy Director of JCRC Cheryl Adelstein was honored for outstanding community relations at the NAACP St. Louis County 86th Annual Freedom Fund Dinner.



Commitment to **Pluralism**

The Michael and Barbara Newmark Institute for Human Relations at JCRC committed to the concept of a pluralistic society where diverse religious, racial, and ethnic groups live and work together and their differences enhance the community.



Event Highlights

The Pope at War: The Secret History of Pius XII, Mussolini, and Hitler



Professor and scholar David Kertzer presented his lauded book, *The Pope at War: The Secret History of Pius XII, Mussolini and Hitler* to an audience of **over 500 people** at Graham Chapel on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis. Through a diverse partnership with community organizers, we were able to bring Kertzer's findings and analysis of the recently opened archives of Pius XII to a wide and diverse audience.



The American Dream Deferred: One Family's Incarceration During WWII & Holocaust Museum Tour

L'Chaim Tea House, our Asian-American & Jewish Dialogue Group, and members of the St. Louis community convened at the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum for a docent-led tour followed by a presentation on WWII Japanese incarceration by Robin Hattori, who shared her family's story.



Engage | Educate | Enlighten
DIALOGUE GROUPS

Interfaith Breakfast Dialogue Group

Shalom Amigos

L'Chaim Tea House

Did you know...

JCRC proudly holds a seat on the Interfaith Partnership Clergy Cabinet?

2023 Impact Report

Sharing

Judaism

Student to Student, a Program of the Newmark Institute

Student to Student, a program of the Newmark Institute at JCRC, has reached thousands of students in area schools with little or no Jewish presence. These students can now put a “human face” on Judaism—the best antidote to antisemitism, bigotry, and intolerance.

118 Jewish student leaders entering classrooms, breaking down barriers, and building bridges

38 total schools, including thirteen new partners

37 community presentations and synagogue tours

3500+ students reached in history, theology, journalism, and literature classes

In 2023, Student to Student expanded to classrooms in both Illinois and throughout the St. Louis region!

Media Features:

- *How teens in Missouri are experiencing antisemitism – and what they’re doing about it*, PBS NewsHour
- *Making a Difference: St. Louis Jewish teenagers fighting antisemitism 'Student to Student,'* KSDK
- *The Pulse of St. Louis: Student to Student, St. Louis Jewish teens visit schools, educate peers about faith*, KPLR
- “Student Standouts,” *Town & Style St. Louis*
- “These St. Louis teens are at the forefront of fighting antisemitism,” *St. Louis Jewish Light*



Congrats to Professor Alan Kirby, a Student to Student partner for 22 years, who was named 2023 Jewish Light Unsung Hero



@StudentToStudent.STL



Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis

Scan to Donate



2023 Impact Report

Connection to Israel

Understanding our connection to Israel has always been a focal point for JCRC.

In 2023, JCRC hosted multi-part SH'MA: Listen! Courageous Communities and Showing Up programs that equipped participants with resources and tools to discuss Israel and antisemitism.



We introduced new programs such as Hakol Koreh: Everything Happening in Israel and created a monthly Israel newsletter.

In the second half of 2023, JCRC sponsored or cosponsored 15 programs, expanded Student to Student offerings to present classes on Israel, and organized meetings with local elected officials to discuss harmful Israel/Gaza ceasefire resolution proposals.



JCRC joins with area clergy to lead the St. Louis March for Israel
Photo Credit: Philip Deitch



Barry Rosenberg, professor at Washington University in St. Louis in conversation with Daniel Kurtzer, former US Ambassador to Egypt and Israel



Gil Hoffman, Executive Director of Honest Reporting, which fights anti-Israel media bias



David Makovsky, Ziegler Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute and Director of the Koret Project on Arab-Israeli Relations



Rabbi Scott Shafrin of JCRC speaks to the community at the Shloshim gathering to mark thirty days following the October 7 terrorist attack on Israel

Messages of **Solidarity**

We've found strength through the messages of solidarity we've received from our partners throughout the region since the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel.

“
We want to express our support and our concern for you in light of this most recent attack against Israel and the Jewish community world wide.
 Robert Schalk, Elder Board Chairman
 Congregation of St. Paul's Evangelical Church
 Creve Coeur, Missouri.
 ”

“
 With broken hearts, heavy bodies, and wounded souls, may you know you are held in love by a community who holds your anguish alongside our own for the violent devastation of a sacred people and a sacred place inextricably connected. **We hold vigil with you for a pathway to peace and a future without fear.**
 Rev. Lauren Bennet,
 Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Saint Louis
 ”

“
 I mourn the terrible suffering of so many people this week in Israel and Gaza. **Everyone in the world community needs to condemn terrorism** as well as the murdering, injuring, and brutal kidnapping of so many people. People of all religions must work together to find peaceful, just, and lasting solutions to this conflict and other conflicts around the world.
 David Oughton,
 Retired theology professor at Saint Louis University
 Past-president of Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis
 ”

“
 Terrorism anywhere is the enemy of free people everywhere. Hamas terrorists have slaughtered hundreds of innocent women, children, and Israeli civilians.
 This is not about resistance to occupation. This is about fear and hatred being made manifest in violence.
I stand with Israel. Missouri stands with Israel. America stands with Israel. Our nation must do what we can to help the Israeli people defend themselves against terrorism and protect innocent families from violence.
 Sen. Brian Williams
 Missouri Senator
 ”

“
 Very, very sad my friend... this morning **we will be praying for Israel and peace in the region.**
 Pastor Darren Casper,
 The Journey Tower Grove Church
 St. Louis, MO
 ”

“
My heart is breaking - love you guys.
 Rev. Daniel Shanks
 Arlington United Methodist Church
 Bridgeton, MO
 ”

“
 Prayers! Prayers! Prayers!
My heart goes out to my brothers and sisters in Israel and surrounding areas.
 Ram Lakshmanan
 Interfaith Breakfast Dialogue Group Member and
 Hindu Community Volunteer
 ”

“
 Thinking about you and praying your loved ones are safe, and can stay strong.
I will continue praying for all the great people of Israel and their families.
 Ampy Kollman-Moore,
 Shalom Amigos Dialogue Group
 ”

“
 Watching the news about Israel - my heart breaks for you, your loved ones, and the community.
Praying for safety and peace.
 Rev. Melanie Smith,
 Pastor, Trinity Presbyterian Church
 University City, MO
 ”



85 Years of

Building Bridges in St. Louis

JCRC was founded in December of 1938 in response to the expanding antisemitism in Europe. During WWII, JCRC joined with interfaith and civic groups to fight vicious rumors and refute misconceptions about Jews. As we begin our 85th year, we honor our partners of the past and share our deep appreciation to the coalitions, faith organizations, schools, elected officials, and individuals that collaborate, learn, advocate, celebrate, and grieve with us today.

1938



December 28
St. Louis Jewish leaders create the Jewish Coordinating Council in response to antisemitism expanding in Europe

1948



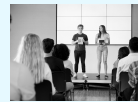
State of Israel is created and JCRC responds to efforts to delegitimize Jewish State

1984



Rabbi Robert P. Jacobs launched the Jewish Fund for Human Needs

1990



Peer to peer education program takes shape and debuts as the Student to Student program

2012



Jewish and Muslim Day of Community Service (JAMDOCS) begins

2023



The Bohm Family endows the Lee & Milford Bohm Director of Social Justice

1945



Changes name to the Jewish Community Relations Council and joins what is now the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

1950s



JCRC partners with local organizations to desegregate public housing and schools in St. Louis

1986



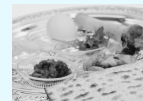
JCRC stages "Don't Let the Lights Go Out" demonstration in support of Soviet Jewry

2010



Michael & Barbara Newmark establish the Newmark Institute for Human Relations

2019



JCRC hosted its first Aurelia Konrad Charitable Foundation Community Seder, a program of the Newmark Institute



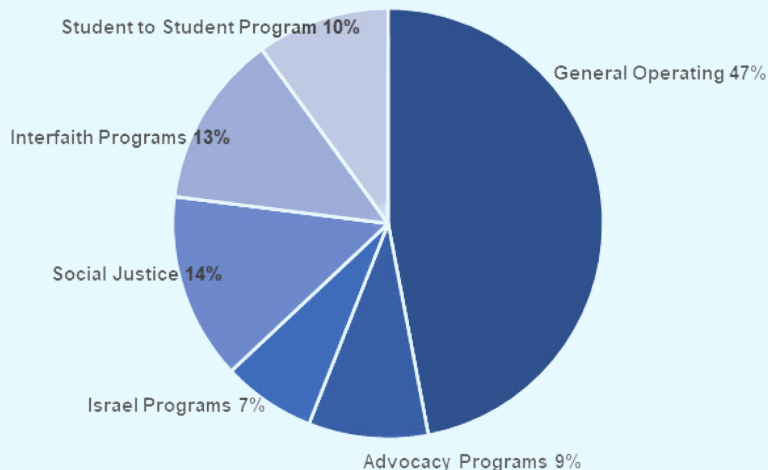
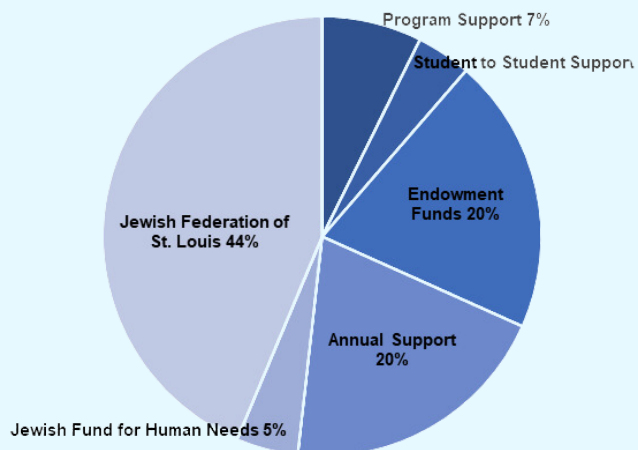
2023 Staff from Left to Right: Cheryl Adelstein, Lauren Abraham, Elyse Picker, Maharat Rori Picker Neiss, Jennifer Swanson, Rachel Bray, Rabbi Scott Shafrin

"As we witness growing divisions within our community and increased hate against our community, it is ever more challenging but ever more necessary to build bridges and transcend difference."

Maharat Rori Picker Neiss,
JCRC Executive Director, 2015-2023

2023 Income - \$634,500

2023 Expenses - \$708,200



2023 Tzedek Award Honorees:

Dr. Arlene & Rabbi Jeffrey Stiffman
Batya Abramson-Goldstein Legacy Award

Marie A Kenyon
*Norman A. Stack
 Community Relations Award*

Donn Rubin
Joel and Joanne Iskiwitch Israel Award

Nancy Solomon Desloge
*Michael and Barbara Newmark
 Emerging Leader Award*

The Reverend Mike Angell
Caroline Fan
Ram Lakshmanan
Reverend Gabrielle NS Kennedy
Guillermo A. Rodriguez
*Newmark Institute for Human Relations
 Pluralism Award*

Anissa Smith
*Martin I. and Merle K. Goldstein
 Scholarship*

Thank you for your partnership and donations to JCRC.
 Your generous gift furthers our mission and reach.
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