



BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

U.S. Presidents Salute B'nai B'rith



B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL

Since our founding in 1843, B'nai B'rith has been a leader in the fields of community service and philanthropy. Our vital work around the globe, spanning three centuries, has been recognized by U.S. presidents and other world leaders. • From Grover Cleveland to Donald Trump, American presidents have acknowledged that B'nai B'rith's commitment to promoting programs of tolerance and diversity, enhancing cooperation between all races and religions and serving the vulnerable has enriched not only the Jewish people, but all people. • In the following pages you will find tributes from American presidents taken from their correspondence and public statements. Their words are an enduring testament to our unwavering commitment to building a better world: a commitment we carry into the future.

A society formed for the
furtherance of such noble
purposes as that of B'nai B'rith
should not only excite the
enthusiasm of its members, but
should also inspire the good
wishes of all who desire to see
humanity bettered and the
higher instincts of our nature
cultivated.

GROVER CLEVELAND

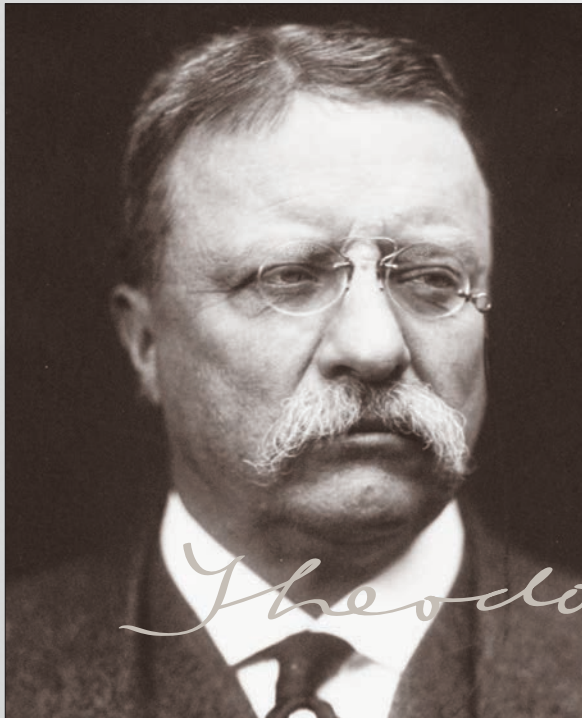
1885-1889; 1893-1897

C L E V E L A N D



Grover Cleveland

R O O S E V E L T



Hearty good wishes to
B'nai B'rith ... all success in
its work of strengthening the
ties between man and man,
and contributing to the uplift
and betterment of humanity.

It has been a great educational
and enlightening factor in our
American life.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
1901-1909

Theodore Roosevelt

I have great respect for

T A F T

B'nai B'rith because of the good
which it has done. It is a body of
representative American citizens
that deserves the approval and
encouragement of all their fellow
citizens.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT
1909-1913



Wm. H. Taft

W I L S O N



The fine work of B'nai B'rith ...
undoubtedly contributes to the
uplift and betterment of the
nation. I have been particularly
interested in the work of
education and philanthropy,
and the effort to destroy the
provincialism of prejudice as
between races.

WOODROW WILSON
1913-1921

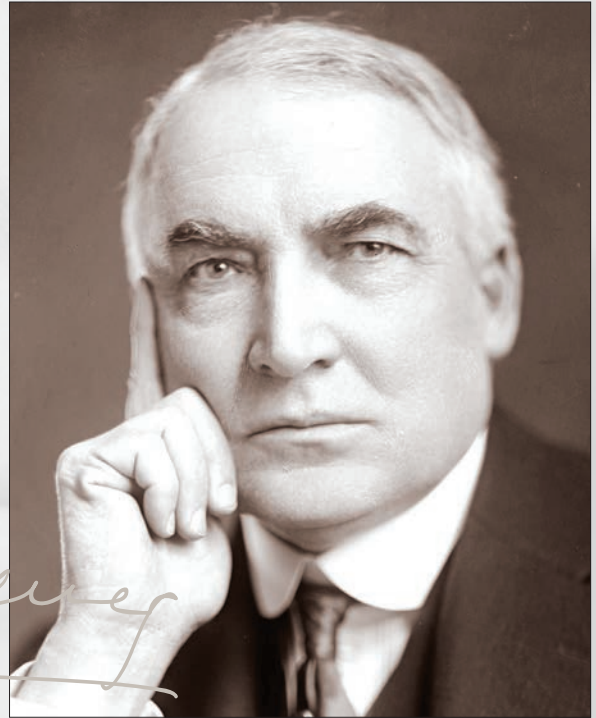
Woodrow Wilson

I hope that all America will
catch the spirit of B'nai B'rith
in campaigning against all
movements aimed to rend the
concord of American citizenship.
Fraternity must be the abiding
purpose of our people.

WARREN G. HARDING
1921-1923

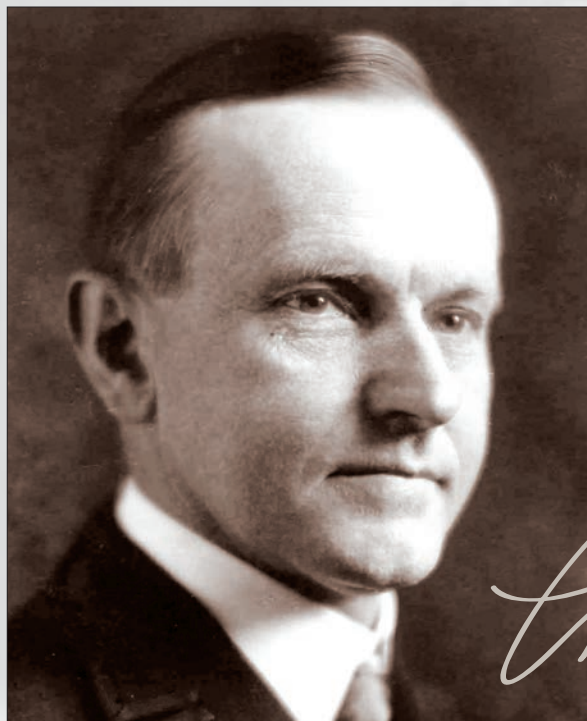
Warren G. Harding

H A R D I N G



C O O L I D G E

As my acquaintance with
B'nai B'rith has widened,
my regard for its high aims and
effective methods has increased.



CALVIN COOLIDGE
1923-1929

A large, stylized, cursive signature of Calvin Coolidge, written in a light brown or tan color, positioned diagonally across the lower right portion of the page.

It is a pleasure to bear witness to the high ideals of public service that animate B'nai B'rith, and to the practical intelligence with which its broad policies of social service and philanthropy are carried into execution. Its usefulness, not only in the United States but also in Europe and the Near East, is everywhere recognized with gratitude; while in this country I would especially commend its example in working for mutual magnanimity, understanding, and cooperation between all races and creeds.

H O O V E R



HERBERT C. HOOVER
1929-1933

R O O S E V E L T



B'nai B'rith has effectively
served the well-being of
American Jewry and the Nation.
Its philanthropic achievements
are permanently enshrined ...
its endeavors in the realm of
education exhibit a far-sighted
understanding in the problems
of the younger generation ...
its programs of good will strive
toward harmony among the
component elements comprising
our American society.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
1933-1945

T R U M A N

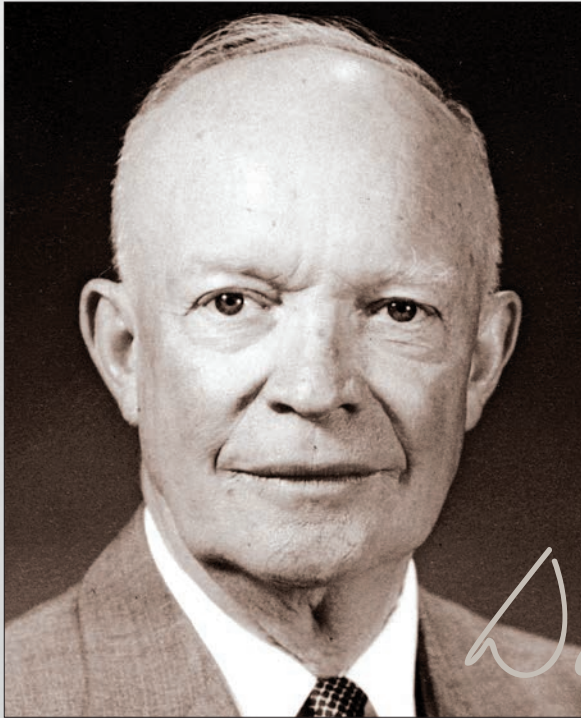
The fine patriotic service of
B'nai B'rith during the war years
has earned a Nation's gratitude.
What impresses me most is ...
that we may count upon
B'nai B'rith's service during peace
as we counted upon it with such
good results during war.

HARRY S. TRUMAN
1945-1953

Harry S. Truman



E I S E N H O W E R



I am glad to express my appreciation for B'nai B'rith's achievements in promoting understanding, cooperation, and good will among Americans of all races and creeds. I know that the men and women of B'nai B'rith, who have so consistently fought for the freedom and equality of all Americans, will continue to work unselfishly for the fulfillment of these great principles.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
1953-1961

Voluntary organizations such as B'nai B'rith are an essential part of a free society. The long history and wide range of B'nai B'rith interests have been a positive and constructive force for a good part of the history of our nation.

JOHN F. KENNEDY
1961-1963

K E N N E D Y



John F. Kennedy

J O H N S O N



You have never tired, you have
never faltered, you have never
lost faith in your cause; and your
cause has given faith to your
nation. You are pro-justice and
pro-freedom.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON
1963-1969

A large, stylized, handwritten signature of Lyndon B. Johnson in a light brown or tan color. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The highest standards of
B'nai B'rith, and of the United
States, and of humanity, are one
and the same today, tomorrow,
and in all the years to come.

RICHARD M. NIXON
1969-1974

N I X O N



Richard Nixon

F O R D



You, the sons and daughters of
the Covenant, have kept your
commitment to Judaism and
to America. The glow of your
compassion illuminates the best
of our nation's traditional spirit
of voluntary service to others.

GERALD R. FORD
1974-1977

Gerald R. Ford

The men and women of

C A R T E R

B'nai B'rith share with me a total
commitment to the preservation
of human rights, liberty and
freedom of conscience.

JIMMY CARTER
1977-1981



Jimmy Carter

R E A G A N



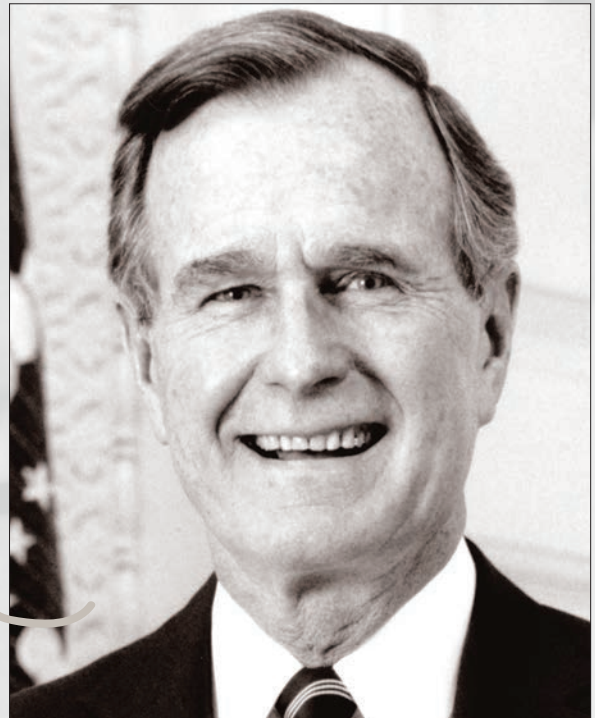
For more than 140 years,
B'nai B'rith has sponsored
religious, cultural, and civil
programs; conducted studies of
vital issues; combated bigotry; and
worked tirelessly to advance the
cause of tolerance and humanity.
Because of your efforts, today
our country has a bigger heart, a
deeper sense of generosity of spirit
that must always define America.

RONALD REAGAN
1981-1989

Ronald Reagan

Because it is rooted in a
commitment to charity and
understanding, your work also has
a positive impact far beyond the
Jewish community. I applaud your
efforts to promote cooperation
and tolerance among people of
all backgrounds, and it is my
sincere hope that as we move
forward with our historic efforts
to promote peace in the Middle
East, your example will continue
to erode barriers of bigotry and
mistrust, wherever they exist.

Cap Bush
GEORGE H.W. BUSH
1989-1993



C L I N T O N



You've been there to help those in need in your own neighborhoods, establishing local volunteer efforts, helping the blind, settling refugees from the former Soviet Union, combating the scourge of drugs, and working to strengthen the education of young Americans ...

What guides you is a belief in a covenant that we all share to enrich the lives of those around you, to fight bigotry, to protect liberty.

Bill Clinton
BILL CLINTON
1993-2001

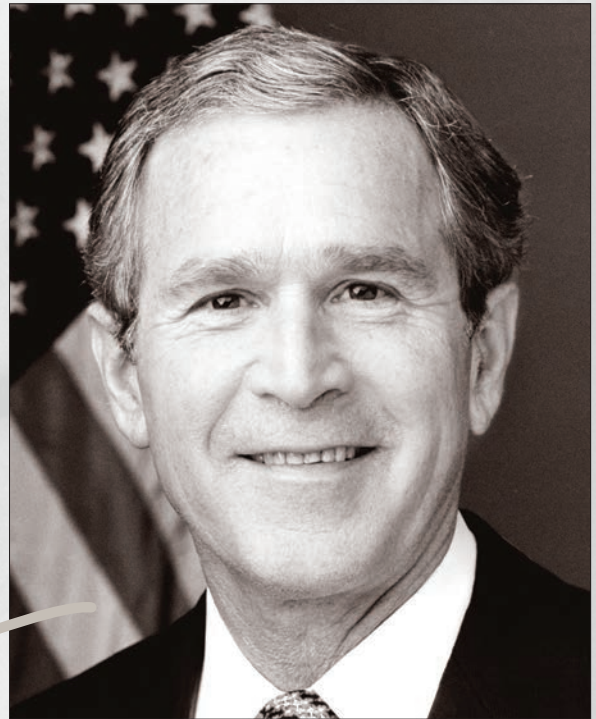
Since 1843 B'nai B'rith has been dedicated to helping those in need and preserving the rich traditions of Jewish life ... I commend the men and women of B'nai B'rith for your leadership and service. Your efforts improve the lives of countless individuals and remind us that we must be vigilant in our pursuit of freedom, tolerance and compassion.

GEORGE W. BUSH

2001-2009

A large, stylized handwritten signature of George W. Bush in a light brown color, positioned over the bottom left of the page.

B U S H



O B A M A



B'nai B'rith International has helped open our eyes to injustice and to people in need for 170 years. By providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief, promoting human rights and volunteerism, and offering a strong voice for the Jewish community around the world, organizations like yours help us live up to our basic belief that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

BARACK OBAMA
2009-2017

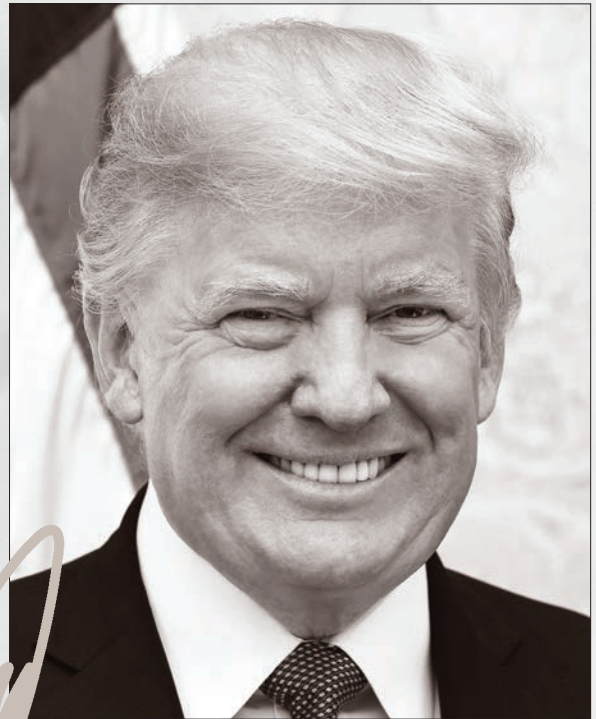
A large, stylized handwritten signature of Barack Obama in brown ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'B' and 'O' at the beginning and end. It is positioned below the printed name and dates.

Over the past 175 years, B'nai B'rith International has enhanced the lives of Jewish people and of many others around the world through charity, volunteerism, educational programs, and advocacy efforts. These achievements extend far beyond one community or one country, and they reflect a sustained commitment to enriching the spirit of humanity.

T R U M P

DONALD J. TRUMP
2017-2021

Donald Trump




The B'nai B'rith Mission

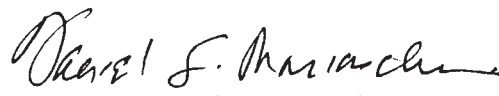
*Promoting Tolerance • Combating Anti-Semitism Providing Disaster Relief
Building Better Communities • Advocating for Israel • Supporting Seniors*

Since 1843, B'nai B'rith International has been dedicated to improving the quality of life for people around the globe. A constant source of innovation and charity for populations around the world, B'nai B'rith has founded hospitals, orphanages and senior housing communities; and launched disaster relief campaigns, child safety initiatives, tolerance education programs and countless other initiatives in the public interest. Today, B'nai B'rith serves individuals and communities in more than 50 countries on six continents.

Currently, B'nai B'rith International is a national and global leader in helping communities in crisis; providing senior housing and advocacy on vital issues concerning seniors and their families; promoting diversity and tolerance education; and advocating for Israel. The notion of volunteers doing good work in their communities and beyond is the mission that has driven our organization since 1843. Over the course of three centuries, the B'nai B'rith network has evolved, grown and adapted with the changing times, but our core values and mission of improving the lives of those around the world remain the same.

Through the combined efforts of dedicated volunteer leaders and professional staff, B'nai B'rith improves the quality of life for those around the country and across the globe through our action on human rights and public policy, community service, Israel advocacy and senior services and housing. The following descriptions and photographs highlight a sample of B'nai B'rith's many activities and achievements.


Charles O. Kaufman
International President


Daniel S. Mariaschin
Chief Executive Officer

Highlights from Our History

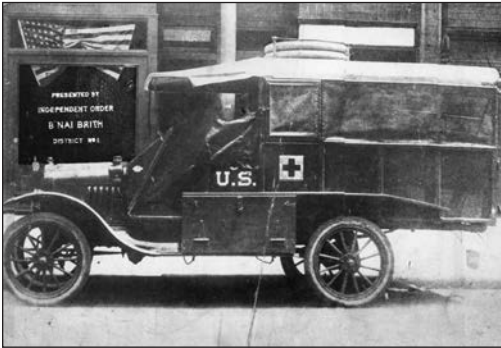
1843:

B'nai B'rith is founded by 12 Jewish German immigrants at Sinsheimer's Café on New York City's Lower East Side.



1917:

During World War I, B'nai B'rith raises \$1 million to aid American troops and purchases this ambulance for the Red Cross in France.



1947:

B'nai B'rith meets with President Harry S. Truman to advocate for the creation of the State of Israel.



1995:

B'nai B'rith disaster relief efforts raise \$515,000 for the people of Oklahoma in the wake of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. B'nai B'rith leaders present a check to lawmakers during a ceremony on Capitol Hill.



Global Affairs & Public Policy

B'nai B'rith was present at the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945, and has taken an active role as an NGO (non-governmental organization) at U.N. venues around the globe ever since. In addition, B'nai B'rith continues to be a vocal advocate for human dignity at many other international organizations, with a wide range of foreign governments and through a diverse spectrum of faith-based and ethnic groups.

B'nai B'rith's involvement in international affairs dates to the 1850s, when the organization spoke out against Switzerland's anti-Semitic treatment of its Jewish residents. As we have throughout our history, B'nai B'rith continues to combat the scourge of anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination still present today. B'nai B'rith International is dedicated to sounding the alarm about anti-Semitism and marshaling efforts to combat and eradicate, wherever possible, this phenomenon.

B'nai B'rith also plays an active role in cultivating religious tolerance and international cooperation. This is done through high-level meetings with top government leaders, as well as through grassroots education projects such as the Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge, where high school students write and illustrate children's books about tolerance and diversity.

Today, no other Jewish organization can point to a longer, more all-encompassing history of service to Jews and all people around the world. B'nai B'rith International continues to bring a strong voice to humanitarian, international and domestic policy.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

B'nai B'rith International has had NGO status at the United Nations since the world body's founding conference. Today, B'nai B'rith continues to represent the Jewish people at U.N. hubs around the globe, including those in New York, Geneva and Paris.



INTERCOMMUNAL AFFAIRS

B'nai B'rith International leaders meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican. The former Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio had previously hosted a B'nai B'rith Kristallnacht event while serving as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

B'nai B'rith International leaders regularly meet with lawmakers to discuss the most pressing issues of the day. Our experts testify on Capitol Hill on a range of legislation.



DIVERSE MINDS YOUTH WRITING CHALLENGE

In addition to working in the political sphere to advocate for tolerance, B'nai B'rith also encourages grassroots programming to bring the message of tolerance to the next generation. The Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge is a scholarship competition that asks high school students to write and illustrate children's books based on a topic of tolerance and diversity. Over the last seven years, B'nai B'rith has published 41 original children's books and awarded more than \$337,000 in college scholarships and grants. Thousands of these published books have also been donated to public schools, libraries and Boys & Girls Clubs around the country.

Community Service

B'nai B'rith's community service efforts date back to the mid-1800s, when victims of a Baltimore, Maryland, flood were the first recipients of B'nai B'rith disaster relief funds. In 1865, B'nai B'rith funded its first international assistance project, helping victims of a cholera epidemic in what was then Palestine.

The roots of those first relief campaigns continue to grow today as B'nai B'rith urgently responds when natural and man-made disasters occur or when communities are in need in the United States or around the globe. B'nai B'rith helps from the outset and remains to rebuild and offer assistance, even after first responders have left the scene. From Sri Lanka to New Orleans, and from Haiti to Japan, B'nai B'rith seeks to fill the needs that might otherwise be overlooked.

In addition to aiding communities in crisis, or places devastated by disaster, B'nai B'rith volunteers are active in their local communities with a wide variety of local projects. These range from distributing food to shelters and schools to feed the hungry, bringing joy and gifts to children in the hospital, educating communities on keeping their children safe and much more.

DISASTER RELIEF

Working independently or in partnership with other nonprofit organizations, B'nai B'rith is there in the immediate aftermath of a disaster and stays to help when most others have moved on.

Pictured here is B'nai B'rith's immediate response, in partnership with IsraAID (the Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid), to bring rescue, medical and logistics teams to Port-Au-Prince following the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

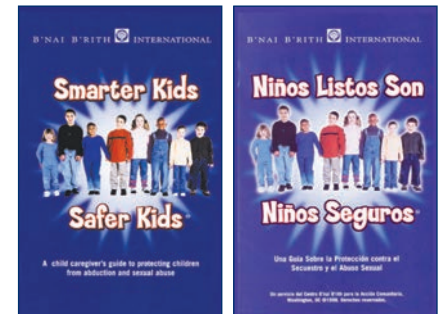


HUMANITARIAN AID

B'nai B'rith has brought tens of millions of dollars worth of supplies, medicine and relief efforts to communities in need throughout Latin America, Cuba and Africa. Pictured here is a mission to aid Sudanese refugees in the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

SMARTER KIDS-SAFER KIDS

B'nai B'rith's "Smarter Kids-Safer Kids" program, distributed free—both in print and online—includes information for parents, teachers and law enforcement about online security, what to do when a child is alone, what to do if a child is lost or when he or she is faced with an improper situation. There are role-playing exercises and guided discussions that parents and guardians can use to teach their children about how to stay safe. "Smarter Kids-Safer Kids" is used by communities around the nation and is available in English and Spanish.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Members from the B'nai B'rith Great Lakes Region volunteer in Detroit, Michigan, for Project H.O.P.E. (Help Our People Everywhere)—a community action project where B'nai B'rith volunteers collect and distribute food packages to the poor and elderly during holidays.

Advocating for Israel

Starting in 1888, B'nai B'rith began its presence in what was then Palestine, with the creation of the first Jerusalem Lodge. The lodge began laying the foundation for the cultural, economic and social rebirth of the Jewish nation and also served as a pivotal force in the founding of the State of Israel. Another milestone was reached in 1980, with the establishment of the B'nai B'rith World Center in Jerusalem.

The World Center is our connection to a wide range of Israeli governmental, academic and cultural institutions. The center promotes strong Israel-Diaspora relations. It is the voice of the B'nai B'rith community to the Israeli government, national institutions and the NGO community in Israel. The World Center also sponsors community service work, cultural programs and interchange.

B'nai B'rith is a staunch supporter and defender of Israel at the United Nations and its affiliated agencies, in world capitals and at a variety of international organizations. Domestically, we advance our Middle East priorities by communicating regularly with the White House, Congress and State Department to promote the Jewish community's interests in the region. Internationally, B'nai B'rith encourages other governments to build stronger bilateral and regional ties with Israel. We provide analysis and expertise on current Middle East issues, and we facilitate Israel's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance abroad. As a founding member of IsraAid (the Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid), B'nai B'rith also works with many other Israeli relief organizations to bring humanitarian aid to communities around the globe.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

B'nai B'rith regularly meets with heads of state, such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel (center), to illuminate the unjust treatment Israel receives in world venues. We work together with world leaders to recognize and combat anti-Semitism within their own populations.



GLOBAL ADVOCACY

B'nai B'rith leaders from the United States, Canada and several European countries meet in Geneva at the United Nations Human Rights Council to advocate on behalf of Israel and the global Jewish community.

ISRAEL EMERGENCY FUND

In 2012, B'nai B'rith International opened its Israel Emergency Fund to aid victims of the Hamas rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza. The funds raised assist Israeli residents in the areas struck by the terror attacks and also provide for personal needs of soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces serving in that region.



Senior Advocacy and Housing

B'nai B'rith International is the largest national Jewish sponsor of federally subsidized housing for the elderly in the United States, with 42 buildings in 26 communities. For more than 40 years, B'nai B'rith has worked in partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to make rental apartments available for senior citizens with limited incomes.

B'nai B'rith senior housing currently serves more than 8,000 low-income seniors and is open to all qualified individuals as defined by HUD, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, handicap or national origin. In addition, B'nai B'rith has international senior housing options in five countries around the world.

With our unparalleled expertise in protecting seniors and advocating on aging issues, we serve as a respected voice on a wide variety of issues affecting seniors. Working with our members and supporters throughout the United States, our senior advocacy initiative advances B'nai B'rith's agenda on a range of seniors' issues to policymakers in Washington, D.C., and across the country. Such issues include Social Security, aging in place, access to quality health care, Medicare, funding for the aging services network and minimum wage.

SENIOR HOUSING

The lack of an adequate supply of safe, affordable housing for low-income persons is a serious problem in the United States. As the largest national Jewish sponsor of low-income housing for seniors in the country and a recognized expert on affordable housing, we continue to advocate for increased resources for HUD-assisted senior housing.



HOUSING EXPERTISE

B'nai B'rith senior housing is committed to promoting and maintaining the highest level of service and expertise. Each year, management professionals and members of the individual boards of directors of the B'nai B'rith housing units meet to share best practices. In addition, management professionals and service coordinators get together on a yearly basis to ensure they are up to date on the latest HUD guidelines. Every other year, housing residents who represent their local resident councils meet at the B'nai B'rith Perlman Camp to share experiences and learn about programs at other housing properties.

SENIOR ADVOCACY

Lifelong access to quality, affordable housing and health care is crucial to ensure a healthy older population. Through our long-standing partnership with HUD, B'nai B'rith works with federal agencies to strengthen housing programs for low-income seniors as well as to advocate for improved access to better health care.





Hyphahph
Herbert Hoover
Ronald Reagan
Ben
Bin Clinton
Jimmy Carter
John F. Kennedy
Dwight D. Eisenhower
Harry S. Truman
Lyndon B. Johnson
J. Edgar Hoover
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Richard Nixon
Warren G. Harding
Dwight D. Eisenhower
Woodrow Wilson
Benjamin Franklin
Theodore Roosevelt



B'nai B'rith International has advocated for global Jewry and championed the cause of human rights since 1843. B'nai B'rith is universally recognized as a vital voice in promoting Jewish unity and continuity, a leader in disaster relief, a tireless advocate on behalf of senior citizens and a staunch defender of the State of Israel. With a presence in more than 50 countries, B'nai B'rith is the Global Voice of the Jewish Community.



B ' N A I B ' R I T H I N T E R N A T I O N A L

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