
B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The Global Voice of the Jewish Community

WHO WE ARE

Speaking up and speaking out: against anti-Semitism, against BDS, against the delegitimization of Israel. By working together – with our staff, our volunteers, our donors and our supporters – B'nai B'rith has a global impact. Whether you are looking back at our legacy or forward to the future, you will find a steadfast dedication to Israel, support for the Jewish people, a commitment to universal human rights, stability for older adults and help for people suffering in the wake of a catastrophic disaster.



With our high-impact, results-oriented 176 years of service, we are a source of innovation and charity: B'nai B'rith has founded hospitals, orphanages and senior housing communities, plus launched disaster relief campaigns, tolerance education programs and countless additional endeavors.



Our accomplishments this year include humanitarian aid efforts in locations such as the Bahamas, Puerto Rico and Pittsburgh, relentless diplomatic work at the United Nations and all its global agencies, introducing global diplomats to Israel, advocacy for the needs of seniors and a commitment to domestic and international policies that are in the public safety realm.

Keep reading to see the reach of our global work.

BY THE NUMBERS



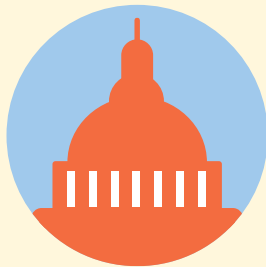
1500+

Hours of parliamentary and diplomatic missions to Israel since we began introducing global leaders to the Jewish state.



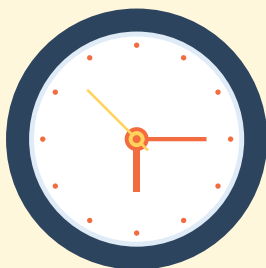
60

Meetings with ambassadors and other officials in Paris and Geneva during our annual delegation to UNESCO and the U.N.



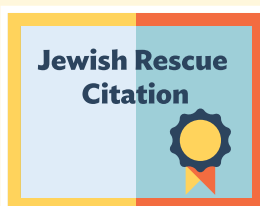
250

B'nai B'rith Housing residents who met directly with their congressional representatives at our housing facilities to talk about vital issues facing seniors.



132

Volunteer hours spent at a farm in Puerto Rico planting seedlings, mulching and watering during our housing service coordinators and managers meeting.



250

Jewish Rescue Citations awarded since the program's inception to Jews who rescued fellow Jews during the Holocaust. These rescuers saved thousands of Jews.



5,000

Seniors living in our affordable housing facilities.



2,500

Elderly and in-need households receiving Passover care packages from our Project H.O.P.E.



8,000

College students participating in our annual Yom Hashoah remembrances: We Walk to Remember and Unto Every Person there is a Name.

Message from the President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear members, supporters and friends of B'nai B'rith,

Allow us to share with you an exciting year of accomplishments and results, confronting vital issues across an array of topics.

In this annual report, you'll discover:

- We speak out against anti-Semitism and the odious Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement worldwide.
- We advocate on behalf of America's aging population against those who would diminish social service safety nets such as Social Security or Medicare.
- We have an active presence in Israel through our World Center-Jerusalem, which serves as our point of contact regarding service and diplomacy with Israeli government officials.
- We serve thousands of people in need in local communities throughout the United States. Among many projects in many cities, we deliver kosher for Passover meals to homebound elderly people.
- We speak out tirelessly in defense of Israel at the United Nations and its agencies. We were there when the U.N. was founded, and we continue to have a full-time daily presence, deeply involved in protecting Israel's interests.
- We provide critical, affordable and nonsectarian housing for seniors of limited income across the country.
- We have a powerful presence in Latin America, where we monitor anti-Semitism, promote Jewish culture and act on threats against Israel that emanate from Iran's expanding presence across the region.
- We raise and distribute funds for long-term rebuilding projects when disasters strike local communities.
- We fight for restitution for Holocaust survivors.

On the local, national and international stages every day, B'nai B'rith impacts Jewish life, Israel and the greater community. We are proud of our global efforts. Read on.

Sincerely,

Charles O. Kaufman

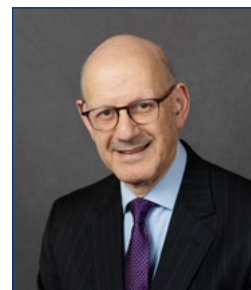
B'nai B'rith International President

Daniel S. Mariaschin

B'nai B'rith International CEO



Charles O. Kaufman
President



Daniel S. Mariaschin
Chief Executive Officer

HUMAN RIGHTS & PUBLIC POLICY

Engaging and challenging world leaders is imperative to combating the anti-Israel animus that is pervasive at the United Nations. B'nai B'rith International, active at the U.N. since the world body was founded, is committed to holding the U.N. accountable to its essential founding values and aspirations. We speak publicly and privately to combat the bias that now seems endemic to the U.N. We have a keen focus on preserving Jewish heritage and the historical connection to Israel.



In the fall, B'nai B'rith International met with numerous world leaders on the sidelines of the opening of the 74th United Nations General Assembly session in New York City. B'nai B'rith President Charles O. Kaufman and CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin, along with other B'nai B'rith leaders and staff, discussed Iran's backing of terrorist organizations, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the rise in global anti-Semitism, among other issues, in these meetings.





Early in the year, B'nai B'rith partnered with the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations for an event at U.N. headquarters on International Holocaust Remembrance Day highlighting the haven afforded European Jews in India – prominent today as the world's largest democracy – during World War II.

In the spring, B'nai B'rith met with UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay urging, among other priorities, a decisive response to the UNESCO-endorsed Aalst Carnival in Belgium, which was again marred by displays of crude anti-Semitic motifs. B'nai B'rith leaders also met with dozens of ambassadors to UNESCO and other U.N. bodies.

B'nai B'rith made contributions to a U.N. report on global anti-Semitism – and was cited by participating officials in a rare U.N. General Assembly “informal” session on anti-Semitism worldwide.



A small group of B'nai B'rith International leaders met privately in September with U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres. In the meeting at U.N. Headquarters, the B'nai B'rith delegation thanked Guterres for his positive personal efforts while raising priority concerns regarding the world body and current global affairs, particularly in the Middle East. Additionally, B'nai B'rith urged the secretary-general to dedicate staff to combating the scourge of global anti-Semitism – and to pursue the long-overdue inclusion of Israelis at a management level within the U.N. secretariat.

B'nai B'rith France calls attention to anti-Semitism in schools



B'nai B'rith France is proposing the development of a combatting anti-Semitism curriculum at schools. Conversations will be conducted in the lodges on the worrisome developments in recent years, the reasons for this spread of anti-Jewish hatred in places of knowledge and proposals for courses of action. These reflections will be the subject of a synthesis that will be given to public authorities. In parallel, work is being done by the Israel National Commission on how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is dealt with in high school history books and the impact these biases may have on this important issue.

Working with AJIRI

Through our partnership with AJIRI (the American Jewish International Relations Institute), we have worked tirelessly to combat the powerful anti-Israel propaganda apparatus that functions under the auspices of the United Nations. We have focused particularly on two resolutions of the U.N. General Assembly that promote a radical anti-Israel agenda and constitute a clear obstacle to the achievement of a two-state solution. These are the resolutions that re-authorize, year after year, the funding and mandate of the “Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People” (CEIRPP) and the “Division for Palestinian Rights” (DPR). *Under the provisions of these resolutions, the U.N. endorses the “Right of Return,” the Palestinian demand for Israel to admit the mass immigration of 5.5 million Arabs of Palestinian descent from adjacent territories, thus creating an Arab majority in Israel and ending the existence of the State of Israel.* This year, our efforts had a real impact in the way that several European and Latin American countries voted at the General Assembly, and the international support for these resolutions was significantly reduced. We will continue to work on this issue until these very detrimental resolutions are finally defeated.

In June, following B'nai B'rith Canada's tireless advocacy efforts, the government of Canada formally adopted the important International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism – ensuring that all forms of anti-Jewish hatred and discrimination are properly recognized for what they are.



This year, B'nai B'rith International leaders promoted international and intercommunal partnership — and the continued strengthening of ties with Israel – in a visit to China, the world's most populous nation and a rising superpower, and Japan, a key democratic ally of the United States; the mission began in Shanghai, where the hosting of Holocaust-era Jews was commemorated, and concluded in Tokyo with a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Expressing Concern Over anti-Semitism Before French elections



After the European elections in 2019, B'nai B'rith France focused on how anti-Semitism would be addressed in 2020 municipal elections. It was proposed to the lodges to contact the main candidates for these elections in the different cities of the country to discuss with them the expectations of French Jews and the major issues of these elections in connection with our concerns, including their policy against anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and support for Israel. Debates for 2020 will be arranged.

B'nai B'rith Canada had a big success keeping anti-Semitism out of politics with the Hassan Guillet case

In October, B'nai B'rith Canada discovered that a popular parliamentary candidate in Montreal had a shocking and little-known history of spreading anti-Jewish and anti-Israel conspiracy theories on social media and on the radio. Thanks to B'nai B'rith Canada's efforts, his party promptly rescinded his candidacy within hours of our press release – barring him from gaining political power.

European Days of Jewish Culture

A celebration of Jewish culture was proudly displayed from September to mid-October, with the support of B'nai B'rith lodges across Europe in Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

The fundamental objective of this European collaboration is to highlight the diversity and richness of Judaism, with the intention of promoting dialogue, mutual recognition and exchange through conferences, concerts, performances, guided tours and other activities.

As a main actor of AEJP (European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage), B'nai B'rith Europe supports the preservation, appreciation and promotion of Jewish culture and Jewish heritage in Europe. Through this association, B'nai B'rith Europe encourages Jewish sites to present Judaism to the wider community with its educational, social and cultural programs. This goal is notably achieved through its leading program, the European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage.

On Jewish Culture and Heritage Days, selected synagogues and Jewish historic sites are open to the general public and related events including guided walks and exhibitions take place.

Exhibition "France and the contributions of Jewish cultures from 1791 to the present day"

In a still very difficult context for the Jewish community of France, the national office of B'nai B'rith France has in 2019 maintained its priority on political action and was particularly mobilized against anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, BDS and the defense of the values of the Republic, including secularism. This action has led to public positions, numerous contacts at all levels with decision-makers, a very active communication policy aimed at enhancing B'nai B'rith France's visibility, particularly on social networks and the use of B'nai B'rith's traditional platforms to convey the necessary messages.

The national culture commission of B'nai B'rith France organized in September a large exhibition on the theme "France and the contributions of Jewish cultures from 1791 to the present day." The inauguration of the exhibition took place Sept. 11 at the town hall of the 16th arrondissement of Paris in the presence of many elected officials and officials of Jewish



institutions in France. Through this exhibition, B'nai B'rith France wanted to testify to the fidelity and commitment of the French Jews to France and the Republic and to honor many of these French Jews who have left their mark on the history and destiny of France. This fidelity and commitment have contributed to the history of France, its successes and its influence. This exhibition of pedagogical and educational virtues is open to all citizens, as a testimony and an illumination of our history and our common values, which are the basis of the unity and strength of our society. After being presented in Paris, this exhibition will tour across many regions throughout 2020.

B'nai B'rith On Capitol Hill



B'nai B'rith advocated for a range of international and domestic concerns on Capitol Hill this year, meeting and corresponding frequently with Senate and House offices on issues such as anti-Semitism, justice for Holocaust survivors, property restitution for Middle Eastern Jewish refugees, foreign aid and a variety of issues of great concern to seniors. Our Director of Legislative Affairs Eric Fusfield also confronted state officials and university administrators on the subject of anti-Semitism in academia.

B'nai B'rith's diplomatic outreach extended to the State Department, where we attended the second-ever U.S. government-sponsored conference on international religious freedom; the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, where we spoke on anti-Semitism at conferences in Bratislava and Warsaw; and the European Parliament, where we presented on anti-Semitism. In Washington, we met with ambassadors to discuss Holocaust remembrance and restitution, relations with Israel and United Nations votes on the Middle East. B'nai B'rith hosted the ambassadors of Romania, Greece, Cyprus and Israel for luncheons in Washington. We also hosted Elan Carr, the State Department's Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism, for a meeting at our offices and Carr joined us on the B'nai B'rith podcast.

**Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Elan Carr**
 <https://bnaibrithinternational.podbean.com/e/episode-55-special-envoy-to-monitor-and-combat-anti-semitism-act-elan-carr/>

Global Perspective: Europe

B'nai B'rith European Affairs Office, Brussels

B'nai B'rith International has a full-time presence in Brussels, the home of the European Union, where we advocate for Jewish issues at European institutions in Brussels and work to strengthen EU-Israel relations.

Conference: Holocaust Remembrance Day – Anti-Semitism, Past and Present

For International Holocaust Remembrance Day, B'nai B'rith organized, in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Israel to the European Union and NATO, the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the EU, the Konrad Adenauer Institute and the AJC Transatlantic Institute the conference "Holocaust Remembrance Day – Anti-Semitism, Past and Present. Following remarks by Heinz K. Becker, MEP (EPP) and Helga Trüpel, MEP (The Greens/EFA), a lively panel discussion took place between Deborah Feldman, New York Times bestselling author; and Richard C. Schneider, editor-at-large German ARD TV, publicist and author; and moderated by Laura Cazes, ZWST project coordinator.

Guests were able to visit an exhibit of anti-Semitic propaganda collected by Holocaust survivor Arthur Langerman following the event.

High-level EU Council Conference: “The Fight against anti-Semitism: a common approach to better protect Jewish communities in Europe – from policy to action”

In February, B’nai B’rith International was part of the high-level conference “The Fight against anti-Semitism: a common approach to better protect Jewish communities in Europe – from policy to action,” organized by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, in Brussels. [B’nai B’rith CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin spoke on the main panel](#), alongside Romanian Prime Minister Viorica Dăncilă, First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans and representatives of major Jewish organizations.

Mariaschin emphasized the need for countering Israel delegitimization and anti-Semitism stemming from anti-Israel sentiment. He called for concrete actions in the fields of security and education and stressed the importance of partnerships between decision-makers and civil society.

On the sidelines of the event, Mariaschin met with Dăncilă.

The event was moderated by B’nai B’rith’s current Director of EU Affairs Alina Bricman, at the time in her previous capacity outside the organization.

Student Seminar in Brussels

B’nai B’rith International co-sponsored the fifth edition of the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) EU Activism Seminar in February, which brought 20 Jewish students and young leaders from across Europe to Brussels for a five-day seminar on Jewish advocacy.

The student group got an exclusive look inside the advocacy work of B’nai B’rith within EU institutions and met with high-level officials at the European Parliament and the European Commission, including Commissioner for Justice V. Raoult, members of the European Parliament from across the political spectrum, the Israeli Mission to the EU and NATO and the European External Action Service.

Participation in the European-Israel Congress

B’nai B’rith International was part of the first- ever European-Israel Congress in Frankfurt, Germany. Alina Bricman, our director of EU affairs, was among the professionals, lay leaders and key activists that convened to exchange ideas and develop joint strategies for Israel advocacy. In this context, we commended Ambassador Richard Grenell, the ambassador of the United States to Germany, and Uwe Becker, state commissioner on combatting anti-Semitism in Hessen, for their steadfast commitment to Israel and the Jewish people, their sophisticated understanding of the hazardous effects of BDS and their clear acknowledgment of the security threat posed by Iran.

Presentation for the International Council of Jewish Women

Our Director of EU Affairs Alina Bricman spoke to the International Council of Jewish Women at the group’s 16th annual conference, in Athens this November. She spoke about the state of Jewish advocacy in the EU, major achievements that can now serve as tools to address anti-Semitism, and frontiers for future action. She also addressed the often-lacking gender balance within Jewish organizations and explored the extent to which more gender balance would be reflected in organizational agendas.

High-Level Conference: After Halle, From Words to Action Against Anti-Semitism



As part of the advisory board of the European Parliament Working Group on anti-Semitism, B'nai B'rith, alongside the European Jewish Congress, organized the launch event of the group in this new parliamentary term as a call to action following the terrorist attack at the synagogue in Halle, Germany. The conference was opened by President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and closed by President of the European Parliament David Sassoli. A moving testimony from a witness of the Halle attack was provided, followed by two panel discussions: one exchanging perspectives among academics and practitioners and one among Members of the European Parliament in the leadership of the working group.

Berlin Conference

As part of a series of conferences, B'nai B'rith Europe President Serge Dahan, along with B'nai B'rith German lodges, organized a meeting and discussion in Berlin to address the future of Jewish life in Europe. B'nai B'rith Europe presented a new Facing Facts online course on anti-Semitic bias indicators developed by CEJI – a Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, for law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations that are involved in the monitoring and recording of anti-Semitic hate crimes. This course, co-sponsored by B'nai B'rith Europe, aims to improve the understanding and identifying of anti-Semitic hate crimes and the needs of victim communities through four highly interactive modules.

Interfaith Leadership

B'nai B'rith Australia and New Zealand wrote to leaders of the Islamic faith and to the mayor of Christchurch to express their horror at the terror attacks at two mosques. We sent our deepest condolences to the families affected by this horrific attack and to all the people of New Zealand.

The hatred that inspired this contemptible act is an increasingly growing problem in far too many parts of the world. It has only been a little over a year since the American Jewish community suffered a similar tragedy at Pittsburgh. Our community is still shaken to the core by that attack. To see nationalist extremism strike again – this time against Muslim congregants in New Zealand – is distressing for us and for all people of conscience. The only way to defeat hateful ideologies is to confront them head on.

Diplomats: Up Close



B'nai B'rith International continues to interact formally and informally with diplomats, to help our members and supporters understand some of the biggest geopolitical issues.

At our Diplomatic Encounter series, hosted in our Washington, D.C. headquarters, guests hear directly from ambassadors about his or her country's interactions with Israel and the United States.

In 2019, we featured the ambassador from Romania to the United States. Also, our 2019 Leadership Forum was the scene of a diplomatic encounter series, featuring Ambassador of Cyprus to the United States Marios Lysiotis, Ambassador of Greece to the United States Haris Lalacos and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Israel Benjamin Krasna. The diplomats emphasized the historic and continuing ties between Greece and Cyprus and the Jewish people and Israel.

Latin America: A Vital Partner

Since our first lodge launched in Latin America in 1926 in Panama City, Panama, B'nai B'rith has maintained a strong presence across the region, which enables us to closely follow the most important developments across the region and advocate for policies and programs that positively impact the local Jewish population and Israel. We partner with other organizations to ensure such topics as anti-Semitism and Holocaust education are a focus at the governmental and local agency levels.

Through our districts and units in Latin America, we have continued to fight anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias. We have also continued to raise awareness about the presence of Hezbollah operatives in the region and to demand justice for the victims of the Iranian-backed 1994 terrorist attack against the AMIA building in Buenos Aires.

We have followed Venezuela's increasingly tragic situation and kept in close contact with the local Jewish community. At the initiative of the leaders of B'nai B'rith Argentina, we have also provided medicines and basic medical supplies to Venezuelan refugees fleeing to Colombia.

Kristallnacht Commemoration in Latin America



[Throughout November, B'nai B'rith International held commemorations across Latin America to remember Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass.](#) In 1938, on Nov. 9 and 10, Nazis terrorized Jewish neighborhoods throughout Germany, Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia, killing almost 100 Jews, dragging 30,000 to concentration camps, vandalizing thousands of Jewish businesses and burning and destroying synagogues.

In Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela, B'nai B'rith held remembrance programs marking the 81st anniversary of Kristallnacht.

Cuba Outreach – Cuba Jewish Relief Project

Our Cuban Jewish Relief Project has provided vital aid to the small Jewish community in Cuba since 1995. Our disaster relief team continues to endeavor to assist Cubans impacted by a series of hurricanes in 2018. Program Director for Strategic Engagement in our International Center for Human Rights and Public Policy Sienna Girgenti continues to work with the Cuban Jewish community.

SUPPORTING AND DEFENDING ISRAEL

B'nai B'rith has supported Israel since its pre-state days. Our World Center-Jerusalem gives us boots-on-the-ground access to government, technology and diaspora relations.

B'nai B'rith World Center Journalism Award



Professor Deborah E. Lipstadt, Dorot professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, delivered the keynote address at the 27th annual B'nai B'rith World Center Award for Journalism for 2019. Her talk focused on "Old Wine in New Bottles: Antisemitism in the Contemporary World." Winners of the 2019 Award for Recognizing Excellence in Diaspora Reportage, in memory of Wolf and Hilda Matsdorf, are: Antonia Yamin, chief Europe correspondent for KAN - Israel Public Broadcasting Corporation (for broadcast media) and Zvika Klein, Jewish World correspondent for Makor Rishon and NRG360 (for print media). A certificate of merit in memory of Luis and Trudi Schydrowsky was conferred on Attila Somfalvi, lead anchor of ynet news. A special citation for Fostering Israel-Diaspora Relations through the Arts was bestowed upon singer, actor and Israel Prize laureate Yehoram Gaon.

Yom Hashoah Ceremony

The B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem and Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael (KKL-JNF) held, for the 17th consecutive year, a unique joint Holocaust commemoration ceremony on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah). This is the only event dedicated annually to commemorating the heroism of Jews who rescued fellow Jews during the Holocaust. Jerusalem-area schools and pre-army preparatory academies attended the ceremony together with Jewish rescuers and survivors; the Border Patrol provided an honor guard. The ceremony took place at the B'nai B'rith Martyr's Forest "Scroll of Fire" Plaza. This year's ceremony was dedicated to rescue efforts undertaken by the Jewish Defense Committee (CDJ). The Jewish Defense Committee in Belgium was founded in September 1942 in reaction to the start of the deportation of Jews by the Gestapo in August 1942 in Brussels and Antwerp. The goal of the CDJ was to operate clandestinely to save as many Jews as possible. During the ceremony, the [Jewish Rescuers Citation](#) was conferred on 11 leading members of the CDJ and four other rescuers who were active in Poland. Since the establishment of the Jewish Rescuers Citation in 2011, nearly 250 heroes have been honored for rescue activities in Germany, France, Hungary, Greece, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Italy, Holland and Belgium.

Jewish Rescuers Citation – Part II

The B'nai B'rith World Center and the Committee to Recognize the Heroism of Jewish Rescuers During the Holocaust (JRJ) posthumously presented in April their joint Jewish Rescuers Citation in memory of Dutch siblings Harry Meyer and Gerda Wijler Meijer. Another presentation was made in March to two Dutch Jews who endangered their own lives to rescue fellow Jews in Nazi-occupied Holland. The first presentation was made in Amsterdam to Marga Grunberg, age 94, by Hillel Lodge Amsterdam President Orlando Heijmerink and Eron Wolf, treasurer. The second presentation went to Juliette Englander de Miranda, age 94, in honor of her late father Dr. David Rodrigues de Miranda (1898-1949).

The Committee to Recognize the Heroism of Jews who Rescued Fellow Jews during the Holocaust and B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem also presented in the fall the Jewish Rescuers Citation posthumously to Rabbi Nathan Cassuto, chief rabbi of Florence and head of the Jewish underground in Florence during the Holocaust, and Matilda Cassin, a member of the underground. In a unique example of Jewish-Christian cooperation, the group, which included Jews and Christian clergy, endangered their lives to arrange hideouts for hundreds of Jews in Catholic institutions and homes while the Nazis and Fascists sought to capture and deport them to concentration camps. The citation was presented to Asher Vardi, son of Matilda Cassin, and David Cassuto, son of Rabbi Nathan Cassuto.

In September, B'nai B'rith Europe held an event in Brussels honoring Maurice and Esta Heiber, two of the many Jewish heroes of World War II. The ceremony was co-organized by B'nai B'rith Europe and CCLJ (Centre Com-munautaire Laïc juif), in coordination with B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem, JRJ - the Committee to Recognize the Heroism of Jewish Rescuers During the Holocaust and L'Enfant Caché. In attendance: B'nai B'rith Europe President Serge Dahan; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and of Defense Didier Reynders, who is also in charge of Beliris and Federal Cultural Institutions; Political Counselor at the Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO Noa Ginosar; MP Vivianne Teitelbaum; former President of CCLJ Menia Goldstein; President of CCLJ Isi Halberthal; President of CCOJB Yohan Benizri; members of B'nai B'rith Europe Executive Committee Valerie Achache and Andre Ouazana; and B'nai B'rith International Director of EU Affairs Alina Bricman.

Diplomatic Outreach from Israel

B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem Director Alan Schneider met in June with Ambassador Nathaniel Imperial of the Philippines and with newly appointed Greek Ambassador Elias Eliadis. The meeting with Imperial focused on his country's war-time efforts to provide a safe haven for Jews fleeing extermination in Europe and the close state-to-state relations that began with Philippine support for the U.N. Partition Plan in 1947. The plan to rescue as many as 100,000 Jews from war-torn Europe was devised by Manuel Quezon, who was president of the Commonwealth of the Philippines from 1935 until his death in 1944. More than 1,300 Jews arrived in Manila before the Japanese invaded and occupied the country in 1942. With Eliadis, Schneider discussed the many projects undertaken by B'nai B'rith to strengthen ties between Israel and Greece. These include a bi-annual leadership mission to Israel, Greece and Cyprus initiated by B'nai B'rith with the participation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) and American Hellenic Institute (AHI).

Also discussed: major international conferences on security in the eastern Mediterranean with the participation of senior Greek politicians and intellectuals, a conference held in Sparta that showcased the close relationship between the Hasmonean and Spartan kings in antiquity and the proposed Israel-Hellenic Forum (in formation). Schneider and Eliadis also discussed anti-Semitism in Greece and Europe and the need to ensure that good relations go beyond the governments and armies of both countries and include intellectual and public figures who will help counter lingering prejudices.

Israel-Greece-Cyprus – Part II

The Israel-Hellenic Forum convened this fall for the first time in Jerusalem. The meeting was moderated by Alan Schneider, director of the B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem and George N. Tzogopoulos, senior research fellow, Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE); research associate, Begin Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA); and lecturer, Democritus University of Thrace, who co-founded the forum. B'nai B'rith International CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin gave remarks at the opening session.



More than 30 prominent journalists and academics from Greece and Cyprus took part in the historic meeting. Sessions included the strategic importance of the Mediterranean democratic bloc; the regional economy; the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; national security policy under Israel's new government; the relationship between Israel and the United States; innovation, tourism and humanitarian aid; the emerging new paradigm in Israel's relationships with Arab states; and Greek-Jewish relations.

Established by the B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem, the Israel-Hellenic Forum is envisioned as a setting for discussion and action by Israeli, Greek, Cypriot and related academics, intellectuals and other public figures who have shown support in the public sphere for the burgeoning relationship solidified in recent years between these three countries – reflected in the regular tripartite meetings between their leaders and the flourishing state-to-state relations. The forum was created in close consultation with B'nai B'rith in Greece and with Israeli experts.

B'nai B'rith has long been dedicated to advancing Hellenic-Jewish relations and has maintained a local chapter in Greece for more than 100 years. In just the last six years, we have held a number of conferences and missions focusing on the trilateral Israel-Greece-Cyprus relationship, including several with our Hellenic-American partners the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations.

Educating About Israel

B'nai B'rith International and Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) hosted a group of eight foreign ambassadors and representatives serving their countries at the U.N. Human Rights Council and other U.N. bodies in Geneva.

Israeli Ambassador in Geneva Aviva Raz Shechter; Alan Schneider, director of the B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem; and B'nai B'rith International Director of U.N. and Intercommunal Affairs David Michaels devised the intensive program and accompanied the diplomats, who represented the Czech Republic, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Slovakia, Togo, Burkina Faso and Cameroon, for the week-long visit.

The purpose of the visit was to further expose the senior diplomats to the complex geopolitical circumstances of the State of Israel in the region and to its diverse and dynamic society. The U.N. Human Rights Council has long constituted one of the most hostile multilateral forums toward the State of Israel. President Reuven Rivlin met privately with the group and emphasized his own roots in Jerusalem.

Click and Connect- English for Kids Inc.

(A new project of B'nai B'rith Australia/New Zealand, which will soon become international)



Click and Connect will provide video conference linkups with 11-year-old and 12-year-old children at underprivileged schools in Israel. Israeli kids need to have conversational English capability in order to progress to higher education. With the support and endorsement of the Ministry of Education in Israel, B'nai B'rith volunteers talk with four children for 15 minutes per child. The volunteers use a curriculum which focuses conversations on Jewish festivals, friends, family, sport, hobbies etc. It has proven to be valuable to the children and gives a lot of satisfaction to the volunteers.

This project is underway in Melbourne and will soon be in Sydney, Auckland and London.

SENIOR HOUSING + ADVOCACY

B'nai B'rith is an established leader in the fields of aging policy and housing for seniors, two issues that are uniquely intertwined. Through our expertise in senior housing, we have created an advanced program of advocacy overseeing legislation that could impact the plight of the elderly. We also demonstrate our expertise on aging matters as we assist the managers and residents of our senior housing facilities in creating warm, inviting and intellectually invigorating programming for residents. We have taught classes and arranged speakers on such topics as fraud prevention and hosting anti-bullying campaigns.

Congressional Staff Visits to B'nai B'rith Housing

In 2019, we again focused on ensuring members of Congress were aware of the desperate need for safe and affordable housing for low-income seniors. By hosting lawmakers and their staffs at B'nai B'rith housing locations across the country, we help the housing crisis come to life for these decision-makers.



During the building visits, we highlight the detailed work that B'nai B'rith does sponsoring Section 202 housing and we demonstrate that federal funding for this program is critical. We advocate for the continuation of the Section 202 housing subsidies in the federal budget, as well as highlight the federal programs that help our residents continue to live independently in their own apartments in these buildings.

In 2019, we met with staff from the Transportation Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Committee and the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging.

We also met with Members of Congress and/or their staffs from nine different lawmakers' offices that have B'nai B'rith-sponsored buildings in their districts:

- Rep. Bruce Westerman visited Levi Towers in Hot Spring, Arkansas.
- Rep. Scott Perry visited Abe Cramer B'nai B'rith Apartments in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
- Rep. Matt Cartwright visited Amos Towers in Scranton, Pennsylvania.
- Rep. Glenn Grothman visited B'nai B'rith Covenant House in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.
- Rep. Andy Kim visited B'nai B'rith Elmwood House in New Jersey.
- Four members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation Housing and Urban Development visited Homecrest House in Silver Spring, Maryland.

- Jade Suh from Sen. Diane Feinstein’s office visited B’nai B’rith Golden Years Apartments in North Hollywood, California.
- Ron Sparks from Sen. Doug Jones office is scheduled to visit Glen East Senior Housing in Dothan, Alabama.
- Rep. Chrissy Houlahan visited B’nai B’rith Apartments in Reading, Pennsylvania.



The annual B’nai B’rith Service Coordinators and Managers Meeting took place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in May. This meeting focused on the needs of on-site building staff and the issues that impact the day-to-day activities of staff and residents in our affordable housing buildings. Since Puerto Rico was a recipient of B’nai B’rith Disaster Relief funds, the meeting included a day of service subsidized by the fund in conjunction with chef José Andrés’s charity, the World Central Kitchen. The group volunteered at an organic farm in the mountains outside of San Juan, helping to plant vegetable seedlings and packing produce to be distributed to the community. After the day of service, participants were immersed in learning about emergency preparedness, federal housing policy, aging in place and smart financial management from a series of panels. Presenters included staff from the B’nai B’rith Center for Senior Services, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), experts in affordable senior housing and professionals from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Listen to our podcast on this service mission.



A Helping Hand in Puerto Rico Plus Housing Experts Address Emergency Preps

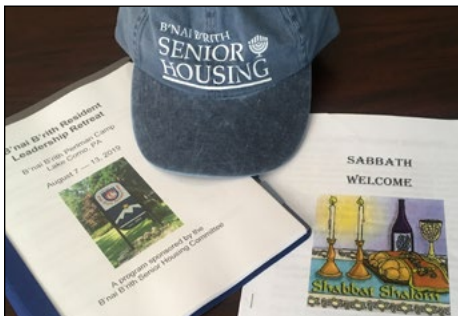
<https://bnaibrithinternational.podbean.com/e/recap-2019-b-nai-b-rith-managers-and-service-coordinators-training-meeting-in-puerto-rico/>

Our Associate Executive Vice President and Director of our Center for Senior Services Mark D. Olshan, Ph.D., was invited by the U.S. Congress House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development to participate in a Housing Finance Roundtable where he spoke on B’nai B’rith’s history with the Section 202 program and how B’nai B’rith used the Low Income Housing Tax Credit to recapitalize our sponsored building in the Bronx, New York.

Center for Senior Services staff held meetings with HUD staff to further advocate for low-income senior housing and talk about B’nai B’rith’s role in affordable housing. Our staff met with Deputy Secretary for Multifamily Housing Lamar Seats at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

We also led a tour for about 15 staff members from HUD, including the budget director. Associate Director of the B'nai B'rith International Center for Senior Services Janel Doughten, who is president emeritus of a Section 202 building in Washington, D.C., St. Mary's Court's board, and Assistant Director for Aging Policy Evan Carmen, a board member, helped lead the tour.

The U.S. federal government shutdown for 34 days in the winter of 2019 caused funding uncertainty for the Section 202 program. B'nai B'rith closely monitored the situation in Congress and the White House. We collaborated with industry colleagues, communicated with senior officials at HUD, which enabled staff to keep our boards and building staff apprised of the situation, and we continued to advocate for low-income seniors through the media. [Our efforts were picked up by NBC News.](#)



The B'nai B'rith Resident Leadership Retreat was held August 7 to August 13 at B'nai B'rith Perlman Camp in the Poconos. This retreat is open to two residents from each of the senior housing buildings in the B'nai B'rith housing portfolio. This week-long retreat is designed to enhance the leadership skills of the residents who attend, so they can take ideas back to their community to benefit all the residents in their respective buildings.

The B'nai B'rith Conference on Senior Housing, an annual training conference for board members and management professionals of each of the B'nai B'rith buildings, took place Sept. 21 to Sept. 24 in Fort Worth, Texas. This year the hosts were the board and staff of the Mollie and Max Barnett/Tarrant County B'nai B'rith Apartments.

Our History in Senior Housing and Advocacy

Our commitment to seniors started in the early 1970s, when we began acting to correct the severe, nationwide dearth of housing for low-income seniors, and we have built on that knowledge to extend our expertise to all aspects of aging and aging issues. We recognize how healthy aging directly connects to a safe, affordable and engaging home environment.



B'nai B'rith International is the largest national Jewish sponsor of low-income, non-sectarian housing for seniors in the United States, with 38 buildings in 28 communities. We also sponsor six Canadian buildings in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver as well as additional facilities around the world.

In the United States, with funding from HUD, we provide safe, affordable housing for more than 5,000 seniors of limited income without regard to race, national origin or religion. In order to fulfill our mission and standards of operations for each building, B'nai B'rith staff provides ongoing training, troubleshooting, programming and advocacy outreach for the entire housing network. B'nai B'rith volunteers provide guidance to each local building within a framework that reflects the needs of each local community.

DISASTER AND EMERGENCY RELIEF & COMMUNITY PROJECTS

B'nai B'rith has been distributing funds and providing people-power in the wake of natural disasters since 1865.

In 2019, we distributed donations we collected in the immediate aftermath of the 2018 attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh that left 11 people dead. After choosing to focus on the mental health needs of the community, B'nai B'rith allocated funds to support programs administered by the Jewish Family and Children Services (JFCS) of Pittsburgh, including ongoing support groups to assist with treatment of trauma. JFCS will run projects for youth and teens through the schools, including an art therapy program professionally staffed to provide art services and traditional psychotherapy. There will also be programs for seniors and young professionals.

The B'nai B'rith fund will also support a program to assist first responders coordinated by the Police Benevolent Fund. A symbolic tribute to victims from the congregations worshipping at the Tree of Life Synagogue building at the time of the attack (Or L'Simcha, Dor Hadash and New Light) will be made to Tree of Life.



B'nai B'rith Senior Vice President and Disaster Relief Chair [Rebecca Saltzman](#) and Executive Board of Directors member and Pittsburgh native Steve Smiga, who serves as regional president; presented a check for \$25,600 at the Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh (JFCS). B'nai B'rith members from the Aaron Grossman Lodge of the Allegheny Ohio Valley region also attended the ceremony.

Also in 2019, B'nai B'rith opened a fund to assist those impacted by Hurricane Dorian, a powerful Category 3 storm that hit the Bahamas and the southeastern United States.

The B'nai B'rith Disaster and Emergency Relief Fund presented a \$1,500 check to leaders in Germantown, Tennessee, which had experienced severe flooding over the summer. Joel Turetzky and the leadership of B'nai B'rith's Sam Schloss Lodge #35 in Tennessee raised the money that made this possible.



The Disaster Relief Fund, in conjunction with the Chef José Andrés charity, World Central Kitchen, sponsored a day of service during a B'nai B'rith Senior Housing meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Our team volunteered at an organic farm in the mountains outside of San Juan, helping to plant vegetable seedlings and packing produce to be distributed to the community.

The Bushfires in Australia

Since late October 2019, Australia has experienced catastrophic bushfires in the Eastern States of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, covering some 25 million acres, which is about 75 percent of the size of the United Kingdom.

More than a half billion wild animals have perished, at least 24 people have died and some 2,000 homes have been destroyed by the fires.

The Australian spirit of support has been truly at the forefront with donations of millions of dollars as well as clothing, food, housing and emotional support. Large cash donations have also been forthcoming from international musicians and sports stars. B'nai B'rith has also raised a considerable amount of money for the victims.

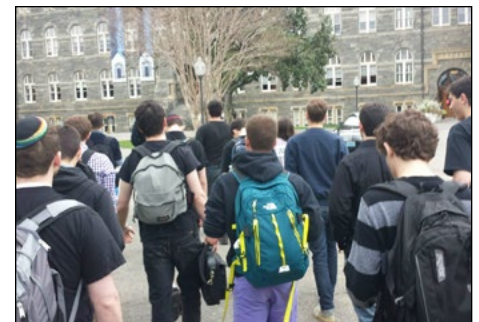
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE: THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUITY



Since 1989, B'nai B'rith International has served as the official North American sponsor of the Yom Hashoah program Unto Every Person There is a Name. With B'nai B'rith's help, many communities across the globe gather on Yom Hashoah each year to commemorate the Holocaust. The 2019 theme: "The War Within the War – The Struggle of the Jews to Survive during the Holocaust."

For Unto Every Person There is a Name, participants read the names of Holocaust victims – the six million Jews, including one and a half million children, as well as noting where they were born and where they died. For

many victims on these lists, it is the only time their name, and thus their life, may be remembered each year, as their entire family was murdered or there is no one left to remember them. B'nai B'rith has also provided yellow stars that read "Never Forget the Six Million" available to wear at programs.



B'nai B'rith and our partner organization Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) fraternity collaborate on Holocaust programming, uniting to bring Unto Every Person There is a Name to 130 university campuses as part of AEPi's own Holocaust Remembrance Day program, "We Walk to Remember," when AEPi brothers and other volunteers walk silently across their campuses wearing "Never Forget" stickers provided by B'nai B'rith. The We Walk program launched in 2006. We also supply AEPi with pamphlets on the importance of Yom Hashoah and outline how each year's theme relates to the Holocaust, so the fraternity brothers can help educate fellow students on campus.

Beyond remembrance, the program offers awareness and education about the Holocaust at a time when few survivors remain to tell the story firsthand.

B'NAI B'RITH CONNECT (FORMERLY YOUNG LEADERSHIP NETWORK)

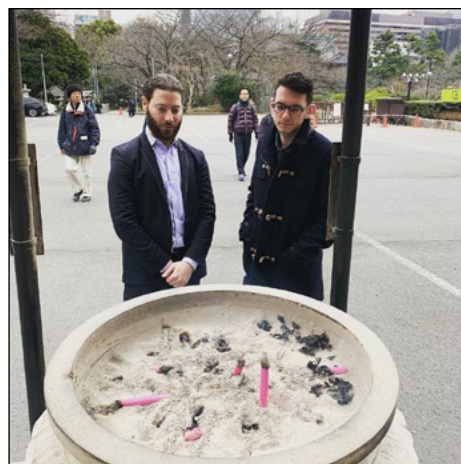


Our Young Leadership Network is now B'nai B'rith Connect. The group serves as a vital link to nurture and cultivate the next generation of Jewish leaders. Through events at embassies, missions, disaster rebuilding sites and fundraisers, we have a network of new leaders who meet, exchange ideas, have a chance to learn from current B'nai B'rith leadership as well as meet with diplomats and lend a hand to a struggling community.

Over the weekend of Feb. 1 to Feb. 3, B'nai B'rith Connect Chair and Senior Vice President Scott Knapp brought the next generation of B'nai B'rith leaders to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to unite and build for the future. Knapp coordinated an amazing young leadership retreat; from Shabbat with a sommelier, to guest speakers, a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis, planning for the future and enjoying the evenings together, participants were busy. They also took a morning to serve breakfast to seniors at B'nai B'rith's Deerfield Beach affordable housing complex.



In February, for the fourth consecutive year, a delegation of B'nai B'rith young leaders traveled to Japan as part of the Kakehashi Project, a cultural exchange program sponsored by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As representatives not only of B'nai B'rith but the American Jewish Community, the Kakehashi participants came back to their respective regions invigorated as new B'nai B'rith Connect leaders, inspired to grow with and learn from B'nai B'rith International.





In September, the group officially relaunched as B’nai B’rith Connect in Las Vegas, where the B’nai B’rith Connect Executive Board and other leaders met to focus on the group’s goals.

On a global level, in August, B’nai B’rith International and The Jewish Agency for Israel, along with the Greek Foreign Ministry and the Presidential Commissioner for Cypriots Overseas, sent 12 members of their communities on a [10-day trip to Israel, Greece and Cyprus](#) in an effort to forge bonds between the communities and strengthen ties between the three countries. The trip created a passionate cadre of young Jews, Greeks and Cypriots who have taken the message of strategic cooperation back to their home countries.



In the fall, B’nai B’rith Connect convened the first of its bi-monthly policy calls with guest speakers. The calls serve as opportunities to learn more, stay connected nationally and globally, and participate in B’nai B’rith International’s advocacy efforts. CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin briefed the leaders on B’nai B’rith’s efforts at the opening session of the U.N. General Assembly, where B’nai B’rith held important meetings on the sidelines. He also discussed the organization’s efforts combating the ongoing rise of anti-Semitism around the world.

Also in the fall, B’nai B’rith Connect joined the Conference of Presidents Young Leadership Division based in New York City. The coalition was formed to bring together young leadership representatives throughout the Jewish community in an effort to combat anti-Semitism on the national and community level. Representatives from B’nai B’rith Connect attended special meetings and events coordinated through the Conference of Presidents.

Young leaders in Europe were also busy. B'nai B'rith Europe co-organized a weekend for young professionals in Greece in the spring with B'nai B'rith young professionals. Participants from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and Switzerland had the opportunity to meet with Greek government officials and representatives of the Jewish community in Athens to discuss the future of Jewish life in Europe. Discussion topics included the history of Jews in Greece, the current situation of Jewish life and anti-Semitism in Greece, allowing participants to express their concerns about a safe future for Jews in Greece and across Europe.

B'nai B'rith Connect Regional Highlights

Denver



B'nai B'rith Colorado held its 23rd Annual Leadville Cemetery Cleanup from June 21 through June 23. For the first time, on Friday evening, the group hosted a pre-services oneg Shabbat for the B'nai Vail congregation to thank and engage the mountain communities. The rest of the weekend offered camping at Turquoise Lake, Saturday morning Shabbat services at the beautifully restored Temple Israel followed by a Kiddush brunch, a potluck dinner and Havdalah later that evening at the campgrounds. The weekend culminated on Sunday with the cleanup of the historic Jewish cemetery, including a continental breakfast, a memorial service led by B'nai Vail and a BBQ lunch. The weekend was an overwhelming success, with nearly 200 attendees throughout the events, in spite of the unseasonal weather, including snow during the Sunday cleanup.

The 2nd Annual Denver Jewbilee Bash is was held Dec. 24. The event follows on the success of the 2018 launch, which saw hundreds of Denver-area Jews get together for an evening of fun.

New York



In June, B'nai B'rith Connect New York leaders visited the residence of David Gill, consul general of Germany in New York City. Gill was introduced by Millie Magid, B'nai B'rith International's chair of U.N. affairs. The event provided the opportunity for an intimate discussion which ranged from Gill's path to diplomacy, the German-American bilateral relationship and Germany's relationship with the Jewish people.

Group members attended several B'nai B'rith International awards dinners in New York City. Including the Distinguished Achievement Award Dinner in September, which recognizes the accomplishments of key community and corporate leaders from around the world.

B'nai B'rith International sends a delegation to the United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York each fall. There, the delegation meets with leaders from all over the world to advance the interests of human rights, Israel and the Jewish people worldwide. This year, B'nai B'rith Connect New York Co-chair Jared Hakimi represented B'nai B'rith at some of the high-level meetings.

Washington, D.C.



In May B'nai B'rith Connect D.C. members met with Romanian Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Cristian Guginsky and his colleagues for a discussion and reception. The one-hour conversation focused on topics such as Romania's six-month presidency of the Council of the European Union, anti-Semitism, Iran's nuclear program and Romania's relationships with Israel and the United States.

B'nai B'rith Connect D.C. partnered for a second year with EntryPointDC on an event that reaches out to young professionals. EntryPointDC, the 20s and 30s program of the Edlavitch DCJCC, holds an annual event to welcome Jewish young adults to Washington, D.C. and to the Jewish community and let them know about some of the great things going on in the community.

ANNUAL LEADERSHIP FORUM + GLOBAL GATHERINGS



Our Leadership Forum 2019 focused on security.

B'nai B'rith International's 2019 Leadership Forum, with leaders attending from around the world, featured prominent speakers from the diplomacy, public policy and media realms and a special reception for participants at the residence of the Japanese ambassador.



B'nai B'rith International Chief Executive Officer Daniel S. Mariaschin delivered remarks that detailed the increasing growth of anti-Semitism, now in evidence worldwide.



B'nai B'rith International President Charles O. Kaufman spoke to forum participants about the organization's achievements during the past year, described new initiatives and outlined his vision for the future.



From left: Executive Board of Directors member Jorge Stainfeld introduced presentations focusing on Latin American politics that included Eduardo Kohn, B'nai B'rith International's director for Latin American Affairs (left) and Ambassador Gonzalo Koncke, chief of staff of the Secretary General, Organization of American States.



From left: Executive Board of Directors member Robert B. Spitzer moderated a global security panel featuring experts from private and government sectors including Frances Townsend, executive vice president, MacAndrews & Forbes, Inc., president, Counter Extremism Project and former Homeland Security advisor to President George W. Bush; Calvin A. Shivers, deputy assistant director of the Criminal Investigative Bureau of the FBI; Patrick Daly, principal deputy director/chief operating officer, Secure Community Network.

Featuring a State of the Organization address by President Charles O. Kaufman, who spoke about the ways B'nai B'rith is active around the world in combating anti-Semitism and fighting for Israel on the world stage, as well as our work with senior housing and aiding communities after natural disasters, and an address by [CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin about the global challenges of anti-Semitism](#), the forum was a huge success

Ambassador Gonzalo Koncke, chief of staff for Organization of American States Secretary General Luis Almagro (who delivered a video greeting to the Leadership Forum) and Eduardo Kohn, B'nai B'rith International's director for Latin American affairs, participated in a discussion about the security outlook of the Western hemisphere.

Three security experts participated in a panel entitled "Global Security Threats at Home and Abroad." Patrick Daly, principal deputy director/chief operating officer, Secure Community Network; Calvin A. Shivers, deputy assistant director of the Criminal



At lunch, Honorary B'nai B'rith International President Richard D. Heideman (l) was joined by B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem Director Alan Schneider, who surveyed the complexities of Israel's numerous factions with respect to the complicated election situation in Israel.



The film "Kids: Chasing Paradise," a chilling documentary about the recruitment of children for terrorist activities, was introduced by International Council of B'nai B'rith member W. Stewart Cahn (at podium.) Following its screening, Peter A. Perlman, regional director, Great Lakes Region, moderated a question and answer session with Richard Green (r), executive director of the Clarion Project, the non-profit organization whose mission is dedicated to educating the public and policy makers about Islamic extremism.

Investigative Division, FBI; and Frances Townsend, executive vice president of worldwide government, legal and business affairs, MacAndrews & Forbes, Inc., president, Counter Extremism Project, and former homeland security advisor to President George W. Bush participated.

The three focused on fighting domestic and international terrorist threats in the age of the Internet and social media, noting that seemingly every week, a new platform is unveiled.

Director of the B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem Alan Schneider broke down the complicated Israeli elections during a luncheon presentation.

Richard Green, executive director of the Clarion Project, screened his film "Kids: Chasing Paradise." This chilling film examines the recruitment and radicalization of terrorists around the world, many of whom are vulnerable young children. Green answered questions from the audience after the movie.



Japanese Ambassador Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, who hosted a special diplomatic reception for forum attendees, welcomes them to his residence.



From left: Daniel S. Mariaschin; Charles O. Kaufman; Ambassador Sugiyama and Yoko E. Sugiyama.

A unique program this year was a reception at the residence of the Japanese ambassador, hosted by Ambassador Shinsuke J. Sugiyama and his wife, Yoko.



Leaders from The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the Claims Conference) were acknowledged for their extraordinary dedication and advocacy in procuring justice for Holocaust survivors. B'nai B'rith has worked with the organization since its inception in 1951. Flanked by Charles O. Kaufman (l) and Daniel S. Mariaschin, honorees included: Arie Bucheister, chief of staff; Karen Heilig, assistant executive vice president and Greg Schneider, executive vice president. Also recognized with an award but not pictured: Miriam Weiner, assistant executive vice president for North America and director of allocations.

The Claims Conference (Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany), which represents Holocaust survivors and their descendants in negotiating for restitution and compensation, received an award for its vital six decades of work from B'nai B'rith on the conference's final day. With the award, B'nai B'rith extended its great appreciation for the tireless efforts of the Claims Conference on behalf of Holocaust survivors worldwide.



We also hosted a panel on the 2020 American elections with CNN Chief Political Correspondent Dana Bash and NPR Washington Desk Correspondent Mara Liasson. They discussed topics including immigration, voter turnout, the divide between the progressive and moderate wings of the Democratic Party and Israel being used as a wedge partisan issue.

A presentation devoted to America's 2020 elections featured, from left, journalists Dana Bash, CNN chief political correspondent and Mara Liasson, NPR Washington desk correspondent. Daniel S. Mariaschin served as moderator.



The 2019 Leadership Forum concluded with a diplomatic luncheon featuring Ambassador of Cyprus to the United States Marios Lysiotis, Ambassador of Greece to the United States Haris Lalacos and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Israel Benjamin Krasna. The diplomats emphasized the historic and continuing ties between Greece and Cyprus and the Jewish people.

For the final luncheon panel, B'nai B'rith United Nations Affairs Chair Millie Magid introduced a discussion with Greek, Cypriot and Israeli diplomats who enumerated the myriad aspects of the continually expanding tripartite relationship among the three nations. Seated from left: moderator Daniel S. Mariaschin; Ambassador Marios Lysiotis of Cyprus; Ambassador Haris Lalacos of Greece; Benjamin Krasna, deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of Israel.

International Council of B'nai B'rith (ICBB) Meets In Lisbon, Portugal



Flanked by B'nai B'rith International President Charles O. Kaufman (l) and B'nai B'rith CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin is Gabriel Steinhardt, president of the Jewish Community of Lisbon, who opened the Conference of the International Council of B'nai B'rith there on June 23. Photo by Annie Darmon.

In addition to council meetings, the itinerary included numerous fascinating insights into Portuguese and Jewish history.

After the opening plenary featuring Gabriel Steinhardt, the president of the Jewish Community of Lisbon, participants learned about the heroic legacy of Portuguese diplomat Aristides de Sousa Mendes. Sousa Mendes issued visas to refugees, including thousands of Jews, fleeing Nazi terror during World War II.

Attendees viewed a clip from the documentary "Turned Away" about the voyage of the S.S. St. Louis, a ship carrying Jewish refugees from WWII-era Germany that attempted to reach Cuba but was turned away. The ship then attempted to unload passengers in the United States and Canada but permission from both countries was denied. Although some of the refugees were ultimately able to find refuge in European countries, it is estimated that more than a quarter of the refugees ultimately perished in Nazi death camps.

Day two of the program included a special session on "Sephardi Jews Between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean" held at the University of Lisbon and a plenary session featuring Catarina Vaz Pinto, culture councillor on the Lisbon City Council. The day concluded with a screening of "Sefarad," a 2019 film inspired by real events in the city of Oporto during the mid-20th century, and a tour of Shaaré Tikva Synagogue in Lisbon.

An all-day Jewish heritage tour of the region of Alentejo, in south central and southern Portugal concluded the program.

TRIBUTE DINNERS AND AWARDS

Each year, B’nai B’rith International recognizes the humanitarian and philanthropic efforts of key community and corporate leaders from around the world. We understand that doing well in business comes with a responsibility to do well in the community, and we seek out companies and their leaders who understand that giving back should be a vital component of any corporation’s mandate and vision.

We had several successful events this year recognizing outstanding individual and corporate leadership.



Our 2019 highly successful National Health Care dinner was held in June, with Dr. Steven M. Safyer, president and CEO of Montefiore Medicine, as the recipient of the 2019 National Healthcare Award, which has recognized exceptional trailblazers in the health care industry for more than 30 years. With this award B’nai B’rith underscores the outstanding work of health care leaders and corporations that established the standards for health and education initiatives. The benchmarks implemented by these renowned experts have improved the lives of many people and communities around the world.

The recipients of the B’nai B’rith National Healthcare Award have shown a history of dedicated leadership and outstanding civic involvement in the health care field and in the broader community. Award winners support philanthropic causes benefiting health, youth, seniors and education programs.





In 2019, we awarded Harsha V. Agadi, president & CEO of Crawford & Company®, with a 2019 Distinguished Achievement Award.

Also in 2019, Richard Robinson, chairman and CEO of Scholastic, was awarded a Distinguished Achievement Award for his industry leadership, driven by the mission of supporting the intellectual and personal growth of every child while promoting tolerance around the globe through high-quality children's literature and classroom magazines which present current issues in an age-appropriate and thought-provoking way.

The year ended with a Distinguished Achievement Award to Nestlé USA and CEO Steve Presley.



CONNECTING = SOCIAL + TRADITIONAL + PERSONAL

We joined other Jewish organizational representatives this year on a new task force launched by Facebook to discuss and make suggestions to the social media platform's review standards for anti-Semitism and anti-Israel hatred.

Removing Hatred from the Airwaves – The Zafar Bangash Case

In March, B'nai B'rith Canada issued a complaint when its research team discovered that a Toronto-area imam was spreading alarmingly hateful rhetoric against Jews and others on his weekly television show. Thanks to a petition launched by B'nai B'rith Canada, the show was cancelled within 24 hours, halting the host's ability to incite his audiences in both Canada and the United States.

Speaking out

B'nai B'rith International had op-eds published in news outlets including: The Hill, FoxNews.com, Times of Israel and The Jerusalem Post.

Some of the topics we spoke out on: the need for an anti-Semitism envoy; [Iran 40 years into the revolution](#); [the Canard of Dual Loyalty](#); [anti-hatred resolution](#) on Capitol Hill; Brazil and Israel going forward; The crisis in Venezuela; Iran and AMIA: 25 years later; and a [plea to stop trivializing the Holocaust](#).

We monitor news for false narratives and anti-Israel bias and call out the media when a correction is needed.

Our experts are also sought by local and global media for analysis and insights, quoting us in a wide range of publications.

Podcasts



Featuring quick but meaningful policy discussions on national and international topics, the B'nai B'rith podcast includes analysis from some of the top subject matter experts around. In 2019, we really ran the gamut on topics. Host and CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin took listeners through anti-Semitism on campus; a look at singing great Eddie Cantor; a new book about Babe Ruth; an inside look at how we advocate for Israel and human rights at UNESCO and the U.N. Human Rights Council; how Jewish civilization in the Arab world vanished; a history of America's Jewish women; the footprint of our senior services program; a film documentary entitled "The Spy Behind Home Plate;" the most pressing issues in Latin America today; the 25th anniversary of the deadly terror bombing of the AMIA building in Buenos Aires; combating anti-Israel language; Zionism in progressive spaces; healthy aging; why we focus on the United Nations; the legacy of Irving Berlin; and the major problems with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Join our loyal listeners! Catch up and subscribe here!

Subject Matter Expert Blog

Our Subject Matter Expert blog powerfully represents what we do every day to make the world a better place. Our experts deftly explain the nuances of a variety of issues. You'll find the depth and breadth of our staff on full display in this cutting-edge blog section.

Read blogs here

B'nai B'rith Magazine



B'nai B'rith Magazine again has won awards for journalistic excellence. Our magazine, which has been published continually since 1886, won two more Rockower Awards for journalistic excellence this year. Administered by the American Jewish Press Association, the Rockowers are the pinnacle of distinction in the world of Jewish media.



Read Jewish Genetics: Spring 2018

B'nai B'rith Magazine won 1st place in the category of Journalistic Excellence in Writing about Health Care for our feature by Rita Rubin on Jewish genetic testing: **"Jewish Genetics: To Test or Not to Test? That is the Question — And the Answer."**

The judging panel noted: *"This is a thoughtful, informative, and sensitively written article with a compelling message for any Jewish young adults contemplating marriage and children: Get genetic testing. It offers medical insights into genetics and the nature of 'Jewish' diseases such as Tay-Sachs and provides information about genetic-testing services for various Jewish populations. Woven into the narrative are poignant stories about people who have lost children to these terrible diseases, and young couples undergoing genetic testing who must make extremely difficult decisions based on the results. Many stories have been written about Jews and genetics, but this one combines science, medicine, and humanity in an especially affecting way."*

Though these were not our first series of Rockower prizes — and they won't be our last — we will continue to strive with each issue to produce more award-worthy journalism.



Read Israeli Cemeteries: Fall 2018

We also earned a 2nd place prize for Journalistic Excellence in Covering Zionism, Aliyah and Israel for our report: **"People Are Dying to Get In, but Israeli Cemeteries Are Running Out of Space,"** by Michele Chabin.

The judges noted: *"The author finds a fascinating and unpredictable way to cover one more way Israel is dealing with the constraints of its limited space...and coming up with another creative solution. This one is cemeteries. The solution is a wonderful metaphor for Zionism and the Israeli experiment. Story offers solid reporting, while exploring burial from a cultural, engineering, and Jewish law perspective."*

M A G A Z I N E

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The Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom: Finding Common Ground

By Miranda S. Spinick

The women gathered in an elegant upstairs home are adorning in an array of styles. Some wear headscarves, others are in casual tops and jeans. As they drift in on the evening, they quickly embrace, trade kisses and catch up on family news. They are young, middle-aged and looking out clearly. They are all friends. They are Muslim and are friends.

The tensions in the world between these two religious groups matter little to this group, whose members have known each other for four years. This is a Northern Virginia gathering of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, an all-women interfaith group that meets regularly to celebrate their similarities, not dwell on their differences.

At a time when world peace seems a fragile, distant idea, exacerbated by nearly male-led leaders who seek to divide and often hate-filled language, the Sisterhood offers a way to unite disparate groups and create lasting bonds.

The first Sisterhood group was formed in 2004 in New Jersey by Sherry (O'Leary) and Alycia (Aly) O'Leary. Both have backgrounds in marketing. Alycia is a professor of health care at Rutgers University. In its nine years of existence, the Sisterhood has grown to include women from 15 Muslim and 15 Christian countries around the United States — a total of 200 to 250 members. The group meets in about 17 chapters throughout the United States but has a waiting list.

Most of the groups are seeking their membership to around 20 women — half Jewish and half Muslim. This is not always a simple matter:

A group of approximately 15 women are posed for a group photo. They are dressed in a variety of styles, some wearing headscarves (hijabs) and others in more casual attire. They are all smiling and appear to be of diverse backgrounds. The setting is indoors, with a dark background.

Over the years, the sisterhood who belong to the Northern Virginia chapter have developed lasting and meaningful friendships.

religious calls. It's harder to find Muslim women, organizers said, many of whom are younger than the Jewish women and are often single up to the usual business of conflict and young parent existence, juggling careers, families, children and more.

But O'Leary's knows how to look, if anyone wants to form a chapter. "To recruit women, go to soup kitchens," she said. "The largest number of volunteers are Muslim and Jewish."

Muslim but Chic

Amayr Joudy, a young professional Muslim mother in her 30s, is among the youngest in the Northern Virginia group. Joudy and her sister Rayan run their own fashion and lifestyle brand but are chic, clothing for women who need to navigate the world but adhere to religious practices but modestly. Joudy said the Sisterhood meetings have provided her with opportunities to meet

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SUMMER 2019

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On the Revolt, France, Bienvenue, Israel: French Immigrants Making Aliyah

By Dina Krugli

Qu a Muslim crossing one of his well-known Israeli malls, with headlines on the pages of his popular bourgeois and leftist newspapers, on the special kosher deli with cheese and sausage imported from France, he would hardly be surprised to hear a Frenchman

“I loved my life in Paris,” says Louis Nadjar, who immigrated in 2015 and says she is still struggling to learn Hebrew. She and a companion are sitting at a nearby outdoor restaurant whose tables are covered in white linen tablecloths. The menu is in Hebrew and French, and most of the clientele is white French Jews.

She adds, “I just said of course in Israel, although just past week there was a rocket attack,” a missile fired from Gaza that set off a warning siren throughout the city. Despite these occasional alarms, there are about 47,000 French Jews in Israel, and more are slated to arrive in the last few years. Typically, more affluent French immigrants settle in Tel Aviv and wealthy suburbs like Ramat Gan. The more religious tend to settle in Jerusalem or the Galilee, where some have founded “Israeli towns” which some Israelis have dubbed “The Israeli Riviera.” As housing prices climb, more have moved to the south. Some coastal towns of Ashdod and a smaller town near Netanya have been founded. Some French immigrants have moved in groups to the West Bank settlements.

To learn how French Jews peaked

in 2015 after the Shv’atmattah on Hyper Cacher, a kosher supermarket in Paris, and how French Jews have been caught in the middle of the Israeli State. Two days after the attack, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called those attending a memorial service at a Paris synagogue that they had arrived to be equally and safely anywhere. These days we are beset with another privilege: to privilege that didn’t exist for generations of Jews—the privilege to join their brothers and sisters in their homeland of Israel. He said: A month later, following European Jews, he said, “Israel is your home.”

In the aftermath of the supermarket attack, the French government suspended Jewish consuls. Some 40 percent said they never felt safe in Israel. That year, 6,628 French immigrants arrived, a 10 percent increase from the year before. But, since then, the numbers have steadily dropped. The main reason some French Jews do not materialize, even though French Jews say they still fear for their safety and France in their own country—and anti-Semitic incidents have increased—France’s interior minister said in a speech last week such use by Muslims is “incredible.”

Last year, on March 23, 85-year-old Pierre Kohn was found fatally stabbed 11 times in her Paris apartment, in an attack that officials blamed on an Islamic

motivation. Born in France, she was married the Holocaust by fleeing to Paris. Her husband, Louis Kohn, a grandfatherly man who had immigrated to France earlier, wrote in a Facebook post: “Twenty years ago, I left Paris knowing that neither my future nor that of the Jewish People is to be found there.”

And Kohn, chief executive officer of Qualita, a non-governmental organization assisting French immigrants to Israel, says: “There is no future in France, there is one in Israel, and the French Jewish community understands that (mass immigration) is only a matter of time,” says Kohn. Kohn formerly was the head of French Immigration for the Jewish Agency, the Israeli government arm that oversees immigration.

“You hear people say, we are afraid there are only a few minutes,” he says. “But when I walk on the street every day in Tel Aviv surrounded by anti-Semitism,” referring to some anti-French incidents, including the 2006 kidnapping, torture and murder of a Frenchman, a Frenchman of Moroccan Jewish ancestry, he adds: “Now that we have seen people murdered, it’s a different situation. Immigrants to Israel are ‘manageable anti-Semitism’ in the form of terrorism and racism, now there is a sense that they could be killed in an attack.”

The Jewish community of France is worried,” says Philippe Meyer, president

Read Summer 2019

The image is a large, dark blue rectangular area. At the top, the word "RABIN" is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below it, the word "MAGAZINE" is written in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters, with each letter separated by a wide space. Below this, the text "PUBLISHED SINCE 1886" is on the left, "FALL 2019" is in the center, and "VOL. 133, NO. 3" is on the right. In the center, the title "Seeing Torah: A Visual Exploration" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, the author's name "By Andrea Lurie Slone, with Ari Rabinoff-Goldman" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below the author's name, the location "Photos: Hendrik Huisman, Waltham, Massachusetts" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below this, there is a large block of white text. The text begins with a large, stylized letter "H" and discusses the Torah's relevance to modern life, the artist's background, and the creation of the artwork. The text is in a serif font. At the bottom left, there is a small, dark blue rectangular area containing a white image of a book cover. The book cover has the title "NOAH" in large, white, serif capital letters. Below the title, there is a quote in a smaller, white, serif font: "Now God saw that great sin humankind's: evil doing on earth... —Genesis 6:5". Below the quote, there is a paragraph of text in a smaller, white, serif font, which is a commentary on the quote. The book cover is set against a dark blue background.

Read Fall 2019

THE GLOBAL VOICE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

In Fort Worth, Texas, B'nai B'rith members feed the homeless on Christmas Day, make a Passover Seder for nearly 400 non-Jews to teach about Jewish history, have a Passover Seder for the seniors of the Jewish community and give out scholarships to local community members for the college career.

Aaron Grossman Lodge of Youngstown, Ohio continues to reliably provide services to the general area.

In July, the B'nai B'rith Justice Unit in South Florida hosted a seminar, The History of Nazi Looted Art (A Legal Perspective). Two experts offered presentations on post war recovery efforts, statutes of limitations, developments in the law, increasing public awareness and passage of the 2016 HEAR Act. Participants heard directly from the attorney currently representing a woman whose family had a Pissarro painting that was stolen by the Nazis in 1939.



The Great Lakes Region held its successful fundraising and scholarship event, a Golf Classic along with other events this year. Programs included Project H.O.P.E., where our members packaged food for 50 families for Passover. Project H.O.P.E. is available in communities across the country to provide Passover food to needy families.

In the spring, B'nai B'rith leaders addressed Jewish audiences seeking guidance in the aftermath of horrific synagogue shootings and other hate crimes. Local lodges have been present at these programs, lending support.



After many years of supporting charitable programs in Ukraine, 21 members of B'nai B'rith United Kingdom (BBUK) set off to see the projects for themselves and to try to learn about the history, the rich Jewish culture and the people of a land that played such a large part in our Jewish history. Read more in our B'nai B'rith Today feature.

[Read more in our B'nai B'rith Today feature](#)

In 2019 B'nai B'rith thanked or assisted community facilities and service personnel on Christmas via the Operation Brotherhood/Pinch Hitters program, where B'nai B'rith volunteers take the place of non-medical staff in hospitals, so Christian workers can have a day off to be with their families.



B'nai B'rith Barristers launched this year. These attorneys from around the world strive to meet the overall mission of B'nai B'rith International. The lawyers will have the opportunity to network with one another, develop referrals and mentor young or promising attorneys in their communities.



President's Award recipients in attendance are photographed with B'nai B'rith's President Charles O. Kaufman and CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin. Seated, from left: Jack Ventura, Maryland; Kaufman; Peter Perlman, Michigan; Lila Zorn, accepting for Joel Marwil, Michigan.

Standing, from left: Harold Steinberg, Tennessee; Frank Goldman, Colorado; Sam Osmo, Brazil; David Lubin, Michigan; Shel Marcus, Illinois; Gary Javitch, Nebraska; Millie Magid, New York; Harold Miller, Connecticut; Marvin Siflinger, Massachusetts; Mariaschin.

Awardees not in attendance: Marty Adelstein and the Adelstein Family, New York; James Altman and Juliet Seifert, Australia; Valerie Bello, United Kingdom; Marvin Beleck, Texas; Barbara Brenman, Virginia; Helen Scherrer Diamond, Harry Lutz and Lee Tanenbaum, Georgia; Samuel Domsky, Pennsylvania; Rich Hollander, Texas; Marianne Kychenthal, Chile; Harold Mitchell, New York; Alan Samuels, Pennsylvania; Barry Simon, California; Dr. Daniel Sporn, Argentina; Gina Strauss, Florida; Joe Tenenbaum, New Jersey.



This is also the inaugural year of the B'nai B'rith President's Award, presented to 30 leaders for doing heavy lifting on behalf of B'nai B'rith in their communities. For working on behalf of B'nai B'rith to benefit their communities, we congratulate: Marty Adelstein, James Altman, Valerie Bello, Marvin Beleck, Barbara Brenman, Helen Scherrer Diamond, Samuel Domsky, Frank Goldman, Rich Hollander, Gary Javitch, Marianne Kychenthal, David Lubin, Harry Lutz, Millie Magid, Shel Marcus, Joel Marwil, Harold Miller, Harold Mitchell, Sam Osmo, Peter Perlman, Alan Samuels, Juliet Seifert, Marvin Siflinger, Barry Simon, Dr. Daniel Sporn, Harold Steinberg, Gina Strauss, Lee Tanenbaum, Joe Tenenbaum and Jack Ventura.

B'nai B'rith France Open House on Dec. 1



The first B'nai B'rith France Open Day took place on Dec. 1 in several French cities. The objective was to invite as many people as possible to get to know the work of B'nai B'rith France. This day, which included advance media coverage, was a great success with many meetings and a large number of visitors who came to meet lodge members, who exhibited their activities and presented their projects. In Paris hundreds of visitors came. Conferences were organized in Paris and Marseille.

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FINANCIALS

Preliminary Summary of Consolidated Statements of Activities Fiscal Year 2019 For the Twelve Months Ending June 30, 2019 (Thousands of Dollars)

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions and other support	\$3,825
Member dues	384
Other program revenues	177
Investment income	784
Other revenue	12
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	5,182

EXPENSES

Program Services

Community involvement	955
Public advocacy	1,828
Senior housing and services	789
Humanitarian assistance	346
Jewish continuity	448
Total Program Services	4,366

Total Management and General	883
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Fundraising Expenses	1,496
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TOTAL EXPENSES	6,745
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(1,563)
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TOTAL END OF YEAR NET ASSETS	12,514
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What personal information may we collect, and how is it used?

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Exchange of Addresses

Names and postal addresses of current and former contributors to B’nai B’rith may be rented or exchanged with other organizations or publications. B’nai B’rith obtains the names of potential new members by renting the membership lists or subscriber lists of similar organizations and publications. Lists may also be exchanged with other organizations. Whether by exchange or rental, strict privacy procedures protect the lists.

B’nai B’rith will always honor a member’s request to be removed from mailing lists made available for exchange or rental. If you would like your name withheld from our mailing list rental or exchange, please contact the fundraising department at fundraising@bnaibrith.org or call 800-573-9057; please be specific about which address you would like withheld.

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Security

Our website has security measures in place to protect against the loss, misuse and alteration of the information under our control.

This includes a firewall and 24-hour monitoring of site activities by our hosting service provider as well as 128-bit SSL encryption (where allowable by law) on all transaction-oriented operations between you and B’nai B’rith via our transaction service provider, Network For Good.

While we use SSL encryption to protect sensitive information online, we also do everything in our power to protect user-information offline. All of our users’ information, not just the sensitive information mentioned above, is restricted in our offices. Only employees who need the information to perform a specific job (for example, our development and membership staff, a billing clerk, a customer service representative, or database administrator) are granted access to personally identifiable information.

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