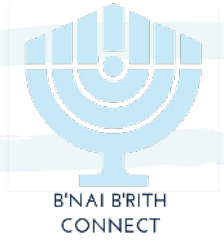


B'NAI B'RITH CONNECT



NEWSLETTER



Pressing Forward

Greetings from Scott Knapp

B'nai B'rith Senior Vice President & Connect Chair

Hello Brothers and Sisters, and yes, Hello Summer as well. As the season has changed, so too have many arisen from COVID lockdowns to return to what feels some what more like a normal life. But for B'nai B'rith Connect, we have continued throughout the past year-plus to press forward and seize opportunities out of the challenges we faced.

While we traditionally begin the year with in-person gatherings and a retreat, we continue to prosper with a virtual platform that has allowed us to accelerate our growth and expand our reach. Since I last reported, we have been quite busy and, as you can read here in the newsletter, we are not stopping. We encourage you to help us find more Next Generation leaders to Connect with.

Our next event is coming quick—on July 11, we are sponsoring, with many other prominent Jewish organizations, the “No Fear: A Rally in Solidarity with the Jewish People” in Washington, D.C. The diverse coalition assembled is working with Jews and allies to unequivocally reject anti-Semitism at the rally. If you live or will be visiting the D.C. metro area and want to participate, please reach out to Rebecca Rose at rrose@bnaibrith.org for more information.

Thank you again for all your support. It truly is an honor to serve as the B'nai B'rith National Connect Chair.



Scott D. Knapp

B'nai B'rith Senior Vice-President & Connect Chair



**B'NAI B'RITH
CONNECT**



B'nai B'rith Connect Presents:

"UNION: A DEMOCRAT, A REPUBLICAN, AND A SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND"

A DISCUSSION WITH AUTHORS
JORDAN BLASHEK AND CHRISTOPHER HAUGH

OCTOBER 28 AT 12:00 P.M. ET



Join us for this important conversation with authors Jordan Blashek and Christopher Haugh

Hosted by Scott Knapp, B'nai B'rith Senior Vice President & B'nai B'rith Connect Chair and Rebecca Ross, Associate Director of Development & Special Projects.

Register Here



Ahead of the 2020 Presidential election, authors Jordan Blashek and Christopher Haugh spoke to B'nai B'rith Connect about their book which recounts their road trip set over 44 states in three years.

The two friends set out to discover what about America divided them and what brought them together. Their search for common ground taught them that we all have much more in common than we think.



“

Each side is just trying to convince the other that their worldview is right and the other side is wrong... The way to address that is to approach political conversations with the intent to listen and learn... Everybody has a lived experience and a set of values that is informed by something really deep inside...

-- author,

Christopher Haugh



“**A Lesson in Bravery for the Struggle Against Anti-Semitism.**

ONLINE EVENT

**January 25, 2021
10AM EST**

Ahead of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, join the Combat Anti-Semitism Movement (CAM) and B'nai B'rith International for a special virtual reception honoring Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, who saved thousands of Jews during the Holocaust.

Register today!



For the Jewish People
From Remembrance and Humanity



B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL

On January 25, B'nai B'rith Connect Chair of New York, Laura Hemlock, moderated a unique digital reception organized in partnership with (CAM) the Combat Antisemitism Movement, honoring the courageous life of Chiune Sugihara.

Thanks to Sugihara's brave actions, 40,000 descendants of European Jews are alive today. His fascinating story serves as a reminder to the next generation of the continued need to combat anti-Semitism.

Special Briefings

Diplomatic Encounter with Consul General David Gill of Germany

On March 11, B'nai B'rith Connect met with Consul General David Gill of Germany for an off-the-record discussion about shared interests combatting anti-Semitism, the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and other global affairs.



Diplomatic Encounter with Deputy Chief of Mission, Cristian Gaginsky of Romania

On April 26, B'nai B'rith Connect spoke to longtime friend of B'nai B'rith, Romanian Embassy DCM Cristian Gaginsky. The conversation focused on a range of issues from security, defense and energy, to the strong Israel-Romania relationship to Romanian efforts to combat anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial.

Leadership Security Briefing with Israel

On June 1, a private delegation of B'nai B'rith Connect leadership met virtually with Eitan Weiss deputy chief of mission at the Israel Consulate in Los Angeles, CA for a security briefing on the aftermath of the recent 11-day conflict. Weiss addressed the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and what we might expect next both in Israel and the broader geopolitical landscape. He focused on the ways the media distorted Israel's intentions from the onset and offered the group strategies to combat the misinformation campaign.





B'nai B'rith Connect Interviewed on Cheddar News ahead of Clubhouse Event



Joshua Sushan, B'nai B'rith Connect vice-chair, organized the event along with Rebecca Rose, associate director of development & special projects. The two were interviewed by Jill Wagner of Cheddar News the morning of the Yom Hoshuah event.

Unto Every Person Yom HaShoah Name Reading on Clubhouse

On April 8, B'nai B'rith Connect commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day with the first-ever Yom HaShoah event on the Clubhouse app. Volunteers joined this unique Unto event to read the names of victims of the Shoah.

Participants read over 2,000 names in several hours on that somber day. Participants of the program included Joannie Leeds, Grammy-award winning song writer; Ellie Cohanin, former deputy special envoy combatting anti-Semitism; Zachary Schaffer, executive director of the Council of Young Jewish Presidents; Peter Fox, journalist, blogger and activist; executive members of the Jewish Federations of North America National Young Leadership Cabinet; Avi Gordon, executive director of Alums for Campus Fairness; several prominent rabbis; members of Alpha Epsilon Pi's International Board of Directors; business executives; academics and many more.

“

The most important reason why we do this is to remember where we came from so that we can ensure that this can never happen again... most of the victims of the Holocaust did not get a burial, don't have a gravestone, their names are lost in history and so we remember them the best way we can, so that we ensure that this can never happen again and so people know the story and the history of what happened.

-- Joshua Sushan, vice-chair of B'nai B'rith Connect

PLATFORMS OF HATE: ANTI-SEMITISM ON SOCIAL MEDIA



**Platforms of Hate:
Anti-Semitism
on Social Media**

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2021
2 p.m. Washington, D.C.
8 p.m. Brussels / 9 p.m. Israel

GUESTS:
Rep. Alma Hernandez
Arizona House of Representatives
Avi Gordon
Executive Director, Alums for Campus Fairness
Josh Sushan
Vice-chair of B'nai B'rith Connect

MODERATED BY
Melissa Weiss
Managing Editor, Jewish Insider



B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL



On June 29, B'nai B'rith Connect hosted a special conversation about anti-Semitism on social media and online with Arizona State Rep. Alma Hernandez (Tucson), Alums for Campus Fairness Executive Director Avi Gordon and Connect Vice Chair Josh Sushan. Jewish Insider Managing Editor Melissa Weiss moderated the event.

The conversation touched on a range of issues from the uptick in rampant anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on the internet during the recent conflict with Gaza, the misinformation campaign against Israel, the way in which big tech responds and what millennials can do to combat these disturbing trends.

The panel discussion is part of our series on issues related to B'nai B'rith's advocacy efforts against anti-Semitism and for the state of Israel.

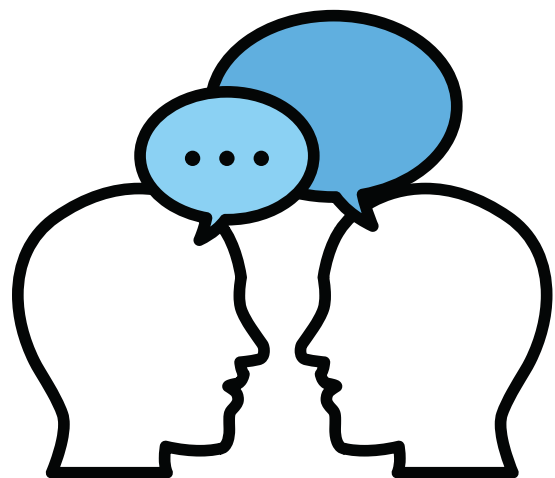
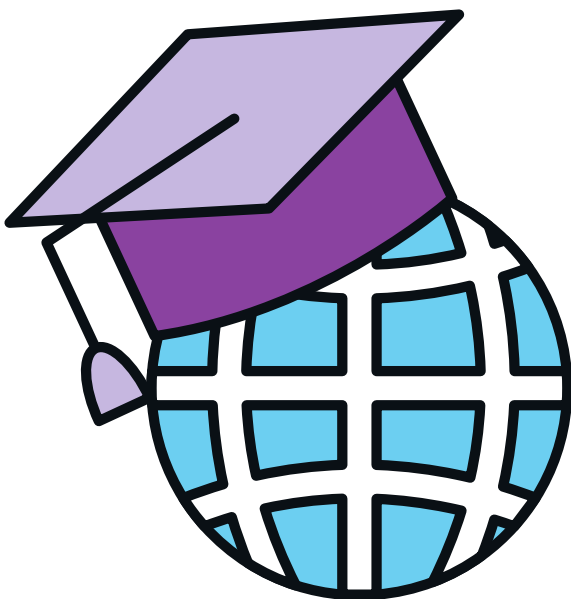
IMPACT: Emerging Leaders Fellowship



In May, B'nai B'rith International in partnership with the World Union of Jewish Students, launched “IMPACT: Emerging Leaders Fellowship”— a one-of-a-kind virtual fellowship program for Jewish students and young professionals worldwide.

Over six months, 15-20 select fellows will gain advocacy, diplomacy and civic engagement skills, expand their knowledge and become effective change-makers in their communities and the broader public sphere. Participants will get the chance to interact with high-level policy makers, non-governmental organization (NGO) staff and industry experts on issues ranging from anti-Semitism on campus and online to media polarization, Holocaust remembrance and genocide prevention, Israel engagement, coalition building and Jewish pluralism and diversity.

To receive information about next year's fellowship please contact BBICConnect@bnaibrith.org



UPCOMING!



NO FEAR: A RALLY IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

JULY 11TH AT 1 PM
WASHINGTON, D.C.

PRESENTING SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS:

A Wider Frame, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alums for Campus Fairness, AMCHA Initiative, Americans United with Israel, Baltimore Zionist District, B'nai B'rith Connect, ChallahBack Girls, Chosen to Speak Up, Club Z, End Jew Hatred, Hasbara Fellowships, Hillel International, Humans4Humanity, IBSI, ISGAP, Jewish Future Pledge, Jewish National Fund, JIMENA, Join Never Again is Now, Kehillat Jeshurun, Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, Maccabee Task Force, MD Republican Jewish Council, New Zionist Congress, NC Coalition for Israel, Organization for Chinese Americans (DC), RI Coalition for Israel, SHIN-DC, StandWithUs, Students Supporting Israel, Terps for Israel, The Carlebach Shul, The Rimmon Movement, Yad Yamin-Philadelphia, Yad Yamin-New York, Zioness, ZOA



NOFEARRALLY.ORG

#NOFEARRALLY

We are excited to be an official sponsor of "No Fear: A Rally in Solidarity with the Jewish People." Silence in the face of hate is dangerous. That is why we are joining a diverse coalition of Jews and allies to unequivocally reject anti-Semitism on July 11th in Washington, D.C. #NoFearRally

For registration and travel information visit NoFearRally.Org



B'NAI B'RITH
CONNECT

DISASTER RELIEF OPPORTUNITY:

B'nai B'rith Connect is organizing a Disaster Relief campaign in partnership with SBP, to rebuild homes in Houston, TX after the Hurricanes and recent 2021 Winter Storm.

This will be a day-long project in October 2021 with the option of extending for a Connect retreat. Date TBD. Funding for all meals and local travel for the community service day will be covered.

Please email Rebecca Rose at rrose@bnaibrith.org if you are interested in joining.



Pictured: Fall 2018, members of B'nai B'rith Connect - New York partnered with SBP to help rebuild a home in Brooklyn, NY destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

To view any of B'nai B'rith Connect's past webinars click [here](#).