



Stand Up! Speak Out! 2023 Annual Review

JCRC believes that education and constructive dialogue are the most effective ways to minimize hate and reduce division between individuals and communities.

The *STAND UP! SPEAK OUT!* initiative involves several programs that inspire students, parents, and teachers to use their voices to widen the bridges of understanding, build respect for diversity, and effectively combat antisemitism.

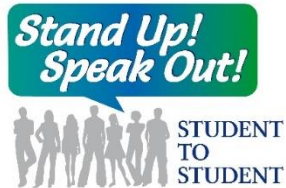
The JCRC's *STAND UP! SPEAK OUT!* initiative is made possible through support from individual donors and the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis. If you are interested in learning more or contributing, please contact JCRC's Program Associate, Yaniv Shmukler at yshmukler@indyjcrc.org or (317) 523-1480.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS + 2024 GOALS

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1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Student to Student



A program with a 31-year history of success initiated by the St. Louis JCRC, and now run by the [Be The Narrative](#) organization, Student to Student trains Jewish teens to give presentations about the Jewish community in high school classrooms throughout central Indiana that often have very little Jewish presence.

Israel Engagement Fellowship (IEF)



IEF engages Jewish high school students (10th – 12th grade) eager for an intensive 5-session seminar exploring Israel, Zionism, the conflict, and the media in preparation for their future college campus experience.

Israel Around the Table



Israel Around the Table is a roundtable discussion and dinner series for Jewish young professionals. The program is hosted by lay leaders and features a variety of in-depth topics related to Israeli politics and society.

II. 2023 Overview

Through September 2023, year six of Stand Up! Speak Out! was on pace for a big year. Yaniv Shmukler joined JCRC as the Program Associate and Rise' Friedman stayed onboard as the Student to Student Coordinator. The number of Student to Student participants rose from 14 to 31, and the number of presentations and school contacts significantly increased.

These key additions played a pivotal role in the JCRC's resilience and adaptability during the difficult months following October 7, when everything in the Jewish community changed. Together with the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis and other community partners, JCRC mobilized to support the Jewish community and defend Israel.

With the groundwork laid in the previous months, students felt empowered to speak about their Jewish identity, and many expressed an increased desire to represent the Jewish community after October 7. JCRC supported Student to Student teens and Jewish young professionals through programming that educated them and provided spaces for them to share how they were processing the horrific events. The school and church contacts the JCRC previously formed thanks to the Student to Student program proved to be extremely beneficial, as several schools and churches either reached out to support the Jewish community or eagerly agreed to host Student to Student presentations.

Throughout 2023, another key focus for JCRC was the full-length documentary based on the life of Holocaust Survivor Frank Grunwald, *Sweet Lorraine in Auschwitz*. With support from sponsors, donors, and grants, JCRC successfully raised the necessary funds needed to complete the documentary. The documentary and accompanying curriculum will be offered to schools throughout the state, which will increase the impact of Frank's story for generations to come. Amber Maze, JCRC Senior Associate, and Philip Paluso, director, conducted interviews and traveled to Europe to film on location at sites relevant to Frank's story. JCRC hopes this documentary will be accepted into multiple film festivals and air locally on PBS.

III. 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

October 7 Response

- Solidarity gathering with 700-800 people in person and over 800 online.
- JCRC participation in March for Israel in Washington, D.C.
- Organized nearly two dozen interviews for community members with local media, helping the broader Indianapolis community to understand what is happening in Israel and how the local Jewish community is responding.
- Executive Director Op-Ed in the Indy Star: "Oct. 7 is a reminder of historic violence against the Jewish community".
- Resource guides for community members, educators, and parents.
- Teen Support Event, in partnership with BBYO, JFS, and synagogues.
- Support event for Student to Student parents.
- Parlor meetings, primarily for non-Jewish audiences, hosted by lay leaders with JCRC's support and expertise.

Student to Student

- Rise' and Yaniv recruited and trained 24 new students, for a total of 31 in the program.
- 20 presentations to more than 1000 non-Jewish students at Booth Tarkington Civic Theater, MTI Muslim Weekend School, Bishop Chatard High School, Indiana Youth Group, Westfield High School, Guerin Catholic High School, Covenant Christian High School, and West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School.

Israel Engagement Fellowship

- 2 cohorts established – one at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and one at Beth-El Zedeck – with an expected 15 total participants, starting in mid-January.

Israel Around the Table

- 3 sessions, each hosted by a different lay leader.
- Engaged 29 unique Jewish young professionals.
- First session provided a space to learn about and discuss the political system in Israel.
- The second and third sessions provided a space to share concerns and ask questions about the rise of antisemitism, the October 7 massacres, and Israel's war against Hamas.

College Students

- JCRC provided support to Jewish students at Indiana University, Purdue University, Butler University, and IUPUI as they continue to face antisemitic and anti-Israel sentiment on campus.
- In partnership with Jewish student leaders at Butler University, JCRC hosted an Israel Around the Table session on campus to answer questions about October 7 and the Israel-Hamas war.

Israel and Antisemitism Awareness Committee

- 30 unique lay leaders have attended a committee meeting since Yaniv Shmukler joined as Program Associate and lead staff for the committee.
- Committee members have provided ideas and support for the Stand Up! Speak Out! program.
- Committee members have volunteered to host parlor meetings about Israel and to reach out to local churches.

Antisemitism Uncovered

- Together with ADL, JCC, and JFGI, the JCRC co-sponsored an educational and discussion series about common antisemitic tropes.
- The 4-part series covered the following tropes: Greed and Power, Blood Libel and Decide, Anti-Zionism, and Holocaust Denial.
- Panelists included Rabbis Sue Silberberg, Dennis Sasso, Benjamin Sendrow, Justin Kerber, Brett Krichiver, and Hal Schevitz, as well as Suzanne Rothenberg, Yaniv Shmukler, and Amber Maze
- The session about Anti-Zionism took place the week following the October 7 massacres, with a large audience in Laikin Auditorium.

Interfaith Dialogue

- Rise' Friedman initiated a conversation with leaders in the interfaith community about bringing together teens in our communities.
- 3 local Jewish teens are now participating in JustServe, an interfaith community service project that includes members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Muslim community.

Antisemitism Training and Education

- JCRC sent multiple letters to educators, inviting them to engage with JCRC's educational opportunities, including Stand Up! Speak Out! and the Holocaust Speakers' Bureau.
- Professional Development presentations at MSD of Washington Township and MSD of Wayne Township.
- Antisemitism Training with the Arts Council for local artists.
- Dismantling Antisemitism Program, Part of Ann Katz Festival of Books and Arts.
- JCRC staffing of Maurer Koach Mission to Europe in November.
- State Legislators Mission to Washington, D.C. JCRC revised the agenda for the day to focus on supporting Israel, combating antisemitism, advocating for security funding, and learning about the Holocaust.

Holocaust Remembrance

- IUPUI Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony on January 27, 2023.
- Yom HaShoah Observance at Beth-El Zedeck on April 16, 2023.

IV. 2024 GOALS

Student to Student

- 35 students for the 2024-25 school year.
- 30 presentations in Spring 2024 and 20 presentations in Fall 2024.
- Present in 5 new schools and churches.

Israel Around the Table

- Engage 20 new Jewish young professionals.
- 2-3 programs in 2024

Israel Engagement Fellowship

- A successful fellowship in January-February 2024 with 12+ Jewish teens.
- Recruit 20+ Jewish teens for the 2025 cohort.

Israel and Antisemitism Awareness Committee

- Engage a committee of 25 committed volunteers who will support and enhance Stand Up! Speak Out!
- Assist JCRC Program Associate as they plan additional programs and initiatives that combat antisemitism and support Israel.

Sweet Lorraine in Auschwitz

- Continue working with Philip Paluso of Medium Cool Pictures on a feature-length documentary of Sweet Lorraine to be completed by Summer 2024.
- Premier the documentary in Fall 2024.
- Create two 45-minute sections of the documentary that will be provided to middle and high school classrooms free of charge.
- Work alongside U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Teaching Fellow Kelly Watson to develop curriculum and surveys.

Interfaith Dialogue

- Provide additional training to teens for engaging in JCRC-facilitated peer dialogue with teens from other communities.
- Create 2-3 sessions from teens from the Jewish and interfaith communities.
- Continue building relationships among teens of different faiths, ethnicities, and nationalities to reduce stereotypes, break down barriers, and enable thoughtful conversations.

V. Program Flyers

FOSTER UNDERSTANDING FIGHT ANTISEMITISM



**Stand Up!
Speak Out!**



**JCRC Programming to
Combat Antisemitism**

“ I always leave presentations with an incredible sense of accomplishment, realizing that through this program I really could change some of the problems in the world today.”

~ Student to Student
Presenter



- Join 10th-12th graders from different branches of Judaism to give presentations in groups of 3 or 4 in high school classrooms
- Gain experience and confidence in speaking and answering questions
- Reduce prejudice and break down stereotypes by putting a "human face" to members of the Jewish community

Presenters discuss a range of topics, including:

- A typical day in the teens' lives
- Jewish holidays & the sabbath
- Jewish food & dietary laws
- Life cycle events & traditions
- The Hebrew language
- The Holocaust
- Antisemitism
- Israel



Want to Join? Contact yshmukler@indyjcrc.org &
rfriedman@indyjcrc.org



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL HOLOCAUST SPEAKERS BUREAU

Survivors Share Their Stories of Resilience

Members of the JCRC Holocaust Speakers Bureau tell the personal stories of their families' experiences during the Holocaust. Hearing testimony allows students to understand that the Holocaust is not a stagnant point in history. Students will learn that the Holocaust had a profound impact not just on the world, but on the lives of those living in their very own communities.

Ed Davidson shares the story of his father, who served as a translator at the Nuremberg Trials.

Esther Davidson tells her story as a hidden child of the Holocaust.

Sharie Fields shares the courageous story of how her grandmother evaded the Nazis for four years.

Brenda Freedman tells the harrowing story of how her mother escaped a ghetto and hid in plain sight.

Corey Freedman tells the story of how his father-in-law survived the war and aided the U.S. Army.

Laurie Freeman describes her father's incredible story of survival with the Bielski partisans.

Tibor Klopfer shares the story of how his parents survived Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, and Dachau.

Phil Lande tells the story of how his father survived Auschwitz and escaped Dachau.

Dee Schwartz shares how her parents escaped Europe through a series of miraculous events.

Julie Sondhelm tells the incredible story of how her grandfather survived the Riga ghetto and Dachau concentration camp.

If you are interested in bringing a speaker to your classroom, please contact Amber Maze at amaze@indyjcrc.org or visit www.indyjcrc.org.



Auschwitz Museum, Poland



Kigali Genocide Memorial, Rwanda



Stolpersteine in Berlin, Germany

RESOURCES FOR THE CLASSROOM

History of the Holocaust Presentations

We offer several presentations that provide a well-rounded view of the impact of the Holocaust on the modern world. These presentations are designed to take a deeper dive into the historical and political context of the Holocaust but can be adapted for a range of audiences.

Contemporary Genocide Presentations

Students must understand that genocide did not begin and end with the Holocaust, but rather that it rears its ugly head throughout human history and remains a pressing issue today. For those students studying the Holocaust, these presentations allow them to see the similarities between the Holocaust and the genocides that followed.

Professional Development

The Indianapolis JCRC offers professional development workshops alongside internationally recognized educational organizations twice a year. These workshops equip educators with the tools to confidently teach about the Holocaust, its lessons, and contemporary connections in a meaningful way.

Holocaust Educational Resources

We have compiled carefully chosen resources for educators to utilize in the classroom that can be found on the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council website.

For more information or to request resources, please contact
Amber Maze at amaze@indyjcrc.org

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 10TH-12TH GRADERS!

Do you want your teen to explore:

- their connection to Israel;
- the many facets of Israeli history and society;
- skills to aid them in having constructive conversations about Israel in high school, college, and beyond;
- how to identify and address antisemitism and anti-Zionism;
- and a range of Jewish and Israel engagement opportunities to strengthen their relationship with Israel post-high school?

Key Dates:

Sunday or Wednesday Sessions (See Below)

Day Trip to Bloomington (February 25)

Open to synagogue members and non-synagogue members

Option 1: Sundays at 12:15 PM at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck
Jan. 21 - Feb. 11, 2024

Option 2: Wednesdays at 6:30 PM at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation
Jan. 17 - Feb. 7, 2024

(Dates & times subject to change)

APPLY TODAY: WWW.INDYJCRC.ORG/IEF

Questions? Contact Yaniv Shmukler at yshmukler@indyjcrc.org



IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE WEEK



HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Join us virtually for a conversation about local efforts to counter antisemitism in Central Indiana with

Amber Maze

Holocaust Educator & Human Rights Associate

Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)

and

Alumni of Student to Student (S2S), a JCRC peer education program, focused on reducing anti-Jewish prejudice through school presentations by Jewish high school students

FRIDAY, January 27, 2023 // 12:00pm

Register: https://iu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wlaEtRXuRTqxzRLh4NkTpW



IUPUI
JEWISH FACULTY AND STAFF
COUNCIL



INDIANAPOLIS JEWISH COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH OBSERVANCE

APRIL 16, 2023

CONGREGATION BETH-EL ZEDECK

7:00 - 8:00 PM



REGISTER HERE: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3MJVE9F](https://bit.ly/3MJVE9F)



Congregation
Beth-El Zedeck



CONGREGATION
BETH SHALOM



Congregation
Shaarey Tefilla

בית אל זדק
SEPHARDIC
CONGREGATION



INDIANAPOLIS
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VI. Photos from Student to Student Presentations

