**B'nai B'rith International** The Global Voice of the Jewish Community

# **2015 ANNUAL REPORT**



Message from the President & Executive Vice President



Who We Are



Human Rights & Public Policy



Supporting Israel



Senior Housing & Advocacy



Remembering & Honoring the Past





Young Leadership



Executive Board of Dircectors / Board of Governors



Disaster Relief & Community Projects



Celebrating Diversity & Culture



Financial

# Messages from the President and Executive Vice President

### From the President



Dear friends,

In small ways and big—but always profound—B'nai B'rith impacts people.

From giving a Holocaust survivor the right food to celebrate Passover, to cleaning up and getting a community back on its feet after a flood, to fighting for safe and affordable housing for seniors, and from advocating for human rights for all, to speaking to the United Nations about its ongoing mistreatment of Israel, B'nai B'rith is a multi-faceted organization that keeps true to our core values and proven ability to adapt quickly in an ever-changing world.

Uniquely positioned as "The Global Voice of the Jewish community," we have the means and the access to influence key issues of the day.

Our community focus is unparalleled. Our senior housing program helps seniors without regard to race or religion. We provide aid for disaster cleanup the world over. We teach all children about tolerance and inclusion, to overturn stereotypes and to challenge racism and bullying.

I have volunteered my time and energy at every level of this venerable organization before becoming president in November of 2015. For more than 40 years, I have supported this organization that deeply embodies the best values of the Jewish communal world and the best values of being a good civic partner. As global agenda setters, B'nai B'rith's passion and focus are unmatched.

In its 172 years of history, B'nai B'rith has set the bar high for engagement on so many issues of each era, and as I noted when I took office, I am eager to honor the roots of this organization while advancing its mission in new ways.

Your support makes a difference. I invite you to interact with us more. Let's extend the conversation. Visit our website. Join us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter. Sign up for our newsletters so you always know our latest efforts.

I am confident that as you spend some time reading through our annual report, you'll see our passion and dedication to issues that matter to you.

We appreciate your time and thank you for supporting us.

#### Gary P. Saltzman

B'nai B'rith International President

#### From the Executive Vice President



Dear friends,

Contemplation. Looking ahead. Those themes best sum up my relationship with the annual report.

It's important to reflect on our accomplishments every year. This allows us to evaluate how well we are adhering to our core principles and how well we are expanding to fill unmet needs. In turn, this forces us to look forward to ensure we are staying on target and to seek out roles we are uniquely qualified to fill.

In 2015, B'nai B'rith International was a strong and steady voice fighting for global human rights; monitoring the United Nations and its glaring bias against Israel; supporting the Jewish state; advocating for seniors; and helping the victims of disasters. Each of these core values has led us in interesting and exciting directions.

In our annual report, you'll read about the important work we are doing in Israel, Australia, Canada, across Europe and Latin America, and of course, in the United States.

You'll see a focus on tolerance and inclusion education. You'll note how we are training future leaders of the Jewish community through our vibrant Young Leadership Network. You'll read about our meetings with global leaders to discuss the most important issues facing the Jewish community today, from the dangers Iran poses to Israel and the rest of the world, to the repugnant Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement that is infecting too many college campuses, as well as business and culture.

I take great pride in the work B'nai B'rith has done this year.

As you read this report, please consider the depth of knowledge and passion that our staff and volunteers bring to everything we do.

And thank you for your commitment to B'nai B'rith.

#### Daniel S. Mariaschin

**Executive Vice President and CEO** 





# Forward Thinking, Forward Acting

The world appears to be much smaller today, but with many more problems. B'nai B'rith is uniquely positioned to face the many global challenges ahead as we continue to focus on our core principles, even as we tackle more modern issues. At 172-yearsold, our stride is steady and with great purpose. We continue to be a leader on issues of Israel advocacy, advancing human rights, ensuring access to safe and affordable housing for low-income seniors, speaking out on vital issues concerning seniors and their families, diversity education, improving communities and helping communities in crisis.



Sponsoring a national tolerance education program for high school students

Combating anti-Semitism abroad

Holocaust remembrance and education



# Advocacy And Action—Domestic And International

We continue our long tradition of speaking out and speaking truth to power. Our connections at global seats of government, from city to city, nation to nation and continent to continent, ensure leaders pay heed to our concerns and our ideas.

With our team of policy experts around the globe, B'nai B'rith is well positioned to have expertise and access in the domestic and international arenas.

At 172–years-old, our stride is steady and with great purpose.



### **U.N. Human Rights Council**

In the spring, leaders from B'nai B'rith International and B'nai B'rith Europe traveled again to the United Nations Human Rights Council's assembly in Geneva. In meeting after meeting, B'nai B'rith leaders stressed the hypocrisy of the laser focus on Israel, while the council—charged with monitoring and enforcing respect for human rights everywhere—ignores such serial human rights abusers as Iran, Syria and North Korea.

It is still astonishing how the all-consuming hatred of Israel blinds the council to the malfeasance of far too many nations. But we also know that B'nai B'rith machinery, which has been in place at the world body since 1945, is imperative if we are to effect change on an institution that too often enforces one set of rules for Israel and another for the rest of the world.

We stood at the forefront of opposing new Palestinian efforts to circumvent direct peace negotiations with Israel, and to be afforded privileges not enjoyed by any other non-member of the U.N., by standing against the raising of the Palestinian flag at the world body.

### National Sephardic Delegation To Ottawa

In March, B'nai B'rith Canada hosted the first-ever, in Canadian history, National Sephardic Delegation to Ottawa. Timed to coincide with the holiday of Purim, B'nai B'rith Canada's National Senior Legal Counsel David Matas and CEO Michael Mostyn testified before the Parliamentary Sub-committee on Human Rights regarding the ongoing human rights abuses in Iran.

# Humanitarian Program In Ukraine



B'nai B'rith Europe has been active assisting Holocaust survivors in Ukraine. The B'nai B'rith lodges in Ukraine concentrate on humanitarian aid.

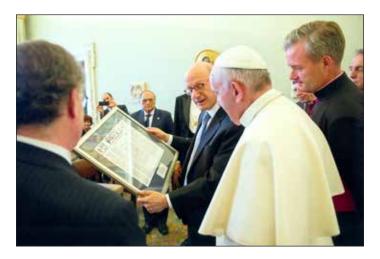
In Kiev, 112 elderly Holocaust survivors receive a food parcel every two weeks, and 170 elderly survivors receive free medical care and medication every two weeks. In some cases the medication and food is delivered at the survivor's home by B'nai B'rith Europe volunteers.

In Lviv, 50 Holocaust survivors are provided a meal in the dining room of the Institute of Technology of Lviv University five days a week and take home a parcel of yogurt and cheese for the weekend. An additional 25 people receive financial help once monthly. Some 300 survivors receive complete medical care once a month in the Lviv B'nai B'rith Medical Centre, consisting of a pharmacy, ECG equipment, cardiologist and general medical practitioner. In addition, 80 survivors have monthly dental treatments, which include, where necessary, free dentures. And 50 survivors receive a weekly laundry service to ensure a good level of hygiene. Volunteers make in-home visits every Tuesday with food and medication to 25 immobile survivors.

In the Provincial Cities of West Ukraine, the heads of the Jewish communities of provincial cities are authorized to distribute cash assistance on a monthly basis to some 400 survivors for the purchase of food and essential medication. A further 25 survivors receive direct financial support once a year.

### **European Parliament Delegation For Relations With Israel**

We wrote in May 2015 to the United Nations secretary-general concerning an outrageous recommendation by U.N. Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict Leila Zerrougui, to place Israel on the list of entities that regularly and systematically harm children in conflict situations. We noted that adding Israel to this list would put it on the same footing as such grave violators of human rights as the Taliban, Boko Haram and ISIS. The subsequent U.N. report did not include Israel.



# Interfaith Leadership

B'nai B'rith International along with leaders from B'nai B'rith Europe had a private audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican, urgently highlighting Iran's illicit nuclear program, condemning the violent extremists who target Christians as well as Jews in the Middle East, and celebrating 50 years of historic progress in Catholic-Jewish relations.

### Meeting Of The European Jewish And Pro-Israel Organizations Based In Brussels

In October, B'nai B'rith Europe held a working brunch with several organizations that were attending the two-day

colloquium organized by the European Commission called "Tolerance and Respect: Preventing and Combating Anti-Semitic and Anti-Muslim Hatred in Europe." President of B'nai B'rith Europe, Erika Van Gelder (who has since passed away), and Vice President of B'nai B'rith Europe, Valerie Achache, chaired the meeting. Serge Dahan, president of B'nai B'rith France, also attended the event.

The idea behind this meeting was for Jewish and pro-Israel European non-governmental organizations such as B'nai B'rith Europe to become familiar with one another's work, and ultimately to create leverage through a task force with coordinated efforts on common topics of interest.

In addition to B'nai B'rith Europe, other groups included were: The American Jewish Committee/Transatlantic Institute, the European Alliance for Israel, Europe Israel Public Affairs, the European Jewish Association, the European Jewish Centre, the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists and the World Jewish Congress.

Creating a definition of anti-Semitism at the European Union level, modelled on the U.S. definition, was a common point of interest. Another one was to increase anti-Semitism awareness among civil servants and magistrates in charge of implementing hate crime laws. B'nai B'rith Europe would like to turn this meeting into a regular event, and hopes that working in partnership with other organizations will make a positive change for Israel and the Jewish community in Europe.



# In-Depth Conversations With Diplomats

An important means for international dialogue is through our diplomatic luncheon series, hosted in our Washington, D.C. headquarters. Guests enjoy an intimate gathering, hearing from an ambassador about his or her country's interactions with Israel and the United States. This year, we have hosted the ambassadors from Latvia and India and well as Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta Jacobson. We have also held such luncheons in other cities with international consuls, such as Chicago, to ensure a broad range of our members and supporters can take part in such informative sessions.



# Global Agenda: Respected By World Leaders

In the fall, a large multinational B'nai B'rith leadership delegation visited India, the world's largest democracy and a vital emerging power on the global stage, to support and strengthen the deepening Indian friendship with both Israel and the U.S.

India has become an important friend to Israel, and maintaining this relationship could be a key global component for Israel moving forward. Thanks to our international track record, the B'nai B'rith delegation was welcomed at every turn.







# The United Nations And Yom Kippur

B'nai B'rith International welcomed the confirmation of Yom Kippur as a recognized holiday at the United Nations headquarters. In 2014, B'nai B'rith wrote an op-ed for The New York Times, urging the U.N. to include the holiday among those it officially recognizes. After many years during which no acknowledgment was afforded to the holiest day on the Jewish calendar—even in the city with the largest Jewish population in the Diaspora—staff at U.N. headquarters in New York can now choose Yom Kippur from among six holidays on which they can stay home from work.

While the U.N. building will remain open on Yom Kippur, major intergovernmental meetings—including those of the high-level General Debate, which world leaders attend at the start of the new General Assembly session every September—will not be held on Yom Kippur.

This is a modest, common-sense step toward fairness for personnel at the United Nations and respect for Judaism as a major world religion. It should be emulated at the U.N.'s offices across the world, and built upon across an international system in which politics often supplant mutual respect and equality.

# Cuba Outreach – Cuba Jewish Relief Project



We had huge successes reinvigorating the Cuban Jewish Relief Project during an ever-changing period of reignited relations between the United States and Cuba, including the growth of our missions. In 2015, we held four missions, with 60 participants and delivered more than 2,000 pounds of donations.

This year also marked our first-ever executive leadership delegation to Cuba.

The B'nai B'rith World Center in Jerusalem and the B'nai B'rith Cuban Jewish Relief Project hosted a symposium on the future of the Jewish

community, tourism and humanitarian aid in an evolving Cuba. In attendance were members of the diplomatic corps, former emissaries in Latin America, humanitarian aid experts and B'nai B'rith leaders.

The symposium was the culmination of week-long meetings in Jerusalem, held between the B'nai B'rith delegation and the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other entities concerning the status of the Jewish community in Cuba and its connection to the global Jewish world.







### Latin America: A Vital Partner



Thousands filled the streets to observe the 21st anniversary of the AMIA bombing in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Huge crowds were spurred by the death of special prosecutor Alberto Nisman.

B'nai B'rith, whose strong presence in Latin America sharply differentiates it from other Jewish organizations, has closely followed the most important developments in the region. In Argentina, B'nai B'rith tracked the mysterious death of AMIA (the Argentine-Israelite Mutual Association) case prosecutor Alberto Nisman, as well as the unfortunate developments that followed, with great sorrow and concern. Nisman had been investigating the 1994 bombing of the AMIA building for 10 years. He was convinced that high ranking Iranian officials had been involved in the planning and the execution of the attack, and was even able to secure INTERPOL red notices for several of them in 2007. He was found dead in his apartment on Jan. 18, 2015, just hours after accusing the Argentine government of signing a pact with Iran in order to exonerate the accused of any responsibility for the bombing.

B'nai B'rith issued several press releases and published a number of op-eds to raise awareness about the urgent need to

clarify what happened to this brave prosecutor. We were also part of a high level delegation that visited the country to gather information, and express support to the distressed local Jewish community. We will continue to monitor the judicial investigation that is taking place in Argentina, and raise awareness about this unresolved case until we see that justice is really served. And we will continue advocating for the victims of the AMIA bombing and their families, who have now been deprived of any real hope for justice.

Through our valuable partnership with AJIRI (the American Jewish International Relations Institute), we continued working to change the unfair way countries vote at the United Nations on resolutions involving Israel, and to educate local Jewish communities on the powerful anti-Israel propaganda apparatus that is the work of the World Body. Particularly in Latin America, we were able to see positive changes in the voting pattern of countries such as Uruguay, Paraguay and Honduras, and we hope to see this kind of change in other countries in the near future.

Also through our partnership with AJIRI, we were able to forge important and long-lasting alliances with Christian Evangelical organizations that do very valuable pro-Israel work in Latin America.

# Supporting Israel



Holocaust Martyr's and Heroes' Remembrance Day ceremony at Martyrs' Forest "Scroll of Fire" Plaza in Jerusalem

Our World Center in Jerusalem keeps us well connected to events and leaders in Israel. From the top echelons of the Knesset, the World Center has the contacts needed for this work.

Our World Center in Israel continues to put on world class programming. We held the 13th consecutive Holocaust commemoration ceremony on Holocaust Martyr's and Heroes' Remembrance Day in April. This is the only event dedicated to honoring Jews who rescued fellow Jews during the Holocaust. With about 1,000 people attending this year, this program fills a unique gap in Holocaust remembrance. This year's event memorialized Rabbi Moshe Shimon Pessach (1869-1955), an outstanding rabbinic and communal figure who served for 63 years as rabbi of Volos, and, later in life as chief rabbi of Greece. Pessach initiated and orchestrated his community's



Rabbi Moshe Shimon Pessach

rescue during the German occupation, efforts that led to the survival of 74 percent of the Volos Jews.

As our link with Israel, the World Center closely monitors how Israel sees the Diaspora. This year, we were honored to have Alan Dershowitz as our keynote speaker when we presented our annual award for journalism recognizing excellence in reporting on the Diaspora. This award is viewed by Israeli media as an important acknowledgment of their work; the competition is fierce.

A new and very exciting program this year allowed Israel to come to the United States. The World Center arranged live internet tours of important sites in Israel. Participants in B'nai B'rith senior housing, as well as B'nai B'rith leaders took out their laptops and iPads to take a live tour of such places as the Old City of Jerusalem, Mount Herzl national cemetery and Mount Zion. "Israel from your living room" was a great success.

In June, World Center leadership traveled to the Druze village of Yanuh-Jat in the upper Galilee to present the first distribution of this year's B'nai B'rith Edith "Pat" Wolfson Endowment's annual donation to Israeli orphans to Laren Sayif. Sayif is the infant daughter of Israeli police officer Sgt. Zidan Sayif, who was killed in November 2014 as he confronted two Palestinian terrorists who were engaged in a gruesome attack on the Kehilat B'nai Torah synagogue. Four rabbis were murdered in the attack, leaving 24 children without fathers, and eight other worshipers were wounded, four of them seriously. Sayif and another officer managed to kill the two terrorists, but Sayif was killed in the exchange of fire. A second distribution from the fund will be made to the five children of Rabbi Aryeh Kupinsky, one of the four victims in the attack.

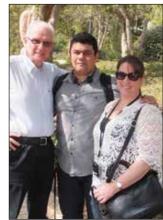
The B'nai B'rith Israel Emergency Fund was also used to make some of the allocations.

The annual donation has been presented over the past 11 years by the World Center to children who have lost one or two parents to Palestinian terrorism or war.

# Supporting Israel



Ariel Britos with the Sodre National Youth Orchestra in Israel



B'nai B'rith's Eduardo with Sodre National Youth Orchestra Conductor Ariel Britos in Israel

In October, the World Center hosted the latest winner of B'nai B'rith Uruguay's "Fraternidad Award," the noted conductor Maestro Ariel Britos, founder of the System of Youth and Children Orchestras of Uruguay and conductor of the Sodre Youth Orchestra. The intensive visit includes professional encounters in Israel's top music schools, centers and orchestras and extensive touring across the country. This outreach brings Israel to life to cultural leaders who would not ordinarily have a chance to visit the Jewish State.

### Jerusalem Day-Canada

B'nai B'rith Canada celebrated its first Jerusalem Day or Yom Yerushalayim across the country with events in Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg. Jerusalem Day is an Israeli holiday commemorating the reunification of Jerusalem and the ability for Jews to once again pray at the Kotel.

# **Defending Israel's Security**

B'nai B'rith is a staunch advocate for Israel in Washington, D.C. and in foreign capitals. We have actively supported a series of legislative initiatives on Capitol Hill condemning anti-Israel hatred; backing Israel's right to defend itself; and opposing Iran's nuclear weapons



program and sponsorship of terrorism. In direct meetings and official letters, we have called on nations around the world to remain vigilant against Iran's nuclear ambitions, as the need to monitor the regime's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action becomes increasingly apparent.

# **Building Understanding About Israel**

B'nai B'rith organized and led a delegation of members of the European Parliament on a week-long study tour of Israel. The aim was to expose emerging political leaders in Europe to Israeli society and public policy, in an effort to foster greater understanding of the Jewish state among influential Europeans. The mission included meetings with Israeli government and military officials and other prominent figures, as well as visits to sites of historical and cultural importance.



# **Combating Anti-Semitism**



It has been deeply unsettling to see anti-Semitism growing around the world. Through regular exchanges with the U.S. State Department and foreign governments, along with our cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Organization of American States, we fight to ensure anti-Semitism is spotlighted and recognized as a significant issue. B'nai B'rith participated this year in international conferences on anti-Semitism in Belgium, Poland and Israel. In Brussels, the organization played a key role in the formation of a European Parliament working group on anti-Semitism. In Washington, D.C. B'nai B'rith advocated for S. Res. 87, a U.S. Senate resolution condemning anti-Semitism in Europe and encouraging greater cooperation with governments and international organizations to combat the problem.

# Senior Housing and Advocacy

B'nai B'rith is a globally recognized leader in the fields of senior housing and aging, and has been a solid advocate for seniors in the United States for decades. We regularly meet with lawmakers to discuss the unique plight of the elderly in the United States and around the world. We speak out against legislation that could harm the often vulnerable senior population. We teach leaders at our low-income senior housing facilities practical lessons in such topics as suicide and bullying prevention.

### **Seniors: Housing**



B'nai B'rith Covenant House of Tucson, Ariz.

Access for low-income seniors to safe and affordable housing is one of our main organizational priorities, and what we have learned from more than 40 years in the field has shaped the rest of our aging policy agenda.

B'nai B'rith is the largest national Jewish sponsor of lowincome housing for seniors in the United States, with 42 buildings in 26 communities. We also sponsor six buildings located in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, Canada, as well as additional facilities around the world. In the United States, with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), we provide safe, affordable housing for more than 8,000 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.

In May 2015, B'nai B'rith hosted 40 managers and service coordinators of the properties for a three-day training session in Tucson. Topics included HUD training, digital media strategies, working with volunteers and customer service training programs in the buildings. Each day featured a case study.

This training ensures everyone is up to date on HUD policies and procedures as well as providing innovative programming for all of the residents.

The most important component of the B'nai B'rith Senior Housing program is, of course, the residents. They are the reason we do what we do! To that end, we conduct a week long bi-annual Resident Leadership Training Retreat where we train select residents from each of the B'nai B'rith senior housing properties on how to be better resident leaders.

# Senior Housing and Advocacy



Held every other summer at the B'nai B'rith Perlman Camp, in the beautiful mountains of Western Pennsylvania, B'nai B'rith staff members create workshops that are designed to provide the tools to be stronger leaders in their respective communities. Sessions include fundraising, HUD initiatives and ways to organize and run an effective Resident's Association.

This year's program included 33 resident leaders, three staff members and one volunteer. These individuals go back to their respective communities energized and excited to implement new programs.

Since Perlman Camp is in session during the retreat, there is also an opportunity for intergenerational programming, which is a benefit not just to the senior housing residents who attend, but to the youth campers as well. The U.S. Department of Urban Housing gives high praise to this innovative program.

A key example of the value of the training: Two leaders who attended in 2013 came from a building with major issues with its own Resident Association. The two resident leaders at the retreat talked about how they were able to regroup after their training sessions, and now are able to provide programming and other support for their fellow residents.

As a result of this year's training, two buildings that previously did not have a Tenant's Association are now organizing associations.

In November 2015, board members and management professionals from the network attended a three-day conference in Washington, D.C. Highlights for the attendees included HUD updates and training; a visit to B'nai B'rith Homecrest House and meeting with the leaders of the Tenant's Association; a screening of the Nancy Spielberg movie "Above and Beyond," about the founding of the Israeli Air Force; and visits with Congressional staff to discuss the importance of continuing to fund more Section 202 Affordable Senior Housing.

Our senior housing program is directly tied to our advocacy on issues important to seniors. In Congress, we strongly advocate for housing funds, aiming to stop further cuts to a program vital to so many of our nation's seniors for its ability to provide safe and affordable homes.

#### 2015 Annual Report

# Senior Housing and Advocacy

### Seniors: Advocacy



Our experience and expertise in housing led directly to our advocacy on issues of importance to seniors.

Our robust senior programming continues to both advocate for issues vital to the health and well-being of all seniors, as well as provide safe and affordable housing for low-income seniors. These dual aspects make B'nai B'rith a unique and prominent voice on so many of the most important issues facing seniors today.

Thanks to our respected expertise, we were invited to speak at Jewish Disability Advocacy Day about Social Security policy (part of Jewish Disability Awareness Month), as well as to a visiting group from the Jewish Federation of Greater Chicago on Social Security policy.

Our team has been involved in intensive advocacy to avoid a shortfall in one of the two Social Security trust funds. We were on hand for the White House Conference on Aging and submitted comments, speaker ideas and feedback to the chair as part of a coalition.

As an active member of coalitions to advocate for seniors, we met repeatedly with the Acting Commissioner on Social Security to provide stakeholder guidance and input on the Social Security Administration's Vision 2025.

Over the last year, we have met with Congressional staff members to explain the growing, desperate need nationwide for affordable and safe housing for seniors. We have led Congressional staffers on tours of housing facilities so they can see first-hand what issues low-income seniors face.

# **Disaster Relief & Community Projects**

# **Disaster Relief**

Helping those in need after a disaster is a core commitment that has guided us since 1865. When floods, wild fires, earthquakes, tornadoes or hurricanes devastate a community, B'nai B'rith volunteers, members and supporters spring to action to help.

In late 2015, we expended monies from our Flood, Tornado and Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund to help in the aftermath of the destructive tornadoes and torrential rains that plagued Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama and Texas. The disaster left more than 40 people dead across the region and destroyed thousands of homes and businesses.

In this disaster, as with others before it, B'nai B'rith utilized its contacts in coalition with other agencies to provide emergency support relief efforts and long-term rebuilding plans.

We have struck particular common ground with our friend and partner Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) in recent years in the area of disaster relief. This year, we received, from AEPi, the first installment of a \$100,000 grant to support our ongoing, global disaster relief efforts.

That recognition from AEPi will help us help others, enabling us to open disaster relief funds when a disaster strikes anywhere in the world.

At the convention where we accepted this grant, attendees packed disaster preparedness kits for senior citizens in B'nai B'rith housing facilities across the nation.

In 2015, B'nai B'rith also opened its Disaster Relief Fund to assist victims of the Nepal earthquake. The funds raised supported programs carried out by our partner IsraAID and the Jewish Coalition for Nepal Disaster Relief.







# **Disaster Relief & Community Projects**

### **Community Roots**



The B'nai B'rith Project H.O.P.E. (Help Our People Everywhere) distribution for Passover 2015 provided kosher for Passover food to more than 2,600 poor and elderly households in several communities in six states. Community volunteers raise the funds, purchase the food, pack the bags and distributed the food in time for Passover.

B'nai B'rith Great Lakes Region, in conjunction with the national program, is an example of the local dedication to the program. Twice a year, for Passover and to break the fast after Yom Kippur, Great Lakes volunteers shop for and package 50-100 kosher, non-perishable food baskets for distribution to less fortunate families in the community.



# **Disaster Relief & Community Projects**

### Local Regions Host Vibrant Programs

Our dedicated volunteers and staff get deeply involved in their communities, helping out and pitching in. Here are a few more examples:

#### **Great Lakes Community Scholarships**

B'nai B'rith Great Lakes Region launched a college scholarship program to provide local resources for students looking for financial assistance with the high cost of college tuition. The program provides scholarships to high school seniors in Michigan who are entering their freshman year in college. Recipients are selected on their academic achievement, financial need and community involvement.

In addition to the generosity of sponsorships and endowments, monies for the scholarships were generated by a musical concert at the elegant Berman Theatre.

#### Annual Golf Class Fundraiser

With nearly 100 golfers participating in a fun-filled day on the links, culminating with an awards dinner, this is one of the Great Lakes Region's most successful fundraisers. Proceeds from this event go to benefit and strengthen B'nai B'rith programs.

#### **Schlep Sunday**

Houston B'nai B'rith members and supporters host "Schlep Sunday" each December, where they accept donations of clothing, toys and non-perishable food to support Houston's homeless.

#### **Pinch Hitters**

In Atlanta, the long-standing Pinch Hitters program is an annual community service project where volunteers from the Atlanta Jewish Community "go to bat" for non-medical hospital personnel on Christmas Day. This is so our Christian brethren can spend the holiday at home with their families. In past years, hundreds of volunteers staffed 11 hospital or assisted living facilities.





#### **Breadbreakers**

For more than 60 years, the B'nai B'rith Henry Monsky Lodge of Omaha, Neb. has held Breadbreakers, a weekly lunch and lecture program. Every Wednesday, members meet at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home to hear from a variety of speakers. Sitting governors, senators and members of Congress have all given talks.

#### **Bagel Brigade**

For more than 20 years, the B'nai B'rith Bagel Brigade, operating in West San Fernando Valley, California, has been providing free food to people in need—with a special focus to ensure children from low-income families do not go to school hungry.

Before sunrise, volunteers gather daily to pack up donated food from local supermarkets, and bagel shops to bring help to those in need within the Los Angeles area.

#### **Community Election Outreach in Canada**

During Canada's Federal election 2015, B'nai B'rith Canada launched an education campaign called IMPACT2015. As part of the campaign, B'nai B'rith Canada hosted debates in key regions across the country and created a magazine which highlighted party leaders and candidates across the country.

# Remembering and Honoring the Past

### Holocaust Remembrance: The Importance Of Continuity



In the United States, B'nai B'rith partnered with the United Nations for the annual Holocaust remembrance event, on a program commemorating the rejection by Arturo Toscanini of fascism and his support for Jewish musicians' revival in Israel.





Unto Every Person There is a Name 2015 programming was held in communities and linked to the Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) fraternity campus program, *We Walk to Remember*, on more than 130 campuses. This was held on Yom Hashoah, the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day, observed on April 16, 2015. Materials were created and distributed based on the theme chosen by an international committee: "70 Years Since the End of WWII: The Anguish of Liberation and The Return to Life."

In November, B'nai B'rith Latin America continued its unique commemoration of Kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass), traditionally seen as the beginning of the Holocaust. It's the 1938 period in Germany and Austria when at least 96 Jews were killed, more than 1,000 synagogues were set on fire, nearly 7,500 Jewish-owned businesses were destroyed and countless homes, libraries and community centers were looted. Events were held in Argentina, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Cuba, Panama, Chile and Paraguay.

At the B'nai B'rith annual Policy Forum held in November, we hosted a Holocaust Commemoration and candle lighting ceremony. Honorary President Tommy P. Baer, who was born in Berlin, reflected on the impact Kristallnacht and the Holocaust had on his family when he was a baby. Candles were lit to remember those lost.



Our Young Leadership Network is a vital force to nurture future leaders.



Through events at embassies, missions, disaster rebuilding sites and fundraisers, we have a network of up and coming leaders who meet, exchange ideas, have a chance to learn from world leaders and lend a hand to a struggling community.

B'nai B'rith young leaders continued their "Conversations Around the World" series, meeting with world leaders at consulates in New York and Chicago and embassies in Washington, D.C. The program engages young professionals in a personal dialogue with the diplomatic staff of countries around the world to provide insight into the relationship of the United States and Israel. In 2015, this interesting and exciting program included visits with Germany, Guatemala, Japan and Canada.

B'nai B'rith Young Leadership Network held a retreat in June 2015 in New York City, for the leaders of core groups representing six cities. Participants shared programming ideas, membership and fund raising information as well as connected with B'nai B'rith leaders.

The B'nai B'rith Young Leadership Conference took place from Nov. 6 to Nov. 8 in Washington D.C. Participants engaged with representatives of the French embassy, Olivier Gauvin and Sean Jean Francois, to discuss the current relations between France, the United States and Israel, as well as the state of French Jewry.







Attendees also heard from David Yarus, co-founder of the dating app JSwipe. Yarus delved into the origin story of how JSwipe was created and gave a presentation on marketing to millennials.

In 2015, B'nai B'rith bestowed the Label A. Katz awards on deserving young leaders. The award is named for the youngest person to achieve the office of international president of B'nai B'rith. The award goes to individuals under 45 who have demonstrated outstanding service to the totality of B'nai B'rith and have worked to achieve the goals of the B'nai B'rith Young Leadership program. This year's recipients came from the United States, Chile and Italy.

### **Brussels Student Leadership Seminar**

Organized by B'nai B'rith International and B'nai B'rith Europe, along with the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) and the Delegation of Jewish American Students (DOJAS) this seminar in Brussels gave students a chance to hear from world-renowned experts, learn from influential global activists and lobby key decision-makers in the European Union and NATO on anti-Semitism, Israel and other important issues for our community.

# **Celebrating Diversity & Culture**

### **Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge**



In its ninth year, the *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge* expanded once again with the addition of Columbus, Ohio as a contest city (made possible with support from new funder McGraw-Hill Education). The Challenge was also again offered to high school students in New York City. In the Washington, D.C. metro area, southern New Jersey and the Delmarva Peninsula, the program continued thanks to the generous support of Pepco. To date, we've published 29 original children's books, donated 35,000 of them to public libraries, schools and worthy organizations, and awarded more than \$250,000 in college scholarships and grants.

B'nai B'rith also donates books to the TODAY Show's annual holiday toy drive.





### **Courage To Care**

Respect for diversity is also the focus of Courage to Care, an important educational program of B'nai B'rith Australia. Through a travelling exhibition, Australians learn about the dangers of racism, bigotry and bullying. Free educational workshops are central to the program.



The program's objectives: "We want to empower participants to be Upstanders in the face of injustice, by giving them an understanding of the consequences of prejudice both on the individual and on society, and the recognition that each person can make a difference."

Learn more about this successful program here: http://couragetocare.org.au/

# **Click Against Hate**



A second program out of B'nai B'rith Australia also aims to counter racism. The B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission has an exciting new program, Click Against Hate. This free educational program aimed at children focuses on inclusion in the online world. Click Against Hate "teaches students to deal with a wide range of issues including: identity theft, invasion of privacy, cyber bullying, incitement, defamation, online dangers, YouTube and Facebook reporting, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, homophobia, freedom of speech, vilification, obscenity, contempt of court, website reliability, primary and secondary sources."

Read about Click Against Hate here: https://www.antidef.org.au/events-and-programs/click-against-hate/

# **European Days Of Jewish Culture**

B'nai B'rith Europe founded, and is the lead organization for The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ), which supports the preservation, appreciation and promotion of Jewish culture and Jewish heritage in Europe. The association also strives to encourage Jewish sites to be open to the general public. These goals are notably achieved through its two leading programs: The European Days of Jewish Culture and the European Routes of Jewish Heritage.

The AEPJ is formed by six organizations: B'nai B'rith Europe, the Red de Juderías de España - Caminos de Sefarad and, since June 2014, the Fonds Social Juif Unifié, the Rede de Judiarias de Portugal, the Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane and JECPJ France.

Already into its 16th edition, the European Days of Jewish Culture was held in September. The theme this year was Jewish culture and bridges. Thirty-one European countries, about 330 participating cities and towns and almost 1,000 activities were celebrated throughout Europe. Synagogues and museums were open to the general public, and other activities such as lectures, concerts, performances, guided tours, food tastings and much more were offered. This was an invitation to discover the Jewish culture that contributes so much to shaping today's European identity.

# **Celebrating Diversity & Culture**

### B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum



In May, B'nai B'rith International and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) announced a partnership to acquire, preserve and display the art and artifacts of the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum at HUC-JIR's Skirball Museum, a vital cultural and educational outreach venue of its historic campus in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Significantly augmenting the Skirball's holdings, the Klutznick's sacred and secular fine and decorative arts and social documents will be exhibited in designated galleries as the "B'nai B'rith Klutznick Collection." In addition, a select group of Klutznick artifacts will be loaned to the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington to be displayed in its new building, slated for opening in 2020.

With its call for the furthering of innovation for Jewish life and learning, HUC-JIR's Skirball Museum is an optimal partner to showcase this distinctive collection. The partnership will allow for online exhibitions and links disseminating information about the collection with other organizations, and the sponsoring of special programs and lectures, ensuring global access to the collection.

The B'nai B'rith Klutznick Collection will augment and enhance HUC-JIR's Skirball Museum and its permanent collection significantly, rendering it among the most prominent Jewish museums between the Alleghenies and the Rockies.

# **Bridges** Of Tolerance

The aim of the project "Bridges of Tolerance" is to disseminate information about the contribution of the Jewish minority group to the local culture; to fight the growing anti-Semitism in Europe through education; to encourage a public debate about the efficiency of the existing tools and modes of implementation of hate crime through the existing legislation; and to bring about an interfaith dialogue between Jews and Christians on the basic values of our Judeo-Christian civilization.

In order to achieve our aims, the project has two components: cultural shows and workshops with panel discussions.

# Cennecting = Social + Traditional + Personal

### Media: Social + Traditional

So much of what we see and do happens virtually.

Our online footprint continues to expand and deepen. We updated the B'nai B'rith website layout this year, creating a sleeker, user—friendly and mobile-friendly format. Our branding now emphasizes news, events, programming and social media—directly from our home page.

Our robust social media strategy has led to an increase in the number of relevant third-party content sharing on Twitter and Facebook.

In 2015, we launched our Subject Matter Expert blog to great success. Our stable of policy and advocacy experts share their insights and analysis to enlighten and inspire our members and supporters, demonstrating why B'nai B'rith is a global leader in so many areas. Our blogs are seen by tens of thousands on our Facebook page, and still more through the sharing efforts of our members, supporters and followers.

In 2014, we launched our first-ever Giving Tuesday campaign. We planned, produced and promoted content around this day of giving, increasing the number of online December donations over the previous year by 30 percent, and funds raised over the previous year by 45 percent. Our 2015 Giving Tuesday campaign grew on that early success.



# #GI**≫ING** TUESDAY

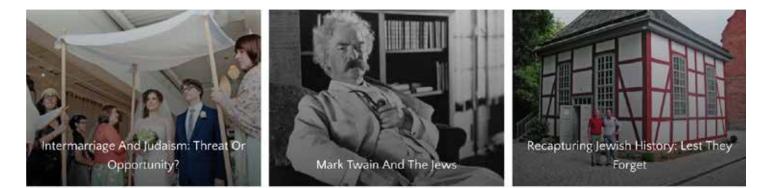
We also get our message out through more traditional means. People all over the world have learned B'nai B'rith's point of view through the publication of numerous op-eds and letters as well as through interviews with reporters for news outlets around the world.

# **Cennecting = Social + Traditional + Personal**

### B'nai B'rith Magazine

B'nai B'rith Magazine was the recipient of two Rockower Awards for excellence in Jewish journalism, one for photos and the other for writing about Jewish women. Our "Jews of Color" and "Funny Jews" cover stories were widely tweeted and retweeted. We worked to better broadcast our brand with aggressive social media campaigns. We also undertook the first reader survey in years, reaching out both online and with postcard inserts. The B'nai B'rith Today section tackles robust coverage of institutional events. We continue to seek new and innovative ways to bring greater public attention to our publication and, through it, to B'nai B'rith International.

Our magazine has been providing deep insights into the most pressing issues of the day since it launched in 1886.



# Tribute Dinners/Awards



Former Boston Red Sox President and CEO Larry Lucchino

B'nai B'rith recognized the accomplishments of key community and corporate leaders from around the world in tributes and award ceremonies designed to highlight their good works at the community and global levels. We honor these exceptional individuals and companies for their community service, dedicated leadership and commitment to improving the lives of the individuals they serve.

Continuing our decades-long tradition of recognizing outstanding community and corporate leaders, this year we honored many distinguished individuals and corporations at appreciation dinners. These included Joseph Harari and his brothers Raymond, Morris and Sion Harari, for their outstanding commitment to B'nai B'rith International and the Jewish community in Panama and worldwide (award in late 2014); Brett Yormark, CEO of the Brooklyn Nets in New

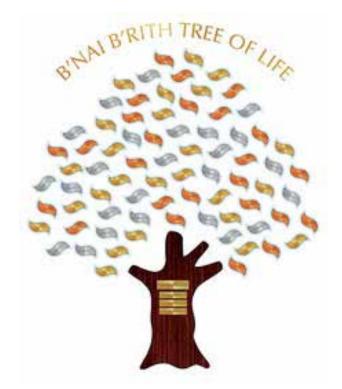
York City; Gary Tabach, Managing Partner of Deloitte, Greater Washington in Washington, D.C.; McGraw Hill Education in New York City and Irene Thompson, United HealthSystem Consortium in Chicago. We also honored The Boston Red Sox and their outgoing President and CEO Larry Lucchino at Fenway Park with the Community Achievement Award for the organization's community work.

# Cennecting = Social + Traditional + Personal

### The Tree Of Life

The B'nai B'rith Tree of Life was initiated to create a beautiful and symbolic visualization of our founding and our future. Displayed prominently at our world headquarters, this enduring tribute is supported by the kind and generous donations of our friends around the world. The tributes on the tree publicly commemorate our supporters and our critical work and become a permanent part of our rich history.

A new funding partner this year, the prestigious New York-based Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, will underwrite one year of our Parliamentary & Diplomatic Missions to the State of Israel initiative. Through two highly curated trips, B'nai B'rith will bring international leaders—one group of U.N. ambassadors and one group of emerging Members of European Parliament—to Israel to provide them a first—hand education about its culture, people, industry and policies, thus developing new friends and lifelong advocates for the Jewish state.



# **Executive Board of Directors**

# Annual Policy Forum + Election Of New Officers

B'nai B'rith members and supporters from across the United States and around the world gathered in Washington, D.C., Nov. 8 to Nov. 10 to learn how B'nai B'rith is at the forefront of today's most pressing issues; engaging with high-level speakers on topics such as U.S.-Israel relations, the rise of global anti-Semitism and the delegitimization of Israel; and making their voices heard on all things related to B'nai B'rith's global agenda.

Those in attendance were joined by a number of high-profile speakers, including Nancy Spielberg, producer of the documentary "*Above and Beyond*;"

Alan Gross, who was imprisoned in Cuba for five years; founding editor and publisher of The Rothenberg & Gonzales Political Report, Stuart Rothenberg; officials from the State Department and Treasury; and several ambassadors.



Gary P. Saltzman, of Centennial, Colo., was elected president of B'nai B'rith International by the Board of Governors at its annual meeting in conjunction with the Policy Forum. Saltzman immediately began a three-year term leading the world's oldest and most widely known Jewish humanitarian, human rights and advocacy organization.

B'nai B'rith International has had a long and proud history of service to the members of the armed forces as well as the returning veteran and their needs. The Board of Governors in 2015 passed a resolution called Valuing our Vets, where B'nai B'rith will focus on the cause of veterans' benefits in its advocacy efforts for the elderly, as their needs reflect our commitment to value these dedicated men and women who have served our nation.

The B'nai B'rith Senior Housing Conference was held at the same time as the annual Policy Forum, with attendees focusing on HUD updates, training and Capitol Hill visits to discuss the importance of continuing to fund more Section 202 Affordable Senior Housing.



# **Executive Board of Directors**

# B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL 2012-2015

**Executive Board of Directors** 

As of November 9, 2015

#### **SENIOR OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT Allan J. Jacobs, Lake Forest, Illinois

CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE Gary P. Saltzman, Centennial, Colorado

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TREASURER Seth J. Riklin, Sugar Land, Texas

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Daniel S. Mariaschin, Washington, D.C.

#### HONORARY PRESIDENTS

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Rebecca Saltzman Barsheshet, Centennial, Colorado Arline P. Bittker, Orchard Lake, Michigan Nancy A. Braun, Farmington Hills, Michigan Leon Cohen, Santiago, Chile Eric T. Engelmayer, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg Robert S. Golden, Natick, Massachusetts Ted Greenfield, Montreal, Ouebec, Canada Joseph E. Harari, Panama, Republic of Panama Dr. Yves-Victor Kamami, Paris, France Robert S. Kaufman, Wheeling, Illinois Shel Marcus, Morton Grove, Illinois Bruce Pascal, North Potomac, Maryland William K. Peirez, Great Neck, New York Peter A. Perlman, West Bloomfield, Michigan John R. Rofel, West Bloomfield, Michigan Harold Shulman, New York, New York Marvin Siflinger, Framingham, Massachusetts Irving Silver, Mobile, Alabama Dr. Steven I. Smiga, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania **Robert B. Spitzer,** Mercer Island, Washington Jorge Stainfeld, Montevideo, Uruguay Harold I. Steinberg, Germantown, Tennessee Stephen B. Stern, Annapolis, Maryland Matthew Waas, Arlington, Virginia Jacobo Wolkowicz, Montevideo, Uruguay Lila Zorn, West Bloomfield, Michigan Stephen B. Zorn, West Bloomfield, Michigan Gwen Zuares, Washington, D.C.

# **Executive Board of Directors**

# **B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL 2015-2018**

**Executive Board of Directors** 

As of December 31, 2015

#### **SENIOR OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

Gary P. Saltzman, Centennial, Colorado

CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE Peter A. Perlman, West Bloomfield, Michigan

#### **SENIOR VICE PRESIDENTS**

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TREASURER A. Michael Gellman, Potomac, Maryland

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin,** Washington, D.C.

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# Financial

# Summary of Consolidated Statements of Activities Fiscal Year 2015 For the Twelve Months Ending June 30, 2015 (Thousands of Dollars)

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Contributions and other support	\$6,608
Member dues	602
Camp revenues	\$0
Other program revenues	436
Investment income	404
Other revenue	181
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	8,231
EXPENSES	
Program Services	
Community involvement	1,120
Public advocacy	1,477
Senior housing and services	600
Humanitarian assistance	951
Jewish continuity	1,161
Total Program Services	5,309
Total Management and General	1,282
Fundraising Expenses	1,799
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,390
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(159)
TOTAL END OF YEAR NET ASSETS	9,038



# **Privacy Policy**

We are committed to protecting your privacy. To make your experience at our website more convenient, we gather information from you. We maintain the privacy of your information using security technologies and adhere to policies that prevent unauthorized use of your personal information.

# What personal information may we collect, and how is it used?

We collect two kinds of information: personal information that you choose to supply us, and non-personal information, such as your IP address. We use the personal information you supply to send our users email communications. If you would like to be removed from our email list, you can click the "unsubscribe" button on your B'nai B'rith email. We may also monitor and track information such as customer usage patterns of our website. We compile this information into a statistical aggregate which we use, together with your personal information, for internal business and administrative purposes, including improving our website, our operations, and our client service.

#### **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.

Personal information entered on the site is confidential, though we may share aggregate information about website usage and traffic patterns, stripped of any personally identifiable information, to third parties to comply with various reporting obligations and for business or marketing purposes. We may also share limited personally identifiable information with third parties on a confidential basis to enable a third party to perform certain tasks, such as maintain an email list or send email alerts and/or newsletters, on our behalf.

#### 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.

#### **Use of Cookies**

Cookies are pieces of information that are stored on your computer and are used for record-keeping purposes. We may use cookies to make visiting and using our website easier. Cookies can help us see which parts of our website are the most or least popular and direct us to improving our customers' online experience.

#### Links to Other Sites

This website provides links to several other third-party websites. While we choose our links carefully, we are not responsible for the content of linked websites, or for the privacy policies of these websites. Since we do not control these websites, we encourage you to review the privacy policies posted on these third-party websites.

#### **Privacy Policy Changes**

We may amend this privacy policy from time to time. We maintain the option to change this privacy statement at any time by electronic notice posted on our website. Your use of our website after the date that such notices are posted will be deemed to be your agreement to the changed terms.

B'nai B'rith International has advocated for global Jewry and championed the cause of human rights since 1843. B'nai B'rith is recognized as a vital voice in promoting Jewish unity and continuity, a staunch defender of the State of Israel, a tireless advocate on behalf of senior citizens and a leader in disaster relief. With a presence around the world, we are the Global Voice of the Jewish Community. Visit www.bnaibrith.org

