

COMMUNITY LEADERS COUNT ON THE JCRB/AJC



The history of this organization is to stand up for social justice. Let's not forget there was a time in this community when Jews, African-Americans and Hispanics could not live in certain areas, could not work in certain companies and were excluded from downtown clubs and most country clubs. I was part of the efforts of this organization to do something about this. We did it then and we do it now.

*Bert Berkley, Past President
JCRB/AJC*



The JCRB/AJC has been a group we could count on for support, whether the issue was civil rights, human rights, human relations, or interfaith activity. Breaking down barriers, fighting prejudice and hate, we can always count on the JCRB/AJC to be out front on these kinds of issues.

*Reverend Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson, President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Kansas City, Missouri*



We live in a very divided time and in a very divided world. The JCRB/AJC serves as a bridge between groups. The JCRB/AJC has always said, "We will build bridges with anybody who will build a bridge with us." I've seen it again and again where they plant their firm foundation on one side of the chasm and begin to move toward the other side where we can come together and form a greater cohesive community.

*Reverend Robert Lee Hill
Community Christian Church
Kansas City, Missouri*



I think we are fooling ourselves if we think we don't need each other. I ask the question, do brothers and sisters still need each other like they did years ago, and obviously the answer is yes.

*Reverend Wallace Hartsfield
Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church
Kansas City, Missouri*



I looked to the JCRB/AJC for their good offices and the historical relationship between the Jewish community and the African-American community. It did add credibility to the relationship between the police department and the African-American community. It provided a framework which became the bridge that allowed us to work effectively with that part of the community.

*John Douglass, Police Chief
Overland Park, Kansas*

Agency Credo

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
If I am only for myself, what am I?
If not now, when?

Hillel, 1st century rabbi and teacher



The area chapter of...



A partner of...



JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS BUREAU



**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS TO
ACHIEVE EQUALITY AND JUSTICE
FOR ALL**

Justice, justice
shalt thou pursue.
--Deuteronomy
16:20

FROM ASHES TO ADVOCACY

The ancient rabbis said that to save a life is the same as saving an entire world. The Jewish Community Relations Bureau was created in 1944, a time when Jews could do little to save their brothers and sisters trapped in the Holocaust. Grounded in the understanding that all humans are created in the image of God, the JCRB/AJC today is the Jewish community's voice of equality and justice for all.

The JCRB/AJC rallies the community in the face of injustice, standing shoulder to shoulder with those who seek full opportunity and an end to discrimination.

When African-Americans were denied civil rights, JCRB/AJC leaders marched with Dr. Martin Luther King in the 1960s.

When one million Jews in the former Soviet Union suffered religious persecution in the 1970s, the JCRB/AJC organized the community to be their voice in their struggle for freedom.

When hard-core anti-Semites blamed Jews for the farm crisis in the 1980s, the JCRB/AJC brought Kansas City Jews and Midwestern family farmers together to build bridges of understanding.

Through the JCRB/AJC, elected officials and community leaders visit Israel, where they receive a comprehensive overview of Israeli society and politics to build their own understanding of Israel, the Middle East and the importance of the United States-Israel relationship.

Then and now, the JCRB/AJC works on behalf of the entire community, for those who have a voice and for those who don't.

WHY WE CARE

- Because the Torah commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves.
- Because where there is injustice for one there is injustice for all.
- Because standing with others is intrinsic to our Jewish values.

The Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee is an advocacy organization that works on a community-wide basis to eliminate prejudice and discrimination. The JCRB/AJC also works to support Israel by promoting dialogue and education on Middle East issues.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Building Bridges

Relationships are fundamental to preserving human rights and throughout history have enabled Jews to flourish and give back to the communities in which they have lived. In the 60 years since its founding in Kansas City, JCRB/AJC bridge-building efforts have changed lives and saved lives.



In 2004, the annual JCRB/AJC Human Relations Award was renamed the Henry W. Bloch Human Relations Award.

JCRB/AJC is the face of the Jewish community. We work with other faith and minority groups, the media, elected officials, government, law enforcement and business and civic leaders to develop mutual understanding.

Fighting Discrimination

JCRB/AJC fights anti-Semitism and partners with the community to oppose racism and bigotry wherever it arises. The JCRB/AJC is at the forefront of efforts to defend people suffering the pain of discrimination and prejudice and to prevent its recurrence through education, relationship building and mutual understanding.



Since its founding, the JCRB/AJC has rallied the community and stood shoulder to shoulder with minority groups in the face of crises and injustice.

Advocating for Israel

Jews remain keenly aware of their small numbers and painful lessons of the past. Yet, no country so profoundly desires to live safely and peacefully with its neighbors more than the State of Israel. The JCRB/AJC spearheads efforts to create understanding and support for Israel in hopes of securing just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Providing Resources

The JCRB/AJC welcomes the opportunity to provide information and speakers on Judaism, Israel and anti-Semitism. Through programming open to the entire community, we provide experts and information on important issues.



From Bosnia and the Sudan to rural Kansas and the streets of Kansas City, the JCRB/AJC engages in human rights issues because the voice of the Jewish community can make a difference.

HELP REPAIR THE WORLD

The JCRB/AJC welcomes the support of people of all religions, races and ethnic backgrounds to stand with us to achieve equality and justice for all. Call the JCRB/AJC or visit our website to learn more about our programs.

Jewish Community Relations Bureau/ American Jewish Committee

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Israel Ambassador to the U.S. Daniel Ayalon receives the key to the city from Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor Pro-Tem Alvin Brooks at a city-wide JCRB/AJC rally.



The JCRB/AJC and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference co-host the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Service with JCRB/AJC's Judy Hellman as co-chair.



All humans
are created
in the image
of God.
-- Genesis