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2014 ANNUAL REPORT



**Jewish
Council on
Urban Affairs**

50th Anniversary Year

WELCOME

A Year of Celebration and Vision



Peggy Slater
JCUA Board President

The year 2014 was a year of celebration. The Jewish Council on Urban Affairs turned 50!

We celebrated the vision of our founders, the strength of our history and the enduring power of our values.

We also celebrated a new vision for JCUA, one that engages thousands of Jews across metropolitan Chicago. We called out to all of you who see the racial and economic injustice in our city to become members and join us in the fight against that

injustice. And many of you did.

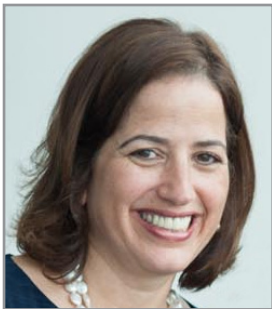
In 2014 hundreds of members joined JCUA—some to support our work and some to help us do the work. Members came together to listen to and talk with community partners, to identify issues and to implement campaigns.

Members worked on the North Side to combat wage theft and on the South Side for a trauma center to serve victims of violence. It was a great start.

If you aren't a member yet, join us now. It will take all of us working together to succeed in our mission. We need to cut the roots of violence in Chicago's neighborhoods, address the inadequacy of the city's housing, and put an end to inequities endured by all those who suffer racial or economic injustice.

The challenges are great, but as we look forward to the next 50 years of JCUA we know that, working together, we can make Chicago a more just city.

Putting the Pieces in Place For Impact



Judy Levey
JCUA Executive Director

On the heels of a hugely successful jubilee 50th anniversary celebration in 2014, we know we stand on the shoulders of many social justice heroes. Their profound engagement and sustained efforts addressing inequality and indifference for more than five decades is a source of ongoing inspiration to us.

As I reflect on the year behind us, I see that we are putting in place the pieces necessary to pivot our focus to engaging a broader and deeper Jewish voice for social justice work, with participation of people across Chicagoland area who share our values.

Often, these are members of the Jewish community who want to see a city that treats people fairly, that tolerates less disparity, and that offers opportunity and hope to those who face poverty and discrimination. Sometimes, these are members of other communities who want to partner and collaborate with JCUA because they think highly of our reputation for integrity and impact.

From our base building efforts on worker justice and access to health care, from Or Tzedek, to Community Ventures (providing no-interest loans to spur community development),

to building bridges with Muslim and African-American communities, to the expansion of JCUA membership, we are mobilizing the progressive Jewish community of Chicago to work on positive social change.

In 2014, we strengthened our financial stability, increased our staff capacity, and refined our programmatic focus. As a result, our organizational infrastructure is healthy and vibrant as we face the important work ahead.

HIGHLIGHTS

These highlights are a snapshot of JCUA's work in 2014.

To learn more about our programming, campaigns, membership, events and more, please visit our blog:

<http://jcuanews.wordpress.com>

FURTHERING THE MOMENTUM: FIRST JCUA MEMBER MEETING

A little less than a year ago, JCUA embarked on a new initiative of developing a membership program. Membership in JCUA costs nothing because it is about investing your passion, desire and time for a more just and equitable Chicago. It is about standing up and saying like the great individuals throughout Jewish history, "hineni – here I am," and I am ready to do my part in the work of social justice. Since February, nearly 300 hundred people all over Chicagoland have stood up and said they wanted to be involved and take the next step. A major step occurred this past Monday night as we held our first member meeting.

While the storm raged outside nearly 40 people gathered at the Spertus Institute to further their commitment to combatting poverty and racism in Chicago. The meeting began with a welcome by Judy Levey, executive director of JCUA, who discussed the importance of building a Chicago based Jewish movement for social justice together.

Long-time lay leader Kalman Resnick introduced the work of immigration reform, Danny Kaplan, community organizer, and Ben Greenberg, director of programs, presented on JCUA's



involvement in gun violence prevention and economic justice along with bridge building programs like the Jewish-Muslim Community Building Initiative (JMCBI). Key activities during the past six months were highlighted such as our involvement in the actions to bring a trauma center to the south side, participation in the Mayor's task force on the new City of Chicago gun shop ordinance, the upcoming 9th annual Iftar in the Synagogue and our active participation in the coalition of A Better Illinois to change the state income tax structure in Illinois.

Following the presentation on where we have been, Danny and Ben introduced JCUA's organizing model, which is the foundation for all the issue based campaign work that JCUA becomes involved in. A lively conversation followed where participants offered feedback for further growth and engagement.

Topics such as criminalization and race, economic inequality being the root cause of almost all issues, environmentalism and the need to continue actively building a base within the Jewish community were at the top of the agenda of many of the people present.



HIGHLIGHTS

PRAYING WITH YOUR FEET: ROSH HASHANAH AND HEALTHCARE JUSTICE



By Leah Greenblum
JCUA Member

Most of us who live in Chicago are vastly aware of the city's segregation. For me and many of my white friends, our interactions with the city's south side are limited to visiting a select few locations. It may be eating the best pasties with a good friend, people-watching the students at University of Chicago, or checking out a mural or 20 in Pilsen. But while we're enjoying what this area of the city has to offer, sometimes we forget that many of the residents of the South Side are still very much victims of structural discrimination that deeply affects their lives.

What does structural discrimination look like in Chicago? One manifestation is the lack of trauma center on the south side. While eight trauma centers are distributed throughout the Chicago area, none are located in south side neighborhoods. There are countless stories of women and men dying from treatable gunshots in inordinately long ambulance rides to distant trauma centers.

This maldistribution of resources is an amalgamation of many inequalities at once. We all know that Chicago has some high violent crime. In particular we know that this crime is often concentrated in

pockets of neighborhoods blighted by high levels of poverty, such as Englewood, Chatham, Washington Park, and Fuller Park. We also know that gunshot victims (many of whom are not associated with gangs, but are innocent bystanders) and others who incur events causing trauma (Who hasn't had a bicycle accident?) are often in unstable physical condition so much so that time—we're talking minutes and seconds—can be the difference in life and death.

So it makes sense that, considering Chicago's crime rates—specifically the number of gunshot wounds—on the South Side, there would be at least one trauma center that would be equipped to handle patients efficiently and decrease gunshot victim deaths. Sadly, this is not currently the case.

It's clear that the University of Chicago Medical Center—which in 2012 made \$156 million in profit—could choose to build one in Hyde Park.

Community groups have identified a trauma center at the University as a potential solution to what researchers call the "trauma desert." Instead of working with the community to solve this issue, the university has chosen to ignore research, proposals, and attempts for engagement by residents and their allies.

The University of Chicago's resistance to being a part of a solution contributes to a systemic pattern of discrimination against people on the South Side.

The university chooses not to prioritize trauma care for the surrounding community based on low levels of health insurance coverage and high levels of poverty. This, in turn, leads to deaths, which continue to perpetuate weakened communities and poverty. To be clear: A trauma center is not the only answer, but it is definitely a piece of a solution.

As people of different faiths come together a new trauma center, Jewish clergy from across Chicago will sing prayers and blow the shofar. Sign up to attend this action, and pray with us for an end to structural discrimination so all people can be healed.

During Rosh Hashanah Jews pray for life, health, and prosperity, and of course eat apples and honey. As a self-identified secular Jew, I will not be attending synagogue this year during the high holidays—or probably at all. (I may, in fact, celebrate by making kugel potstickers, but that's another story.)

Although I'll be working instead of praying or atoning in public, I will still be reflecting on the question of "how to be inscribed in the Book of Life." For me, attending this event and partaking in an action that draws attention to structural inequalities that take place in the city I call home, is the kind of self-reflection that resonates most with me. I hope you all can join me as well (because I'll really need some help in drowning out my tunes).

We mustn't stop at the New Year. Indeed, everyone deserves to live years of full, sweet life.

Leah Greenblum is a JCUA Member. To get involved with JCUA's organizing work, sign up to be a member. The program is free, and connects people to organize as a Jewish voice for social justice.

HIGHLIGHTS



The Crown Hall at Spertus was filled over capacity as more than 350 friends, supporters, community leaders and former JCUA staffers turned out to celebrate. At this gala dinner marking JCUA's 50th Anniversary, the crowd was there to honor Rabbi Robert J. Marx, founder of JCUA.

Among the dignitaries sending their congratulations was Gov. Pat Quinn who called JCUA an "incredible asset not only to the Illinois' Jewish community, but to our state as a whole." Mayor

Rahm Emanuel wrote that Rabbi Marx's vision "continues to reach across religious, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds."

Great thanks to all who attended and to all whose support made the evening an extraordinary success. Special thanks, as well, to the members of Congregation Hakafa (where Rabbi Marx served as spiritual leader for many years) for underwriting the milestone event.



In his closing benediction, Dr. Rami Nashashibi, Executive Director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network, draws a smile from his friend and mentor, Rabbi Robert Marx, as (from left) Nikki Stein and Bud Lifton (event Co-chairs) and Rabbi Bruce Elder look on (photos by Marc Harris).

From the speakers...

[I learned from Rabbi Marx that] if you're waiting for the haves to decide to share with the have-nots, you're going to wait a very long time.

- Nikki Stein, Event Co-Chair

On the foundation that Rabbi Marx built so well, a new force is rising. We ask you to join us in the work that he set in motion.

- Peggy Slater, JCUA President

JCUA's work now and in the future will be bolstered by the growing collective power of like-minded people who yearn to see others treated fairly.

- Judy Levey, JCUA Executive Director



Other speakers included (from left) Rabbi Bruce Elder, Immediate Past President of JCUA; Rachel Patterson and Andrew Schapiro, emcees; and Bud Lifton, Event Co-chair.

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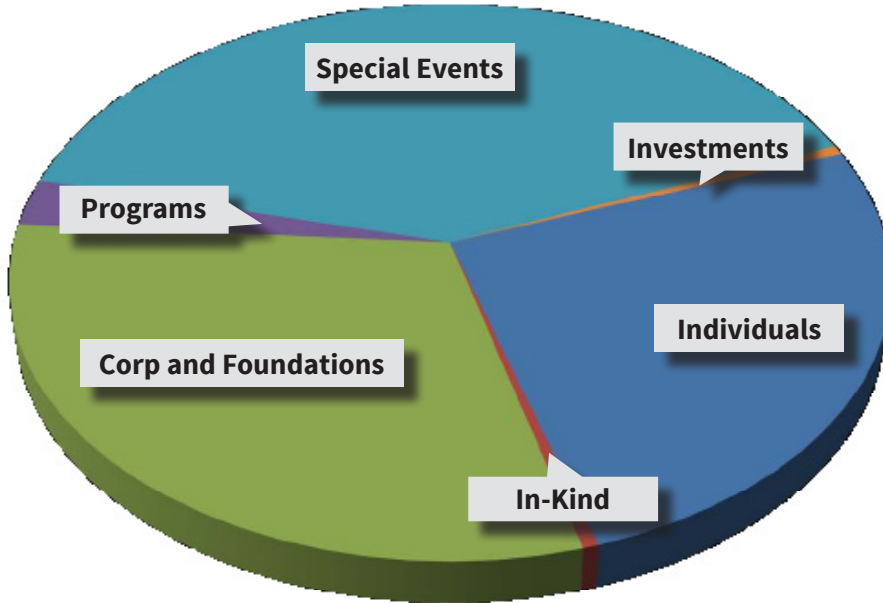
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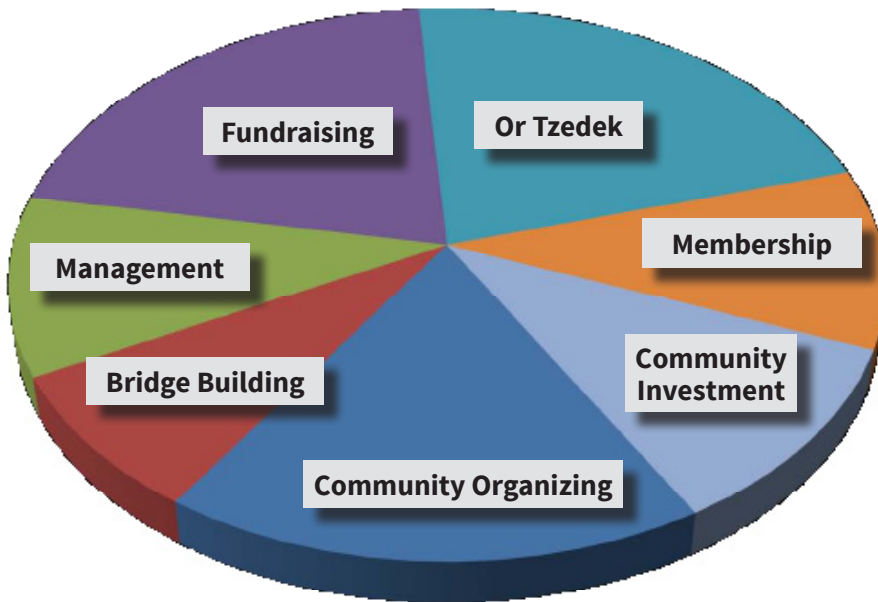
FINANCIALS

Total Revenue: \$901,712



Special Events	\$361,896	40%
Corporations & Foundations	\$273,100	30%
Individuals	\$232,832	26%
Program Revenue	\$24,532	3%
Investment Income	\$4,683	1%
In-Kind Contributions	\$4,669	1%

Total Expenses: \$817,120



Comm. Organizing	\$143,807	18%
Programs	\$240,065	29%
Or Tzedek	\$176,885	22%
Fundraising	\$170,821	21%
Management	\$85,542	10%

A copy of the audit report is available from JCUA on request.

MISSION

JCUA's mission is to combat poverty, racism and anti-Semitism in partnership with diverse communities.

We pursue social and economic justice through issue-based campaigns, community investment, and bridge building between the Jewish community and communities facing poverty and racism. Focused on mobilizing a progressive Jewish voice to address root causes of disparity, JCUA works as an ally and partner with communities across Chicago to achieve a more just city.

JCUA STAFF

These staff members served JCUA during some or all of 2014.

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Deborah Goldberg

Teen Program Coordinator

Rabbi Ben Greenberg

Director of Programs

Verna Jaunes

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