Richmond Jewish Foundation

GRANTS COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 17, 2026
Zoom Call
1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Welcome New Members

II. Approve Minutes from June 16, 2026 Meeting

III. Review Special Purpose Fund Requests

1. Gerald T. Shor Hillel Fund Requests
2. Fall Grant Requests (See attached)

IV. DAF Grant Recommendations over $50K

V. How to Implement Saslaw ($3,300) and Schapiro Education ($6,00) Funds in FY'2027

A. Solicit WJCC, Aleph Bet, & RTA to submit request letter
B. Create a competitive grant application and open up to more agencies

VI. Decide to meet or skip December meeting

VII. Adjournment

Next Grants Committee Meeting – December 15, 2026 – 12:00 p.m., if needed

DRAFT

GRANTS COMMITTEE MINUTES
ZOOM Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2026 - 12:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Jessica Samet (Chair), Rosann Bocciarelli, Janet Gale, Howard Goldfine, Ann Macheras, and John Weinberg

Staff: Dan Brandeis, CEO and Liz Garrison, Executive Assistant

Chair's Welcome and Minutes – Jessica Samet

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes from March 24, 2026, meeting was unanimously approved.

It was noted that the grant requests again exceeded the available budget allocations.

Liz referenced the Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund 2025 follow-up reports and explained that grant requests exceeded the available budgets but there were unspent allocations from 2025 Rachel Banks Fund that were not used for those 2025 grants and suggested moving the unspent allocations $3,412 to the 2026 Rachel B. Banks Fund spendable balance.

A motion to move the unspent 2025 Rachel B. Banks Fund allocations to the 2026 Rachel B. Banks Fund grant applicants was unanimously approved.

The committee moved to review and vote on the 2026 Masada College Age Youth Fund as there was only one applicant, VCU. RMC did not apply. A motion was made to approve the VCU grant request for $8,600, which was unanimously approved.

The committee then moved to review of the Grants Report including one DAF grant recommendation for $400K to Ayla's Acres a no kill shelter in St. Augustine, FL which was designated to build a new shelter for dogs/cats. The committee unanimously approved this grant.

The committee then discussed the 2026 Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund grant applications and the Summer Grant applications for special needs and senior adults and struggled to find a fair way to allocate the available funds to so many worthwhile proposals with limited funds. It was

stated that grantees should not be requesting salaries on grants for existing positions. It was suggested that the committee have a follow-up conversation on how to make cuts on grants where there are not sufficient funds to award all requests.

The committee ultimately decided to award funds to four out of the five Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund 2026 applications totaling $29,260, five grants to four organizations under the 2026 Summer Grants for Special Needs totaling $8,827 and three grants to organizations to support Senior Adults totaling $3,288. (See attached spreadsheets for Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund and 2026 Summer Grants)

Due to much time being spent discussing how to allocate so little funds to so many organizations requesting nearly twice as much as was available, it was suggested that perhaps the Grants Committee could authorize RJF staff to award small grants within a certain threshold and provide funding guidance. This needs to be revised at another meeting.

Due to time constraints the discussion of how to handle distribution from the **Benjamin and Mondel Saslaw Education Fund and Schapiro Education Funds** was tabled for a subsequent meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Richmond Jewish Foundation - Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund
2025 Applications
Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Agency	Purpose	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
RTA-Campus Modernization & Transferable Safety Asset Project	To replace hazardous legacy stone surfacing with high-grad, portable safety mulch to ensure the immediate safety of RTA students and provide a transferable asset for our school's future growth.	$4,500	**$0**
WJCC- Ruach & Recreation - Year 2	A fun, social, and educational program focused on Jewish experiences for middle school-aged kids	$15,000	**$15,000**
WJCC - Faculty Supervisor as mentor and coach to strengthen teacher retention at the WJCC Preschool	A Faculty Supervisor for the Weinstein JCC Early Childhood Department preschool program, providing structured mentoring, observation, and coaching to support teacher retention and professional growth.	$10,000	**$3,412**
Friendship Circle - Disability Awareness and Inclusion Education for Jewish Youth	Friendship Circle of Virginia will partner with Richmond-area Jewish day schools, religious schools, and other groups if appropriate (such as the JCC and Jewish youth groups) to deliver interactive disability awareness and inclusion education sessions for middle and high school-aged Jewish youth.	$9,848	**$9,848**
BBYO - Virginia Council Fall Gathering	Richmond BBYO and Virginia Council are launching a statewide Fall Gathering at Busch Gardens, uniting 75 Jewish teens across Virginia in a teen-led day of chapter connection, council-wide relationship building, and enthusiastic launch of the BBYO year.	$5,000	**$1,000**
		$44,348	**$29,260**

Available for distribution: $22,716	**$ 29,260.00**	**Remaining**	**$0**

Subsidize programs which encourage growth and development of Jewish children in the Richmond area.

Richmond Jewish Foundation
2026 Summer Special Purpose Fund Grants for Special Needs

Organization	Program	Requested Grant	Fund Grant Requested	Grant Awarded
WJCC- Voices Together Summer Camp	An inclusive summer day camp program that provides neurodivergent children with a safe, structured, and enriching environment to build social skills, engage in traditional camp activities, and experience a true sense of belonging.	$7,145	Fine	3,045
			Kramer	
			Peck	
			Total Awarded	**3,045**
RTA - C-Pen Readers	An accessible tool that will help support students who have difficulty in reading allowing them to be more independent in their academics.	$3,000	Fine	159
			Kramer	1,469
			Peck	72
			Total Awarded	**1,700**
Friendship Circle - Young Adult Division	Young adults (18-30) with disabilities and similar aged peers without disabilities meet together to participate in inclusive social experiences at no cost to attendees, building meaningful friendships and generating outcomes like reduced isolation and incresed social skills.	$3,347	Fine	
			Kramer	2,147
			Peck	105
			Total Awarded	**2,252**
Friendship Circle - Disability Awareness & Inclusion Education for Jewish Youth	Friendship Circle of Virginia will partner with Richmond-area Jewish day schools, religious schools, and other groups if appropriate (such as the JCC and Jewish youth groups) to deliver interactive disability awareness and inclusion education sessions for middle and high school-aged Jewish youth.	$859	Fine	
			Kramer	
			Peck	630
			Total Awarded	**630**
GreenSpring Foundation (HARPS Foundation) - Harp Therapy Outreach Program	The Harp Therapy Outreach Program provides tuition-free music instruction, ensemble, and performance experiences for students with mental and physical disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, and other emotional and neurological disorders.	$2,000	Fine	
			Kramer	1,200
			Peck	
			Total Awarded	**1,200**
Total Requested		$16,351	**Total Awarded**	**8,827**

Henry S. and Karin Fine Legacy Fund	$3,204	-	To support organizations in Central Virginia which (i) provide resources and support for children and adults with special needs and their families, including but not limited to learning disabilities, autism, muscular dystrophy and arthritis; and (ii) promote the education and awareness of the issues facing children and adults with special needs and their families.
Joy Kramer Memorial Fund	$4,816	-	To provide services and assistance which would otherwise not be available for the treatment of learning disabilities in the Richmond, VA area.
Jill Peck Memorial Fund	$807	-	To support programs that Jewishly enhance the lives of exceptional children through the provisions of tutorial, medical, recreational, and therapeutic assistance of any Jewish dimension, commensurate with the needs of these children.
Total	**$8,827**	-	

Richmond Jewish Foundation 2026 Summer Special Purpose Fund Grants for Senior Adults				
Organization	**Program**	**Requested Grant**	**Fund Grant Requested**	**Grant Awarded**
WJCC - EnRich for Life	EnRich for Life seeks to enhance the quality of life for Jewish adults aged 65 and older by decreasing social isolation and fostering meaninful connections.	$2,400	Fischer	1,096
			Plotkin	
			Total Awarded	**1,096**
Friendship Circle - Senior Circle	Senior Circle is a partnership between Friendship Circle of Virginia and Jewish Family Services that combats senior isolation and loneliness through three complementary, no cost services: one-on-one friendly home visits, daily telephone reassurance calls, and inclusive group events and community outings.	$6,000	Fischer	1,096
			Plotkin	-
			Total Awarded	**1,096**
JFS - Coordinated Care for Seniors in Greater Richmond	The CCS program delivers integrated, person-centered support to over 1,400 seniors and adults with disabilities in Central Virginia, helping them remain safely at home while addressing their health, emotional well-being, and daily living needs.	$5,000	Fischer	517
			Plotkin	579
			Total Awarded	**1,096**
Total		$13,400	**Total Awarded**	**$ 3,288**
		Awarded		
Anne Fischer Older Adult Fund	$2,709	-	To provide services not otherwise available to older adults.	
Sylvia and Max Plotkin Memorial Fund	$579	-	To support programs to assist senior citizens with a preference given for day-care facilities for senior citizens who reside in their own homes or the homes of their children.	
Total	**$3,288**	-		

2026 Gerald T. Shor Hillel Fund
Grant Worksheet

Agency	Amount Requested	Purpose	Suggested Amount by Shor Committee	Amount Granted
Elon University Hillel	$1,000	First Year Students of Hillel (FYSH) Program	$750	
George Mason University Hillel	$1,000	Welcome Week		
Hillel at Virginia Tech	$1,000	Passover Seder		
Hillel at VCU	$1,000	Bagel Break Program		
Hillel at VCU	$1,000	Off-campus Social Programs		
Hillel North Carolina-NC State	$1,000	Called to Care: A Jewish Approach to Medicine & Meaning	$750	
Hillel Queens University of Charlotte	$1,000	Programs and relationship-building opportunities: Meeting students where they are, literally, figuratively, and Jewishly		
Jame Madison University Hillel	$1,000	Furnish and decorate the Jewish space on campus and provide snacks, drinks, school supplies, and activities for students.		
Washington & Lee Hillel	$1,000	Expand First Year Students at Hillel (FYSH) Program		
Total:	**$9,000**			
Available for distribution: $1,500			**$1,500**	

Richmond Jewish Foundation
2026 Fall Field of Interest Grants

Organization	Program	Requested Grant	Fund Grant Requested	Grant Awarded	
Emek Sholom Holocaust Cemetery	Kristallnacht Commemoration	$2,000	**Ipson**	$ 2,000	Speaker, lodging for speaker, & security
			Kupfer		
			Lebenstein		
			Oscar/Zimm		
			Rubel		
			Total Awarded	**$ 2,000**	
Hillel at VCU	Holocaust Education and Programming and Tolerance Outreach and Training	$3,000	**Ipson**	$ 500	Student trip to the local Holocaust museum, meal, and debrief. Donuts for students who sign pledge against hate. Antisementism training for university audience contingent on university collaboration.
			Kupfer		
			Lebenstein		
			Oscar/Zimm		
			Rubel		
			Total Awarded	**$ 500**	
Congregation Or Atid	2026-27 Holocaust Education and Rembembrance Initiative: Children's Perspectives from the Holocaust	$4,935	**Ipson**	$ 500	Food, transportation, lodging, copying, mailing, programming supplies, security, decorations/paper goods, gifts/prizes, and janitorial services
			Kupfer		
			Lebenstein		
			Oscar/Zimm		
			Rubel		
			Total Awarded	**$ 500**	
Weinstein JCC	Jpride RVA	$1,100	**Lebenstein**		Shabbat dinner
			Total Awarded	**$ -**	
Friendship Circle of Virginia	Disability Awareness and Inclusion Education for Jewish Youth	$918	**Lebenstein**		
			Total Awarded	**$ -**	curriculum materials and educational resources
Rudlin Torah Academy	From Learning to Living Memory	$5,000	**Rubel**		Room rental and meals for 13 students and 2 chaperones
			Ipson	$ 2,000	
			Kupfer		
			Oscar/Zimm		
			Rubel		
			Total Awarded	**$ 2,000**	
Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities	Advancing Belonging Cohort Series: Fostering Inclusion and Preventing Indentity-Based Bullying	$1,500	Ipson		Staff time
			Kupfer		
			Lebenstein		
			Oscar/Zimm		
			Rubel		
			Total Awarded	**$ -**	
Virginia Holocaust Museum	Choices in Times of Injustice: Human Behavior and the Holocaust Teacher Workshop	$5,000	Ipson	$ -	full-day professional development workshop for 50 VA educators
			Kupfer		
			Lebenstein		
			Oscar/Zimm		
			Rubel		
			Total Awarded	$ -	
Weinstein JCC	Violins of Hope, Welcome Celebration	$2,500	**Ipson**	$ -	Lloyd Wolf photo exhibit fee, The Belvedere Series performer fees
			Kupfer		
			Oscar/Zimm		
			Rubel		
			Total Awarded	**$ -**	
	Total Requested	**$23,953**	**Total Available**	**$ 13,949**	
			Grand Total Awarded	**$ 5,000**	

		2026 Award	Purpose		
Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	$5,065	$ 5,000	Grants will be used to support Holocaust Education.		
Henry and Gertrude Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund	$2,082	$ -	Grants will be used to support Holocaust Education.		
Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights	$1,209	$ -	To support special opportunitites that enhance the practice of tolerance, appreciation for diversity and embrace human rights. Grants will be available to support the following: purchase of resources such as books or classrooms or workshops; for fees of speakers discussing in a charitable, educational or religious setting, tolerance, human rights and/or diversity; or, for such other programs, services or activities as may be in furtherance of the fund's purpose.		
Oscar/Zimm Memorial Holocaust Education Fund	$1,833	$ -	To support programming for Holocaust Education in Richmond, VA		
Herbert J and Ruth B. Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	$3,758	$ -	Grants will be used to support programming for Holocaust education, with priority given to support direct services to youth and educators located in central Virginia.		
Total Grants 2025	**$13,949**	**$5,000**			

Benjamin Ipson

bipson1992@gmail.com

Submission Date	Aug 31, 2026 7:06 PM
Submission Date	Aug 31, 2026
Focus Area	Holocaust Education
Please consider this proposal for the following funds:	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund Henry and Gertrude Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights
Name of organization(s) requesting funding:	Emek Sholom Holocaust Cemetery
Project Title	Kristallnacht Commemoration
One sentence description of your Project:	Its primary goal is to memorialize victims of the Holocaust, whose descendants live(d) in the greater Richmond area, through maintaining the historic Holocaust Memorial landmark, and promoting Holocaust education.
Project Start Date	Nov 8, 2026
Project End Date	Nov 8, 2026
Amount of Request	$ 2,000.00
How many will be served?	75-125
Total Project Budget	$ 4,500.00

Budget Table

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
1	Speaker Honorariu	500	500	0		

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
	m					
2	Speaker Lodging	500	500	0	Emek Sholom Funds	
3	Security	1500	1000	0	Emek Sholom Funds	
4	Rentals	2000	0	0	Emek Sholom Funds	
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

AoR - TCR check

0

Total Program Cost (dollar amount)

$4500

Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)

$2000

Amount of Income (dollar amount)

$0

Name of contact person for follow-up questions:

Benjamin Ipson

Address

27 Riverwood Cir

Aylett, VA, 23009

Phone

(804) 263-4468

Email

bipson1992@gmail.com

1. Project Description.

Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery [ESHMC] is the final resting place for persons of the Jewish faith who have physical and/or emotional ties to the Holocaust, and their families. Its primary goal is to memorialize victims of the Holocaust, whose descendants live(d) in the greater Richmond area, through maintaining the historic Holocaust Memorial landmark, and promoting Holocaust education.

We feel the Kristallnacht Memorial Service meets the needs of our mission by

	continuing to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust and our loved ones. At the same time we offer an educational component to teach the next generation the atrocities of the Holocaust. The original Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial was erected and dedicated in 1955 by the New American Jewish Club of Richmond. This group of refugees and survivors of the Nazi purge of European Jewry who settled in Richmond inscribed on the Memorial the names of 200 family members who perished in the Shoah. In 1997, the original Memorial, the second earliest to the Holocaust in North America, was declared a Virginia Historic Landmark with listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Following this, two additional panels were installed, inscribed with 261 more names of relatives of Richmond families lost in the Shoah. Since the dedication in 1955, a memorial service has taken place every year on the Sunday closest to November 9. We hope to be able to continue this important yearly tradition and it is for this reason we need financial support.
2. How does this project meet the mission of your organization?	The primary goal of the Kristallnacht Memorial Service and Emek Sholom is to increase community awareness and education about the holocaust and its links to the Richmond Jewish Community. Last year approximately 150 people attended the event and in the past 5 years the event has continued to grow from community partnerships with other organizations. Grant money would be used to support the Kristallnacht Memorial Service, to increase attendance, and to ensure this opportunity for Holocaust education for the community at large will continue to be an annual event.
3. Why is your organization the right one to carry out the proposed project?	As the oldest holocaust memorial in the United States, our event is one of the longest running Kristallnacht Commemoration events in the world. Our organization takes its mission to educate future generations about the holocaust very seriously and has worked the past 5 years to train newer and younger leadership to continue this mission for future generations.
4. What needs will be addressed?	The grant funding will help to cover the increased costs in security and provide funds to help pay for the key note speaker for the event.
5. Who will be served?	All attendees and members of the Richmond community interested in holocaust remembrance and education.
6. What are the specific program goals (with measurable outcomes)?	To increase attendance year over year and gain more applicants for our scholarship opportunities.
7. Has your institution offered this program before?	Yes
8. Has a national institution offered this program before?	No
8 A. If yes to questions 7 or 8, name the institutions and the results of the project.	Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery, annual attendance in excess of 75-100 attendees
9. What will define "project success"?	Increased attendance by 5% and increased scholarship program participation
10. If the program was successful, will it continue beyond the time period of requested funding?	Yes
10 A. If yes, what are your long-term funding plans?	To continue the annual event year after year for future generations.
Get Page URL	https://form.jotform.com/260678337506161

Get Referrer https://rjfoundation.org/

Steve Werby

steve@fcva.org

Submission Date	Sep 4, 2026 1:43 PM
Submission Date	Sep 4, 2026
Focus Area	Tolerance + Diversity
Please consider this proposal for the following funds:	Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights
Name of organization(s) requesting funding:	Friendship Circle of Virginia
Project Title	Disability Awareness and Inclusion Education for Jewish Youth
One sentence description of your Project:	Friendship Circle of Virginia will partner with Richmond-area Jewish day schools, religious schools, and other groups if appropriate (such as the JCC and Jewish youth groups) to deliver interactive disability awareness and inclusion education sessions for middle and high school-aged Jewish youth.
Project Start Date	Jun 29, 2026
Project End Date	Aug 31, 2027
Amount of Request	$ 918.00
How many will be served?	120–200 (primary target: middle school-aged, 11-14; secondary target: high school-aged, 14-18)
Total Project Budget	$ 19,748.00

Budget Table

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
1	Program Personnel	$10,472	$0	$5,556	Jill Peck Memorial Fund and Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund	
2	Curriculum Materials and Educational Resources	$3,500	$918	$1,857	Jill Peck Memorial Fund and Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund	This request represents 26% of the $3,500 materials budget line (curriculum development resources and workshop materials for participating Jewish youth). $1,875 has been secured via the two listed funds. This request would cover curriculum materials and other educational resources costs within the same line that remain unfunded.
3	Marketing and Outreach	$3,200	$0	$1,698	Jill Peck Memorial Fund and Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund	
4	Indirect Costs	$2,576	$0	$1,367	Jill Peck Memorial Fund and Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund	
5						
6						
7						

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
8						
9						
10						

AoR - TCR check

0

Total Program Cost (dollar amount)

$19748

Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)

$918

Amount of Income (dollar amount)

$10478

Name of contact person for follow-up questions:

Steve Werby

Address

212 N. Gaskins Rd.

Richmond, Virginia, 23238

Phone

(804) 239-2927

Email

steve@fcva.org

1. Project Description.

Friendship Circle of Virginia will develop and deliver an engaging, age-appropriate curriculum that (1) introduces middle and high school-aged Jewish youth to the spectrum of disabilities, including physical, sensory, intellectual, learning, and mental health disabilities, among others, and (2) equips them with practical tools and language for inclusive behavior. Sessions will be delivered at locations and times convenient for partner organizations, reducing barriers to participation. By embedding inclusion education within familiar Jewish community settings, we will normalize disability awareness as a Jewish value and create a common vocabulary across the community. Session leaders will emphasize the Jewish values the program is rooted in, including the belief that every person is created b'tzelem Elokim (in the image of G-d) and deserves dignity, belonging, and meaningful relationships, guided by the teachings "Lo tov heyot ha'adam levado" ("It is not good for a person to be alone") and "Kol Yisrael areivim zeh bazeh" ("All Jews are responsible for one another"). This program reflects our collective responsibility to ensure that one of Greater Richmond's most vulnerable populations are connected, included, and valued members of our community.

2. How does this project meet the mission of your organization?

Friendship Circle of Virginia's mission is to create an inclusive community by facilitating friendships and social opportunities for people to connect through meaningful social experiences at home and throughout the community. Jewish youth in the Richmond area have limited exposure to disability awareness education within their Jewish community settings, resulting in a lack of understanding and inclusion skills that can leave peers with disabilities feeling isolated or excluded from Jewish life. Staff at Friendship Circle, leadership at the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, leadership at the Jewish Community Center, and members of the broader Jewish community have

	identified this gap. By implementing this program, we will enable middle and high school-aged Jewish youth to become more inclusive, resulting in friendships and social opportunities with Jewish and non-Jewish children with disabilities they encounter in their communities.
3. Why is your organization the right one to carry out the proposed project?	Friendship Circle of Virginia has 14 years of experience addressing the needs of children and teens with disabilities and providing education and services to their family members, our teen volunteers, our teen leadership board, and others to empower them to be more inclusive in interactions with their loved ones, their friends, and others in their communities. We have built deep organizational expertise in providing orientation and education, ensuring successful participant engagement, developing organizational partnerships, implementing programs, evaluating them, and improving them. This youth disability inclusion program is a natural next phase as Friendship Circle evolves to achieve our mission. And as an organization founded on Jewish principles with staff actively engaged with Jewish institutions, we are positioned to meet the needs of Jewish youth and the Jewish organizations we are partnering with to deliver the program.
4. What needs will be addressed?	Jewish youth in the Richmond area have limited exposure to disability awareness education within their Jewish community settings, resulting in a lack of understanding and inclusion skills that can leave peers with disabilities feeling isolated or excluded from Jewish life. Without intentional education and relationship-building, young people may unknowingly create barriers for their peers with disabilities - barriers that, if left unaddressed, can persist into adulthood as they interact with Jews and non-Jews alike.
5. Who will be served?	The primary target group is middle and high school-aged Jewish youth (approximately ages 11 to 18) in the Greater Richmond area, participating through synagogues, Jewish day schools, religious schools, the Jewish Community Center, and Jewish youth groups. We anticipate reaching between 120 and 200 Jewish youth across 6 to 8 partner organizations in the first program year. Many in this group have peers, classmates, or community members with disabilities (or have disabilities themselves) but lack the language, knowledge, or confidence to be genuinely inclusive.
6. What are the specific program goals (with measurable outcomes)?	By the end of the program year, we expect participating youth to demonstrate increased awareness of different types of disabilities, greater empathy toward peers with disabilities, and improved confidence in how to be inclusive in social and community settings. We expect partner organizations to report greater ease in engaging families affected by disability and to observe more inclusive behavior among their youth participants. Longer term, this project is designed to be the first step in a sustained relationship with partner organizations, with follow-up educational programming in subsequent years and, if successful, expanded collaboration to help those organizations make their events, programming, and physical spaces more inclusive. We also expect this curriculum to be replicable and shareable with other Jewish organizations beyond the initial partner organizations and groups.
7. Has your institution offered this program before?	No
8. Has a national institution offered this program before?	Yes
8 A. If yes to questions 7 or 8, name the institutions and the results of the project.	Yes. Other Friendship Circle organizations elsewhere in the US have implemented the Mitzvah Volunteer Program (MVP), a more robust version of this project consisting of 3–6 workshop sessions at a central location. Reported outcomes include increased empathy toward individuals with disabilities, greater confidence interacting with peers with disabilities, stronger volunteer engagement, and increased awareness of the importance of inclusion within Jewish communal life.
9. What will define "project success"?	Success means that by the end of the program year, participating youth demonstrate increased awareness of different types of disabilities, greater empathy toward peers with disabilities, and improved confidence in inclusive behavior. We will use a mixed-methods assessment: pre/post session surveys measuring self-reported awareness, comfort, and knowledge, plus a broader follow-up survey of participants, partner staff, and community members after the

	program year. Results will be compiled into a program assessment report to inform curriculum refinement and future expansion.
10. If the program was successful, will it continue beyond the time period of requested funding?	Yes
10 A. If yes, what are your long-term funding plans?	Yes. Friendship Circle intends to incorporate this initiative into future organizational planning and budgeting if Year 1 demonstrates positive impact, and will pursue additional support through individual donors, community partners, and future grant opportunities. Though we expect the curriculum will evolve year to year, time associated with curriculum development, cultivating partner org relationships, and other aspects of the program are expected to become more streamlined and effective each year, potentially resulting in lower annual program costs and/or delivery of more programming generating a greater impact year over year.
Get Page URL	https://form.jotform.com/260678337506161

Sheri Rodman

sheri@hillelatvcu.org

Submission Date	Sep 3, 2026 12:27 PM
Submission Date	Sep 3, 2026
Focus Area	Holocaust Education; Tolerance + Diversity
Please consider this proposal for the following funds:	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund; Henry and Gertrude Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund; Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights; Brenda Zimm Oscar and Melvin Zimm Memorial Fund; Herbert J and Ruth B. Rubel Holocaust Education Fund
Name of organization(s) requesting funding:	Hillel at VCU
Project Title	Holocaust Education and Programming and Tolerance Outreach and Training
One sentence description of your Project:	Holocaust museum visit and debrief, Holocaust movie screening and debrief, series of antisemitism/tolerance workshops.
Project Start Date	Oct 1, 2026
Project End Date	May 30, 2027
Amount of Request	$ 3,000.00
How many will be served?	100
Total Project Budget	$ 4,000.00

Budget Table

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
1	Yom HaShoah program planning: Student trip to the local Holocaust museum and meal afterward to debrief visit. Possible screening of Holocaust movie in Student Commons.	1000	1000	1000	RJF funds and other grants, allocations, and gifts.	
2	"Donut Hate" campaign: Tabling on campus with free donuts for students who sign a pledge against hate. We will share information about how to spot and address antisemitism.	1000	1000	1000	RJF funds and other grants, allocations, and gifts.	
3	Antimenitism training for university audience: Contingent on university collaboration. Hillel has a workshop to help non-Jews better understand Judaism and how to spot antisemitism. We would love to be able to do this workshop for different groups at the university (i.e. RAs, Ram Camp students, etc.)	2000	1000	2000	RJF funds and other grants, allocations, and gifts.	
4						
5						
6						
7						

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
8						
9						
10						

AoR - TCR check

0

Total Program Cost (dollar amount)

$4000

Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)

$3000

Amount of Income (dollar amount)

$4000

Name of contact person for follow-up questions:

Sheri Rodman

Address

918 West Grace Street Apt. 2

Richmond, Virginia, 23230

Phone

(804) 213-2513

Email

sheri@hillelatvcu.org

1. Project Description.

Yom HaShoah: Hillel will commemorate Yom HaShoah through a student visit to the local Holocaust museum, followed by a shared meal and facilitated debrief. We may also offer a Holocaust film screening on campus to broaden participation.

“Donut Hate” Campaign: Hillel will table on campus with free donuts for students who sign a pledge against hate. Students will receive information and practical tools for recognizing and responding to antisemitism and other forms of hate.

Antisemitism Training: In partnership with VCU, Hillel will offer an interactive workshop that helps non-Jewish members of the university community understand Judaism, recognize antisemitism, and learn how to respond. Potential audiences include RAs, Ram Camp students, student leaders, and university staff.

2. How does this project meet the mission of your organization?

Yom HaShoah: The program strengthens Jewish identity, remembrance, education, and community while helping students connect the lessons of the Holocaust to their responsibility to build a more compassionate world.

“Donut Hate” and Antisemitism Training: The campaign supports Hillel’s commitment to Jewish student safety, belonging, and meaningful engagement by empowering students to stand against antisemitism and hate. By educating the broader VCU community about Judaism and antisemitism, Hillel promotes understanding, reduces bias, and helps create a safer and more inclusive campus for Jewish students.

3. Why is your organization the right one to carry out the proposed project?	Hillel is a trusted Jewish presence on campus with strong relationships with students and experience creating meaningful educational and community-building experiences. Our staff are positioned to facilitate thoughtful, interactive conversations with diverse campus audiences.
4. What needs will be addressed?	Yom HaShoah: Students need opportunities to learn about the Holocaust, honor its victims, and reflect on the relevance of its history to contemporary life. “Donut Hate”: The program addresses the need for greater awareness of antisemitism and other forms of hate while giving students practical tools to recognize bias and take action. Antisemitism Training: Many members of the university community have limited knowledge about Judaism or how antisemitism manifests today. This training addresses that knowledge gap and builds confidence in responding appropriately.
5. Who will be served?	Yom HaShoah: Jewish and non-Jewish VCU students, with particular emphasis on Jewish students seeking opportunities for connection, learning, and community. “Donut Hate”: VCU students broadly, with the goal of reaching a diverse cross-section of the campus community. Antisemitism Training: VCU students, student leaders, RAs, Ram Camp participants, university staff, and other campus groups.
6. What are the specific program goals (with measurable outcomes)?	Yom HaShoah: Increase participants’ knowledge of the Holocaust and its contemporary relevance. “Donut Hate”: Engage at least 300 students through tabling and the anti-hate pledge. Antisemitism Training: Have at least 85% of participants report increased knowledge of Judaism and confidence in recognizing or responding to antisemitism.
7. Has your institution offered this program before?	Yes
8. Has a national institution offered this program before?	No
8 A. If yes to questions 7 or 8, name the institutions and the results of the project.	We did a "donut hate" campaign last year and it was very successful. We also took a trip to the Holocaust museum last year and offered one antisemitism workshop, in conjunction with the school of social work.
9. What will define "project success"?	Yom HaShoah: Success will be defined by student participation, meaningful reflection and engagement, and participant feedback. “Donut Hate”: Success will be measured by student participation and pledges. Antisemitism Training: Success will be demonstrated through participation across diverse university audiences, strong participant feedback that participants feel better prepared to recognize and respond to antisemitism.
10. If the program was successful, will it continue beyond the time period of requested funding?	Yes
10 A. If yes, what are your long-term funding plans?	Renewed funding and new grants, allocations, and gifts.
Get Page URL	https://form.jotform.com/260678337506161

Get Referrer https://rjfoundation.org/

Deborah Wolff

dwolff@oratid.org

Submission Date	Sep 4, 2026 10:38 PM
Submission Date	Aug 23, 2026
Focus Area	Holocaust Education
Please consider this proposal for the following funds:	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund Henry and Gertrude Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights Brenda Zimm Oscar and Melvin Zimm Memorial Fund Herbert J and Ruth B. Rubel Holocaust Education Fund
Name of organization(s) requesting funding:	Congregation Or Atid
Project Title	2026-2027 Holocaust Education and Remembrance Initiative: Children's Perspectives from the Holocaust
One sentence description of your Project:	A yearlong initiative honoring personal histories and preserving the stories and experiences of children and descendants of Holocaust survivors across generations.
Project Start Date	Sep 27, 2026
Project End Date	May 30, 2027
Amount of Request	$ 4,935.00
How many will be served?	250
Total Project Budget	$ 6,185.00

Budget Table

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
1	Food/Refreshments	$1000	$700	300	previously awarded grant	
2	Transportation/Lodging	$850	$750	100	private donation	lodging, meals, travel for survivor
3	Copying	$350	$350			
4	Mailing	$225	$225			
5	Programming Supplies	$1500	$1150	450	private donation,previously awarded grant	
6	Security	$960	$660	300	previously awarded grant	
7	Decorations/Paper goods	$500	$300	200	previously awarded grant	
8	Gifts/Prizes	$500	$500			
9	Janitorial Services	$300	$300			
10						

AoR - TCR check

0

Total Program Cost (dollar amount)

$6185

Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)

$4935

Amount of Income (dollar amount)

$1350

Name of contact person for follow-up questions:

Deborah Wolff

Address

10625 Patterson Ave

Henrico, VA, 23238

Phone

(856) 323-4673

Email	dwolff@oratid.org

1. Project Description.

Congregation Or Atid is embarking on a year-long Holocaust education and remembrance initiative during the 2026–2027 program year. Built around the theme "Children's Perspectives from the Holocaust," the initiative will feature three interconnected community programs designed to engage children, families, students, educators, survivors, descendants of survivors, and the broader Richmond community. Through hands-on learning, first-person testimony, and intergenerational storytelling, the program will preserve Holocaust memory while helping participants understand the contemporary responsibility to recognize and confront hatred, antisemitism, and intolerance.

Event 1: The Living Holocaust Memorial Daffodil Project at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center

The first program, "The Living Holocaust Memorial Daffodil Project at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center" will take place on November 1, 2026. In commemoration of the approximately 1.5 million children who perished during the Holocaust. Religious School students from Congregation Or Atid and other Richmond-area congregations will gather at Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center to plant 250–500 daffodils as part of the International Daffodil Project's effort to plant 1.5 million daffodils worldwide.

The Daffodil Project creates a living memorial to the children murdered during the Holocaust while connecting their memory to children experiencing humanitarian crises today. This program will provide a hands-on, multisensory educational experience that makes Holocaust remembrance tangible and age-appropriate for younger learners. Through planting, reflection, and discussion, students will explore themes of remembrance, hope, kindness, human dignity, and responsibility.

A follow-up visit in the spring will allow students to return to the garden, observe the daffodils in bloom, and reflect on how their acts of remembrance have become a living memorial. The two-part experience will reinforce the connection between memory, growth, and hope.

Event 2: Kristallnacht – A Commemoration

The second program, "Kristallnacht – A Commemoration", will take place November 6–9, 2026, and will feature child Holocaust survivor Joel Fabian. Mr. Fabian will share his firsthand experience as a five-year-old child who was transported from Berlin to Terezín. His testimony will provide participants with a child's perspective on the Holocaust, including his family's efforts to save the parochet (Torah ark curtain) from their Berlin synagogue during Kristallnacht, his experiences as a young child in the camp, and his eventual immigration to the United States.

Mr. Fabian subsequently served for several decades in the United States Army and has become a recognized Holocaust educator and speaker. His family's photograph is displayed at a Holocaust museum, and he currently serves as Holocaust Education Chair for the Jewish War Veterans. His participation will provide students and community members with the invaluable opportunity to learn directly from a survivor and to understand the Holocaust through the lived experience of a child.

Event 3: Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance and Commemoration

The third program will be Congregation Or Atid's 5th Annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance and Commemoration Day presented for the greater Richmond community. The program will feature Brian Meyer, who will share his father George Meyer's story of Holocaust survival while also exploring his own experience growing up as the child of a survivor. Dr. Brian Meyer, has recently retired from the V.A. after 17 years of practice as a clinical psychologist and traumatologist. He is a nationally recognized as a trauma expert, who has given over 450 conference presentations on trauma and its effects. He has also presented professionally on the Holocaust and the retelling of his family's story.

Brian's father, George Meyer has his photo displayed at the VHM in Richmond.

By presenting both first- and second-generation perspectives, the program will examine how Holocaust experiences are carried across generations and how memory, trauma, resilience, and identity continue to shape families and communities. As part of the program, students will also be invited to participate in an essay contest connected to the national Yom HaShoah theme, with cash prizes awarded to three winners. The contest will encourage young people to engage critically and personally with Holocaust history and consider its relevance to contemporary society.

Community Impact and Intergenerational Learning

Together, these three free and accessible programs will create an intergenerational learning experience for the Richmond Jewish and non-Jewish communities. The initiative is intentionally designed to “bridge the generations” by connecting young children with Holocaust history through age-appropriate, hands-on experiences while providing older students, parents, educators, and community members with opportunities to engage with survivor and descendant testimony.

The program will preserve and amplify personal first- and second-generation experiences at a critical moment in Holocaust remembrance. As the number of living survivors continues to decline, opportunities to hear firsthand accounts and connect those stories with the experiences of survivors’ children and grandchildren are increasingly important. Bringing these voices into community-based educational programs helps ensure that personal histories are not lost and that Holocaust remembrance remains meaningful for future generations.

The initiative also moves beyond teaching the historical facts of the Holocaust. Participants will be encouraged to examine the human behaviors and societal conditions that allow hatred, prejudice, dehumanization, and intolerance to flourish. Through remembrance and reflection, the programs will promote values of empathy, human dignity, courage, inclusion, and responsibility.

At a time when antisemitism is escalating across the United States and around the world, accessible Holocaust education is more important than ever. Congregation Or Atid’s 2026–2027 initiative responds to this need by creating meaningful educational experiences for multiple generations—from young children planting a living memorial to students engaging with survivor testimony and community members reflecting on the continuing legacy of the Holocaust.

Ultimately, the program seeks not only to remember the children who were lost, but to empower today's children and adults to recognize the consequences of hatred and intolerance and to become active participants in building a more compassionate, informed, and inclusive community.

2. How does this project meet the mission of your organization?

The mission of Congregation Or Atid is to serve and support each member in a caring, respectful and collaborative manner. Congregation Or Atid is a vibrant, multi-generational congregation that is warm and friendly, and devoted to enriching our members’ lives. We enable each member to achieve his or her own Jewish identity through innovative and traditional worship experiences, lifelong learning, and community involvement.

The 2026-2027 Holocaust Education and Remembrance Initiative: Children's Perspectives from the Holocaust supports our commitment to education, legacy, community, and Jewish values.

3. Why is your organization the right one to carry out the proposed project?

Congregation Or Atid is uniquely positioned to carry out this initiative because it has already established itself as a trusted and reputable leader in Holocaust education and remembrance within the Richmond community. These programs build upon a demonstrated history of meaningful Holocaust education at the synagogue rather than creating a new initiative from the ground up. Congregation Or Atid has developed programs that engage learners of different ages and backgrounds while creating opportunities for the broader Richmond community to learn, remember, and reflect together.

The Daffodil Project was established at Congregation Or Atid in 2021 as part of

the synagogue's Gan Chesed (Kindness Garden), creating an ongoing living memorial to the children who perished in the Holocaust. The project has provided students and congregants with a tangible way to participate in Holocaust remembrance while connecting the lessons of the past to the values of kindness, compassion, and responsibility in the present. Expanding the project beyond the synagogue property represents a natural next step in its development and impact.

Congregation Or Atid is also preparing for its fifth annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance and Commemoration program, demonstrating an established commitment to providing the Richmond community with meaningful Holocaust education year after year. Through these programs, the congregation has created a foundation of experience, community relationships, and institutional knowledge that will support the successful implementation of this expanded initiative.

Additionally, Congregation Or Atid has several years of success hosting its "Our History, Our Stories: Journeys of Jewish Communities Across Time and Continents" speaker series. These programs have attracted audiences of more than 100 attendees, drawing participants from throughout the greater Richmond Jewish and non-Jewish community. The series demonstrates COA's ability to develop educational programming that resonates beyond its congregation, attract diverse community audiences, and create meaningful opportunities for cultural and historical learning.

The 2026–2027 program represents an exciting opportunity to build upon this established foundation and significantly broaden its reach. Congregation Or Atid is expanding the outreach of the Daffodil Project beyond the synagogue campus to the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center, a well-visited, community destination This expansion will transform a synagogue-based memorial into a public, living memorial that can be experienced by individuals and families throughout the greater community.

By combining an established history of Holocaust education with new opportunities for public engagement, Congregation Or Atid is well equipped to connect Jewish and non-Jewish audiences through education, remembrance, and shared community experiences. The congregation's proven commitment, existing programming infrastructure, and vision for expanding outreach make it an ideal organization to lead this year-long initiative and maximize its lasting impact on the Richmond community.

The 2026–2027 program represents an exciting opportunity to build upon this established foundation and significantly broaden its reach.

By combining an established history of Holocaust education with a proven ability to engage broad community audiences, Congregation Or Atid is well equipped to connect Jewish and non-Jewish audiences through education, remembrance, and shared community experiences. The congregation's proven commitment, existing programming infrastructure, community partnerships, and vision for expanding outreach make it an ideal organization to lead this year-long initiative and maximize its lasting impact on the Richmond community.

4. What needs will be addressed?

This initiative addresses an urgent and increasingly time-sensitive need to preserve Holocaust history and personal testimony, strengthen Jewish identity, and provide accessible Holocaust education that helps communities recognize and confront antisemitism, hatred, and intolerance.

Preserving firsthand and intergenerational testimony: The opportunity to hear directly from Holocaust survivors is rapidly diminishing as the survivor population ages. The window to invite survivors with personal connections to Richmond to share their experiences with the community is closing. At the same time, there is an increasing need to elevate the voices of the second generation —the children of survivors—whose personal and family experiences provide an essential link to preserving Holocaust history for future generations. Without intentional efforts to capture and share these stories, irreplaceable personal histories and perspectives risk being lost.

Providing meaningful Holocaust education across generations: There is a need for Holocaust education that is developmentally appropriate, engaging, and

accessible to learners at different stages of life. Young children need opportunities to encounter Holocaust remembrance through tangible experiences that introduce values of kindness, compassion, hope, and human dignity. Older elementary and religious school students need opportunities to develop an understanding of their collective Jewish history and the critical thinking skills necessary to engage with increasingly complex historical information. College-aged students and young adults need opportunities to connect Holocaust history to the world beyond the classroom and to develop the knowledge, relationships, and confidence necessary to confront antisemitism and other forms of hate. Adults and families need opportunities to learn from survivors and their descendants and to reflect on how history can inform the choices we make as a community.

Strengthening Jewish identity and continuity: There is a particular need to ensure that younger generations understand and maintain a connection to Jewish history, values, and collective memory. The Daffodil Project addresses this need by transforming Holocaust remembrance into a hands-on experience for children. Planting a living memorial provides an age-appropriate way for young participants to honor the children who were lost while connecting remembrance to enduring Jewish values of kindness, love, compassion, and responsibility.

Addressing the rise of antisemitism and intolerance: Congregation Or Atid's program planners have identified an urgent educational need in response to the escalating presence of antisemitism, hate, intolerance, and indifference in communities and institutions, including on college campuses. Holocaust education provides an important historical framework for understanding how prejudice, dehumanization, discrimination, and hatred can develop and escalate. There is a need to move beyond simply remembering what happened in the past and to help individuals recognize warning signs, challenge indifference, and understand their own responsibility to promote human dignity and oppose hatred.

Building stronger and more resilient communities: There is also a need for opportunities that bring Jewish and non-Jewish community members together around shared learning and personal stories. Holocaust remembrance can serve as a bridge across generations, faith communities, and backgrounds by creating spaces for dialogue, empathy, and relationship-building. Accessible community programming allows participants to learn not only about the Holocaust, but from the Holocaust—considering how its lessons can inform the way we live together today.

The central need underlying this initiative is the opportunity—and responsibility—to remember our past in order to learn from history and shape our future. As firsthand survivor testimony becomes increasingly limited and antisemitism continues to threaten communities, Holocaust education must be preserved, expanded, and made accessible at the grassroots level. This initiative responds to that need by ensuring that Holocaust stories and lessons remain part of the community's collective memory while equipping future generations with the knowledge, empathy, and resilience necessary to confront hatred and build a community in which all people can live, learn, and thrive together.

5. Who will be served?

This initiative will serve Congregation Or Atid members and families as well as the greater Richmond Jewish and non-Jewish community, providing Holocaust education and remembrance opportunities for participants across generations. The programs are intentionally designed to reach distinct age groups—from young children encountering Holocaust remembrance for the first time to adults and community members engaging with firsthand and second-generation testimony.

Children and families will be directly served through the Living Holocaust Memorial Daffodil Project. This hands-on experience will invite children and their families to participate actively in remembrance by planting daffodils in memory of the 1.5 million children who perished during the Holocaust. The project will provide an age-appropriate entry point into Holocaust education while connecting remembrance to values of kindness, compassion, hope, and human dignity. Beyond the direct participants, the resulting living memorial will serve as a visible reminder to the broader Richmond community and visitors to the site. The location attracts an average of more than 80,000 visitors annually, significantly extending the reach and visibility of the project beyond those who

participate in the planting.

Religious School students and their families will also be served through the Kristallnacht commemoration, which is specifically designed to provide an intergenerational learning experience. The program will give children and adults the opportunity to hear from one of the few remaining child survivors of a concentration camp and to engage with his personal experience of the Holocaust. Programming will take place over the course of Shabbat and a Religious School morning, from Friday evening through Sunday morning, allowing multiple generations to learn together in a setting that encourages reflection, discussion, and connection.

The greater Richmond Jewish community and the broader public will be served through Congregation Or Atid's Annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance and Commemoration. The program has historically attracted members of the greater Richmond Jewish community and will continue to welcome anyone interested in learning about the Holocaust through personal and intergenerational experiences. By intentionally welcoming both Jewish and non-Jewish participants, the event creates an opportunity for shared learning and dialogue and broadens understanding of the Holocaust and its continuing relevance. A unique focus will be inviting college and university students from the surrounding area through contacting Hillels as well as teachers/professors of religion, history, and social work/social justice students.

Collectively, these programs will serve children, students, young adults, parents, families, educators, seniors, Holocaust survivors and their descendants, and community members of all backgrounds. The initiative is designed to ensure that Holocaust education is not confined to a single age group, congregation, or community, but instead becomes a shared Richmond community experience.

The initiative's reach will extend beyond direct program participants. Through the public-facing Daffodil memorial, community-wide Yom HaShoah programming, and survivor and descendant presentations, the project will engage individuals who may have little or no previous connection to Holocaust education. In this way, Congregation Or Atid will use its established programming and community relationships to make Holocaust remembrance accessible to a broad and diverse audience throughout the Richmond region.

6. What are the specific program goals (with measurable outcomes)?

The 2026–2027 Holocaust Education and Remembrance Initiative will measure success through participant engagement, educational impact, community reach, and changes in knowledge and awareness. The following measurable outcomes will be used to evaluate the initiative:

1. Increase access to firsthand and intergenerational Holocaust testimony

* Provide opportunities for community members to hear directly from at least one Holocaust survivor and multiple second- and/or third-generation descendants of survivors.
* Engage participants with personal stories that connect Holocaust history to the ongoing experiences, identities, and lives of survivors and their families.
* Document the number of attendees and participant demographics for each program to measure the initiative's intergenerational reach.

2. Increase community engagement with aging Holocaust survivors and their stories.

* Engage at least 250 participants across the three programs in opportunities to hear survivor testimony and firsthand accounts.
* Provide opportunities for participants to ask questions and engage directly with presenters.
* Collect participant feedback following programs to assess whether attendees gained a greater understanding of the survivor's personal experience and the importance of preserving survivor testimony for future generations.

3. Increase awareness of antisemitism, hatred, and intolerance and participants' ability to recognize their impact.

* Increase participants' understanding of the connection between Holocaust history and contemporary antisemitism, prejudice, and hate.

* Use pre- and post-program surveys, when appropriate, to measure changes in participants' knowledge and awareness.
* At least 20% of surveyed participants will report increased awareness of the dangers of antisemitism, intolerance, and indifference and a greater understanding of their personal responsibility to challenge hate.

4. Strengthen Jewish identity, connection, and continuity across generations.

* Engage children, Religious School students, young adults, families, college students, and adults in meaningful Holocaust remembrance and Jewish learning experiences.
* Provide at least one hands-on, experiential opportunity for children to connect Jewish values—including kindness, compassion, remembrance, hope, and human dignity—to Holocaust education.
* At least 20% of surveyed Jewish participants will report that participation increased their connection to Jewish history, identity, values, or community.

5. Increase lifelong learning and community participation.

* Engage participants from the greater Richmond Jewish and non-Jewish community, including individuals who are not Congregation Or Atid members.
* Track attendance, repeat participation, and participant affiliation to measure the initiative's ability to reach beyond the congregation.
* At least 20% of participants surveyed will report gaining new knowledge or perspectives through the programs.

6. Strengthen community relationships and resilience.

* Create opportunities for Jewish and non-Jewish community members to learn together and engage in meaningful dialogue around Holocaust history and its contemporary relevance.
* Measure participants' reported sense of connection to the broader community and their willingness to participate in future educational or community programs.
* Establish the Daffodil Project as an ongoing public memorial and educational resource that extends Holocaust remembrance beyond the immediate program participants.
* Track the number of college/university students who attend at least one of the three programs

7. Encourage youth engagement with Holocaust history and its contemporary relevance.

* Provide students with an opportunity to participate in an essay contest connected to the national Yom HaShoah theme, encouraging them to engage critically and personally with Holocaust history and consider its relevance to contemporary society.
* Award cash prizes to three student winners, recognizing thoughtful engagement and encouraging continued interest in Holocaust education.
* Track the number of students who participate and evaluate submitted essays for evidence of historical understanding, personal reflection, critical thinking, and connections between Holocaust history and contemporary issues.
* Use the essay contest to amplify youth voices and provide students with an opportunity to articulate how the lessons of the Holocaust can inform their understanding of antisemitism, hatred, human dignity, and their responsibilities to future generations.

Evaluation Methods

Congregation Or Atid will evaluate the initiative through attendance tracking, participant demographics, pre- and post-program surveys where appropriate, participant feedback, essay contest participation, and qualitative responses from attendees. Evaluation will focus on changes in knowledge, awareness of antisemitism and hate, connection to Jewish history and identity, and participants' sense of community engagement.

The combination of quantitative participation data and qualitative participant feedback will allow Congregation Or Atid to measure both the reach of the

initiative and its educational and community impact. Findings will also inform future Holocaust education and remembrance programming and help ensure that the initiative continues to meet the evolving needs of the Richmond community.

7. Has your institution offered this program before?

Yes

8. Has a national institution offered this program before?

Yes

8 A. If yes to questions 7 or 8, name the institutions and the results of the project.

Previous Experience and Results

Congregation Or Atid has successfully implemented key components of this initiative in previous years, providing an established foundation for the proposed 2026–2027 programming.

The Daffodil Project was established at Congregation Or Atid in 2021 as part of the Gan Chesed (Kindness Garden). The Daffodil Project continues to bloom as both a living memorial and an educational and contemplative opportunity for Religious School students, congregants, and visitors to the garden. The garden is maintained by congregational volunteers and is incorporated into Congregation Or Atid's Religious School curriculum on the Shoah, allowing students to connect Holocaust history with tangible acts of remembrance, kindness, and community responsibility. The Daffodil Project is part of an international effort to plant 1.5 million daffodil bulbs worldwide in memory of the 1.5 million children who perished during the Holocaust. To date, approximately 1,242,000 bulbs have been planted worldwide.

Congregation Or Atid has also successfully hosted its Annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance and Commemoration for the past four years. Each year, the program has presented both first- and second-generation perspectives, providing participants with opportunities to learn from personal experiences of Holocaust survivors and their descendants. Attendance has included members of other faith communities, members of other Richmond synagogues, and individuals who are not affiliated with a congregation, demonstrating the program's ability to reach beyond the Congregation Or Atid membership and engage the broader Richmond community.

The Yom HaShoah program has incorporated prayer, reflection, personal testimony, audience questions and discussion, and opportunities for interfaith and inter-community connection. As part of the program, students have participated in an essay contest connected to the national Yom HaShoah theme. To date, 12 students have been recognized with cash prizes for their essays, demonstrating sustained youth engagement with Holocaust history and its relevance to contemporary life.

The results of these established programs demonstrate Congregation Or Atid's ability to successfully deliver Holocaust education across generations, engage both Jewish and non-Jewish community members, provide meaningful opportunities for personal testimony, and encourage young people to actively engage with the lessons of the Holocaust. The proposed 2026–2027 initiative builds upon this proven foundation while expanding its reach, particularly through the public Daffodil Project and the integration of first-, second-, and third-generation perspectives.

9. What will define "project success"?

Project success will be defined by the initiative's ability to engage the community, increase understanding of Holocaust history through personal testimony, strengthen Jewish identity and values, and help participants recognize the continuing relevance of Holocaust education in confronting hatred and antisemitism.

Success will be assessed through a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures, including:

Community participation: Track the number of children, families, Religious School students, adults, and community members participating in each program,

with particular attention to participation from outside Congregation Or Atid.

Daffodil Project engagement: Measure the number of children and families participating in the planting event and the number of daffodil bulbs planted. Success will also include positive feedback from the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center regarding the completed living memorial and its value as a public educational and remembrance resource.

Educational impact: Gather participant survey responses following the Kristallnacht and Yom HaShoah programs to assess whether participants gained new knowledge and a deeper understanding of Holocaust history through firsthand and intergenerational testimony.

Youth learning and engagement: Assess Religious School students' ability to articulate connections between Holocaust history, Jewish values such as kindness, tolerance, compassion, and human dignity, and the importance of preserving the personal stories of those who perished and survived.

Understanding of antisemitism and intolerance: Success will be demonstrated when participants report or demonstrate an increased ability to recognize the consequences of intolerance, hatred, antisemitism, and indifference and to connect lessons from the Holocaust to their responsibilities in contemporary society.

Intergenerational connection: Evaluate participants' responses regarding the value of hearing directly from Holocaust survivors and second- and third-generation descendants and whether these experiences deepened their understanding of how Holocaust experiences continue to affect individuals and families.

Youth expression through the essay contest: Measure student participation in the Yom HaShoah essay contest and assess essays for evidence of historical understanding, personal reflection, critical thinking, and connections between Holocaust history and contemporary issues.

Community response: Collect qualitative feedback from participants, presenters, community partners, and volunteers to determine whether the programs fostered meaningful reflection, dialogue, connection, and a greater sense of community.

Ultimately, the project will be considered successful if it reaches beyond the walls of Congregation Or Atid, engages multiple generations, preserves and amplifies personal Holocaust testimony, strengthens Jewish identity and values, and leaves participants with a deeper understanding of how remembering the past can help us recognize and confront hatred and antisemitism in the present and future.

10. If the program was successful, will it continue beyond the time period of requested funding?

Yes

10 A. If yes, what are your long-term funding plans?

Program Continuation and Future Funding

Congregation Or Atid intends to continue Holocaust education and remembrance programming beyond the 2026–2027 grant period. The success and community response to these programs will provide a foundation for sustaining and expanding the initiative in future years.

Long-term funding will be supported through a combination of private donations, congregational resources, and additional grant opportunities. Congregation Or Atid will actively seek individual and community donations from those who value Holocaust education, remembrance, and the preservation of survivor and intergenerational stories. The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund may also be utilized as needed to help support future programming and ensure continuity.

In addition, Congregation Or Atid will identify and pursue additional local, regional, and national grant opportunities aligned with Holocaust education, Jewish identity, intergenerational learning, community engagement, and

combating antisemitism. The congregation will use the outcomes and participation data collected through this initiative to demonstrate its impact and strengthen future funding applications.

By combining private philanthropy, congregational support, and diversified grant funding, Congregation Or Atid seeks to establish Holocaust education and remembrance as a sustainable, ongoing community program rather than a one-time initiative. The congregation will continue to build upon successful programs, develop new intergenerational learning opportunities, and expand outreach to the greater Richmond Jewish and non-Jewish community.

Get Page URL	https://www.jotform.com/draft/01a0303cd05870008d600c077018da01b528

Sorah Plotnick

mrsplotnick@rudlin.com

Submission Date	Sep 4, 2026 10:29 AM
Submission Date	Sep 4, 2026
Focus Area	Holocaust Education
Please consider this proposal for the following funds:	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund Henry and Gertrude Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights Brenda Zimm Oscar and Melvin Zimm Memorial Fund Herbert J and Ruth B. Rubel Holocaust Education Fund
Name of organization(s) requesting funding:	Rudlin Torah Academy
Project Title	From Learning to Living Memory
One sentence description of your Project:	A year-long focus on Holocaust education culminating in an opportunity for students to visit a world-renowned Holocaust museum on Yom HaShoah, either Yad Vashem in Israel or the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.
Project Start Date	Oct 12, 2026
Project End Date	May 5, 2027
Amount of Request	$ 5,000.00
How many will be served?	13
Total Project Budget	$ 70,000.00

Budget Table

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
1	Israel-Air/Room/Meals 13 students/2 Chaperone	70000	5000	13000	Parents/Various organizations	
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

AoR - TCR check

0

Total Program Cost (dollar amount)

$70000

Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)

$5000

Amount of Income (dollar amount)

$13000

Name of contact person for follow-up questions:

Sorah Plotnick

Address

3809 PATTERSON AVE

RICHMOND, VA, 23221

Phone

(804) 353-1110

Email

mrsplotnick@rudlin.com

1. Project Description.

After a year-long course of 8th grade study in Holocaust Education as part of RTA's Jewish History curriculum, students will have the privilege of traveling to visit a world-renowned Holocaust museum. This experience will serve as a meaningful culmination of their learning, allowing students to move beyond the classroom and experience firsthand a place dedicated to preserving the memory and history of the Holocaust.

2. How does this project meet the mission of your organization?

RTA's mission is to offer quality, meaningful Jewish education to all students, opening doors and creating opportunities for every Jewish student. An important

	part of Jewish education is understanding the significant history of the Jewish people, including the Holocaust. This project allows students to study this history in an age-appropriate and meaningful way and then experience its memory and significance in person.
3. Why is your organization the right one to carry out the proposed project?	RTA is committed to educating students and serving our community through meaningful Jewish education. Our students have the opportunity to learn Jewish history as an integral part of their academic curriculum. Because Holocaust education is part of our Jewish History curriculum, RTA is uniquely positioned to provide students with both the classroom foundation and the opportunity to experience this history beyond the classroom.
4. What needs will be addressed?	This project addresses the need for students to receive age-appropriate Holocaust education and to have the opportunity to visit a Holocaust museum as a culmination of their learning. Experiencing a museum on or around Yom HaShoah will help students connect what they have studied throughout the year with the responsibility of remembering and honoring the lives and experiences of those affected by the Holocaust.
5. Who will be served?	RTA 8th grade students.
6. What are the specific program goals (with measurable outcomes)?	The goal of the program is to ensure that Holocaust education is meaningfully incorporated into RTA's Jewish History curriculum and that RTA 8th grade students have the opportunity to experience a nationally or internationally recognized Holocaust museum in person on Yom HaShoah. A measurable outcome of the program will be that participating 8th grade students complete a year-long course of study focused on Holocaust education and participate in a culminating educational experience at Yad Vashem in Israel or the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.
7. Has your institution offered this program before?	No
8. Has a national institution offered this program before?	Unsure at the time of filling out application
9. What will define "project success"?	Project success will be defined by RTA 8th grade students having the opportunity to visit Yad Vashem in Israel or the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, as a culmination of their year-long Holocaust education and on or around Yom HaShoah. Success will mean that students are able to connect their classroom learning with a meaningful, in-person experience that deepens their understanding of the Holocaust and their connection to Jewish history and memory.
10. If the program was successful, will it continue beyond the time period of requested funding?	Yes
10 A. If yes, what are your long-term funding plans?	If the program is successful, then it will be built into the budget for future years.
Get Page URL	https://form.jotform.com/260678337506161
Get Referrer	https://rjfoundation.org/

Jonathan Zur

jzur@inclusiveva.org

Submission Date	Sep 2, 2026 5:00 PM
Submission Date	Sep 2, 2026
Focus Area	Holocaust Education; Tolerance + Diversity
Please consider this proposal for the following funds:	Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights; Herbert J and Ruth B. Rubel Holocaust Education Fund
Name of organization(s) requesting funding:	Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC)
Project Title	Advancing Belonging Cohort Series: Fostering Inclusion and Preventing Identity-Based Bullying
One sentence description of your Project:	Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) will equip public school district-level administrators in the Richmond area with strategies to foster inclusive school cultures and proactively counter identity-based bullying, including antisemitism.
Project Start Date	Oct 1, 2026
Project End Date	May 31, 2027
Amount of Request	$ 1,500.00
How many will be served?	20
Total Project Budget	$ 2,500.00

Budget Table

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
1	Staff Time	1,850	1500	1500	Richmond Jewish	

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
					Foundation	
2	Travel	150		1000	Individual Donors	
3	Supplies & Printing	100				
4	Meals	400				
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

AoR - TCR check

0

Total Program Cost (dollar amount)

$2500

Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)

$1500

Amount of Income (dollar amount)

$2500

Name of contact person for follow-up questions:

Jonathan Zur

Address

5511 Staples Mill Road, Suite 202

Richmond, VA, 23228

Phone

(804) 515-7950

Email

jzur@inclusiveva.org

1. Project Description.

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) respectfully requests a grant of $1,500 from the Herbert J. and Ruth B. Rubel Holocaust Education Fund and the Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights to support the participation of Richmond-area educators in the second year of VCIC's new 5-part cohort program for district-level administrators titled the "Advancing Belonging Cohort Series (ABCs)." Launched in January 2026, the pilot was a success and VCIC is replicating and expanding the program for 2027. Funds will support Richmond-area administrators participating in series, as well as the distribution of specialized resources to educators at our regional summits.

This cohort program is designed to meet the specific needs of district-level

administrators seeking to create more inclusive school environments, equipping them with evidence-based strategies to foster inclusion and proactively counter identity-based bullying, including antisemitism.

Cohort members are recruited from among district-level administrators (heads of counseling, curriculum leads, and others who are well-positioned to positively impact culture through their departments and policy) from across the Commonwealth. The series includes a mix of in-person and virtual learning sessions, all designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to proactively foster inclusive district cultures.

Building on a highly effective pilot program earlier this year, VCIC is making targeted enhancements. If awarded, RJF funding will be utilized to support the in-person kickoff event to launch this year's Richmond-area cohort.

Additionally, funding will support the printing and distribution of VCIC's new "Combatting Antisemitism and Bias in Schools" resource guide (www.inclusiveVA.org/cabs). Originally developed in partnership with the Tidewater Jewish Foundation, this comprehensive guide will be distributed directly to participating educators in the Advancing Belonging Cohort Series, as well as the educators attending the Richmond Diversity Dialogue Day and the Richmond Prejudice Awareness Summit.

VCIC programs are based on our well-proven “Achieving Success through Inclusion” approach, developed through decades of experience providing anti-prejudice programming, collaborative learning exchanges with peer organizations, and current research on effective anti-bias education.

2. How does this project meet the mission of your organization?

VCIC’s mission is to work with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success by addressing prejudices, in all forms, to improve academic achievement, increase workplace productivity, and enhance local trust. VCIC has a long history of supporting Virginia schools, businesses, and communities to navigate issues related to inclusion. Founded in 1935 as the Virginia Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ), ongoing work on an expanding set of diversity issues through the decades cemented NCCJ’s (and now VCIC’s) reputation as a trusted and valued resource for advancing inclusion across the state.

This enhanced program is in alignment with VCIC’s mission and furthers a key goal of our current strategic plan: to deepen our impact by developing proactive program offerings for influential leadership groups to equip them to effectively advance inclusion within their spheres of influence. By combining our interactive cohort model with the distribution of the "Combatting Antisemitism and Bias in Schools" guide, we are equipping educators to do just that.

3. Why is your organization the right one to carry out the proposed project?

VCIC actively works with schools across Virginia to assess climate and culture while working to remove barriers to inclusion. Over the years, we have become a go-to resource to advance inclusion in Virginia. Participants in VCIC programs represent the full diversity of identities and experiences across the Commonwealth, and our programs are known for bringing students, educators, co-workers, and community members together across lines of race, religion, class, sexual orientation, employment sector, and political affiliation.

VCIC has provided thousands of student and educator leadership programs based on our well-proven “Achieving Success through Inclusion” over decades. Last year, VCIC delivered nearly 450 programs to over 11,750 Virginians, increasing participants’ abilities to recognize and intervene in moments of prejudice or discrimination and their capacity to proactively advance inclusion in their schools, workplaces, and communities. In recent years, we have been engaged to support schools after incidents of bias and antisemitism in Chesterfield, Goochland, Henrico, Powhatan, Richmond, and across Virginia.

VCIC’s programs are constantly being updated to incorporate national models and best practices in diversity and inclusion education and youth development. VCIC has facilitated programs on the importance of Holocaust education to assist students and educators to develop an understanding of the consequences of prejudice, racism, antisemitism and stereotyping in any society. It helps students develop an awareness of the value of diversity and encourages sensitivity to the positions of minorities.

4. What needs will be addressed?

The Anti-Defamation League reports 159 antisemitic incidents for Virginia in 2025 (down 40% from 2024, which saw 266 antisemitic incidents, yet up 225% from 2020 when the state had 49 recorded incidents), registering it as the state with the 12th highest number of incidents reported across the country. The ADL notes this marked Virginia's "third consecutive year of growth in antisemitic incidents."

In schools, hate speech and discrimination often takes the form of bullying. Bullying can have many negative effects on young people, including lower academic achievement, increased rates of drug and alcohol use, depression, anxiety, and other mental and physical health issues. Identity-based bullying, where students are targeted based on a characteristic such as their race, religion, gender, or appearance, can be particularly devastating.

The CDC's most recent (2024) report on adolescent and school health highlights that schools play a critical role in creating environments where all students feel cared for, supported, and have a sense of belonging. Studies also show that school connectedness has long-lasting effects on health and well-being. Youth who feel connected at school are less likely to have certain health risks related to sexual health, substance use, violence, and mental health in adulthood.

Administrators' efforts to advance inclusion can have profoundly positive effects on student well-being and on the safety and health of the larger community. VCIC's programs equip educators and administrators to foster more inclusive and successful school environments and increase school connectedness. For example, at a recent professional development retreat conducted by VCIC, responses to the statement "I am aware of resources that can help me to create a more inclusive school" increased from an average score of 3.13 on a 5-point scale to 4.56.

5. Who will be served?

District-level administrators and educators attending VCIC regional summits in Richmond area public schools.

6. What are the specific program goals (with measurable outcomes)?

This 5-part cohort program series addresses the needs of district-level administrators seeking to foster more inclusive school environments and counteract identity-based bullying. The following are examples of program goals:

Goal 1: 85% of participants will increase knowledge and motivation to effectively advance inclusion and proactively counteract identity-based bullying within their spheres of influence.

Goal 2: 85% of participating educators agree or strongly agree that they have the tools and support they need (including the "Combatting Antisemitism and Bias in Schools" guide) to create more inclusive school environments and counteract identity-based bullying, including antisemitism.

7. Has your institution offered this program before?

Yes

8. Has a national institution offered this program before?

Yes

8 A. If yes to questions 7 or 8, name the institutions and the results of the project.

While there are national organizations that offer similar services to VCIC, our organization is distinctive in our focus on Virginia, our long history, and our trusting relationships.

VCIC successfully piloted this administrator cohort program in January 2026. It proved to be a highly effective model, with participants reporting gains in their knowledge, motivation, and skills to proactively foster inclusive environments.

Highlights include:

Across all five sessions, all participants agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "As a result of this session, I have an INCREASED awareness of the experiences of people who are different from me."

All but one participant in one session agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I feel motivated to help create a district environment in which all students have an opportunity to belong.”

Across the 4 virtual sessions after the kickoff, all who filled out evaluations either agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:

“As a result of this session, I have more skills to lead belonging efforts in my role”

“I received potential resources (frameworks, websites, books, etc.) that can help me to create a learning environment where all can belong”

Finally, one participant told VICIC that: “This seminar series provided meaningful opportunities to reflect on inclusive practices and collaborate with educators who are committed to creating supportive learning environments for all students. The sessions encouraged honest conversations, practical problem-solving, and actionable strategies that can be implemented immediately within schools and classrooms. It was both professionally enriching and personally inspiring.”

Based on VCIC's evaluation of the pilot program, we are making targeted adjustments for this year's iteration. A key enhancement is the integration and distribution of the "Combatting Antisemitism and Bias in Schools" guide to ensure administrators do not just receive interactive training, but also leave with a tangible, enduring toolkit to reference when combating bias throughout the school year.

9. What will define "project success"?

This project will be successful if we host a robust in-person kickoff for the Richmond-area cohort and successfully distribute the "Combatting Antisemitism and Bias in Schools" guide to educators across the cohort and the two regional summits. More broadly, the initiative will be successful if local school districts implement these evidence-based practices to counter identity-based bullying, including antisemitism. Connected to that outcome would be a reduction in the number of reported incidents of bias and antisemitism in participating districts, along with fewer rapid-response requests for VCIC’s crisis services.

10. If the program was successful, will it continue beyond the time period of requested funding?

Yes

10 A. If yes, what are your long-term funding plans?

VCIC continues to receive steady interest from individuals and organizations seeking to engage VCIC’s support and services. Often this includes groups that are completely new to the conversation about dismantling bias and prejudice. In the process, we showcase the strong and consistent community of philanthropic and community supporters, understanding this is key to engaging new donors and supporters.

In alignment with VCIC’s strategic plan, we will grow and further diversify our revenue sources through individual giving, fee-for-service pricing, and national grants to ensure long-term sustainability:

-Enhance individual giving by identifying opportunities to sponsor specific institutions, programs, or initiatives, and by building a planned giving program.

-Develop case statements for individual donors and grant funders that highlight VCIC’s local, regional, and state-wide impact, and explore alignment with national funder priorities.

-Explore new fee-for-service models for contract, consulting, and retainer services.

Get Page URL

https://form.jotform.com/260678337506161

Get Referrer

https://rjfoundation.org/

Megan Ferenczy

mferenczy@vaholocaust.org

Submission Date	Sep 4, 2026 12:10 PM
Submission Date	Sep 4, 2026
Focus Area	Holocaust Education
Please consider this proposal for the following funds:	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund Henry and Gertrude Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights Brenda Zimm Oscar and Melvin Zimm Memorial Fund Herbert J and Ruth B. Rubel Holocaust Education Fund
Name of organization(s) requesting funding:	Virginia Holocaust Museum
Project Title	Choices in Times of Injustice: Human Behavior and the Holocaust Teacher Workshop
One sentence description of your Project:	The Virginia Holocaust Museum, in partnership with Facing History & Ourselves, will present "Choices in Times of Injustice: Human Behavior and the Holocaust," a full-day professional development workshop on April 15, 2027, that equips Virginia educators to use Holocaust history, primary sources, survivor testimony, and Museum collections to explore individual choices, human behavior, and responsibility with their students.
Project Start Date	Apr 15, 2027
Project End Date	Apr 15, 2027
Amount of Request	$ 5,000.00
How many will be served?	50
Total Project Budget	$ 12,500.00

Budget Table

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
1	Facing History & Ourselves professional development program	8,000	5,000	3,000	VHM	Full-day professional development workshop for approximately 50 Virginia educators.
2	Educator books and classroom resources	1,750	0	1,750	VHM	Books and classroom-ready educational resources for 50 participating educators.
3	Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments	2,000	0	2,000	VHM	Meals and refreshments for approximately 50 educators and workshop facilitators.
4	Workshop materials and primary-source packets	750	0	750	VHM	Printing, VHM primary-source materials, survivor-history resources, and workshop supplies.
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
10						

AoR - TCR check

0

Total Program Cost (dollar amount)

$12500

Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)

$5000

Amount of Income (dollar amount)

$7500

Name of contact person for follow-up questions:

Megan Ferenczy

Address

2000 East Cary Street

Richmond, VA, 23223

Phone

(804) 257-5400

Email

mferenczy@vaholocaust.org

1. Project Description.

The Virginia Holocaust Museum (VHM), in partnership with Facing History & Ourselves, will present "Choices in Times of Injustice: Human Behavior and the Holocaust," a full-day professional development workshop for Virginia educators on April 15, 2027. The program will strengthen educators' ability to teach Holocaust history through an examination of the choices individuals and communities made as discrimination, exclusion, and persecution intensified under Nazi rule.

Through historical case studies, primary sources, survivor testimony, and materials from VHM's collection, participating educators will explore identity, belonging, conformity, complicity, resistance, rescue, and responsibility. Facing History & Ourselves will bring its established approach to teaching history and human behavior, while VHM will provide Holocaust-specific historical context, survivor experiences, and collection-based resources that connect these concepts to the experiences of individuals affected by the Holocaust.

The workshop will address the need for professional development that moves beyond a general overview of Holocaust history and equips educators with strategies for helping students examine complex historical choices through evidence rather than hindsight or oversimplification. Participants will learn techniques for facilitating thoughtful discussions about difficult history, analyzing primary sources, and encouraging students to consider how historical circumstances shaped individual actions and decisions.

Grant support will allow VHM to bring high-quality professional development to Virginia educators while reducing barriers to participation and providing teachers with resources they can immediately use in their classrooms. Educators will leave the workshop with classroom-ready materials, primary-source activities, and instructional strategies that can extend the impact of the program to students throughout Virginia.

2. How does this project meet the mission of your organization?

"Choices in Times of Injustice: Human Behavior and the Holocaust" directly supports the Virginia Holocaust Museum's mission to preserve and document the Holocaust and to educate the public about its history and lessons. Education is central to the Museum's work, and providing educators with accurate, meaningful, and effective approaches to teaching the Holocaust allows VHM to extend its reach to students and communities throughout Virginia.

Through this professional development program, educators will deepen their understanding of Holocaust history while learning how to use primary sources, survivor testimony, and VHM collection materials to examine the experiences and choices of individuals during the Holocaust. The workshop will encourage teachers and their students to consider the consequences of antisemitism, prejudice, exclusion, and dehumanization while maintaining a strong foundation in historical evidence and context.

By investing in educators, VHM extends the impact of its mission beyond the Museum's walls. Each participating teacher can bring the knowledge, resources, and instructional strategies gained through the workshop back to their students, expanding access to thoughtful and historically responsible Holocaust education in classrooms across Virginia.

3. Why is your organization the right one to carry out the proposed project?

The Virginia Holocaust Museum is uniquely positioned to carry out this project because of its expertise in Holocaust education, its collections and survivor histories, and its established relationships with educators throughout Virginia. VHM regularly provides professional development opportunities that help teachers strengthen their knowledge of Holocaust history and develop effective, historically responsible approaches for bringing this complex subject into their classrooms.

The Museum can provide participants with direct access to primary sources, artifacts, photographs, and survivor testimony that connect larger historical events to individual experiences. These resources are particularly well suited to "Choices in Times of Injustice," which asks educators to examine how historical circumstances shaped the decisions and actions of individuals during the Holocaust.

Partnering with Facing History & Ourselves will complement VHM's historical and collection-based expertise with an established approach to examining identity, human behavior, and decision-making. Together, VHM and Facing History & Ourselves can provide educators with a professional development experience that combines rigorous Holocaust history, meaningful primary-source analysis, and practical classroom strategies. VHM's experience working with Virginia educators will ensure that the program is responsive to teachers' needs and that participants leave with resources they can effectively use with their students.

4. What needs will be addressed?

Educators are increasingly asked to teach the Holocaust in ways that are historically accurate, meaningful, and relevant to students while navigating a subject that involves complex questions about antisemitism, prejudice, human behavior, responsibility, and individual choice. Teachers need opportunities to deepen their content knowledge while also developing effective strategies for helping students engage with these difficult topics without oversimplifying the history or relying on assumptions.

This project will address the need for advanced, practical professional development that moves beyond a general overview of Holocaust history. "Choices in Times of Injustice" will help educators examine how identity, belonging, conformity, complicity, resistance, rescue, and responsibility operated within specific historical circumstances. Teachers will learn to use primary sources, survivor testimony, and individual stories to help students understand the pressures, limitations, risks, and consequences that influenced people's choices during the Holocaust.

The project will also address educators' need for high-quality, classroom-ready resources and strategies for facilitating thoughtful discussions about difficult history. By providing teachers with both historical content and practical instructional tools, the workshop will increase their confidence and capacity to

create meaningful, evidence-based Holocaust learning experiences for their students.

5. Who will be served?

The project will directly serve approximately 50 middle and high school educators from across Virginia, particularly teachers of history, social studies, English/language arts, and other subjects in which the Holocaust is taught. VHM will seek participation from educators representing a range of school divisions and communities, including teachers from areas with limited access to specialized Holocaust education professional development.

The project will also have a significant secondary impact through the students these educators teach. Participants will return to their schools with new instructional strategies, primary-source activities, and classroom-ready resources that can be used with current and future students. By investing in educators, the workshop allows the impact of a single day of professional development to extend into classrooms and communities throughout Virginia for years to come.

6. What are the specific program goals (with measurable outcomes)?

The primary goal of "Choices in Times of Injustice: Human Behavior and the Holocaust" is to strengthen Virginia educators' knowledge, confidence, and instructional capacity for teaching Holocaust history through the examination of individual choices and human behavior.

The program will pursue the following measurable goals:

1. Serve 50 Virginia educators. VHM will track registration, attendance, schools, and school divisions represented to measure the geographic reach of the program.

2. Increase educators' understanding of the historical circumstances that shaped individual choices during the Holocaust. VHM will use pre- and post-workshop evaluations to measure participants' growth in understanding concepts including identity, belonging, conformity, complicity, resistance, rescue, and responsibility.

3. Increase educators' confidence in teaching complex aspects of Holocaust history. VHM will seek to have at least 85% of participants report increased confidence in facilitating evidence-based classroom discussions about human behavior, individual choices, antisemitism, persecution, and responsibility.

4. Strengthen educators' ability to incorporate primary sources and survivor testimony into Holocaust instruction. Participants will engage directly with VHM collection materials and survivor histories and leave with classroom-ready resources and strategies for primary-source analysis.

5. Increase educators' access to practical Holocaust education resources. VHM's goal is for at least 43 of the 50 participating educators (85%) to report that the instructional strategies and resources provided through the workshop are relevant and applicable to their classroom instruction.

6. Extend the impact to Virginia students. VHM will collect information about the number of students taught annually by participating educators to estimate the program's broader potential reach.

7. Has your institution offered this program before?

No

8. Has a national institution offered this program before?

Yes

8 A. If yes to questions 7 or 8, name the institutions and the results of the project.

Facing History & Ourselves has offered national professional development based on its "Holocaust and Human Behavior" curriculum, including programs focused on moral decision-making, individual and collective choices, identity, belonging, and the historical conditions that led to the Holocaust.

Facing History & Ourselves reports strong outcomes from its educator professional development. In participant evaluations cited by the organization, 98% of educators participating in its Holocaust and Human Behavior Seminar

	reported that the program increased their capacity to teach students to recognize racism, antisemitism, and other forms of bigotry. The organization's professional development model is designed to strengthen educators' ability to facilitate meaningful discussion, examine complex historical choices, and help students engage critically with history. VHM will build upon this established approach by bringing the program to Virginia educators and incorporating VHM's primary sources, collections, and survivor histories into the professional learning experience.
9. What will define "project success"?	Project success will be defined by strong educator participation, demonstrated growth in teacher knowledge and confidence, and participants' ability to apply what they learn to their classroom instruction. VHM aims to engage 50 Virginia educators representing a range of schools and school divisions, including educators who may have limited access to specialized Holocaust education professional development. Success will be measured through attendance and pre- and post-workshop evaluations. VHM will consider the project successful if at least 85% of participants report increased knowledge of the historical circumstances that shaped individual choices during the Holocaust and increased confidence in facilitating classroom discussions about complex topics such as conformity, complicity, resistance, rescue, and responsibility. VHM will also seek to have at least 85% of participants report that the strategies and resources provided through the workshop are relevant and applicable to their classroom instruction. Longer-term success will be reflected in educators using the primary sources, survivor histories, and instructional strategies provided through the workshop with their students. By equipping teachers with historically grounded, classroom-ready resources, VHM seeks to extend the impact of the project beyond participating educators to students throughout Virginia.
10. If the program was successful, will it continue beyond the time period of requested funding?	No
Get Page URL	https://form.jotform.com/260678337506161
Get Referrer	https://rjfoundation.org/

Dana Zedd

dzedd@weinsteinjcc.org

Submission Date	Aug 11, 2026 3:50 PM
Submission Date	Aug 11, 2026
Focus Area	Tolerance + Diversity
Please consider this proposal for the following funds:	Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights
Name of organization(s) requesting funding:	Weinstein JCC
Project Title	JPrideRVA. 2027 - Advancing LGBTQ+ Belonging in Faith Spaces
One sentence description of your Project:	The Second Annual JPrideRVA festival promotes LGBTQ+ acceptance in Jewish spaces, offering programming that fosters understanding, affirmation, and inclusion within the Richmond Jewish community.
Project Start Date	Jun 1, 2027
Project End Date	Jun 30, 2027
Amount of Request	$ 1,100.00
How many will be served?	500
Total Project Budget	$ 41,250.00

Budget Table

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
1	Honoriums	$20,000		$18,000	Carpenter Foundation	
2	Travel	1,000				

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
3	Shabbat Dinner	4,500	1,100			
4	General Admin Overhead	8,000				
5	Facility Usage	3,000				
6	Marketing	3,750				
7	Program Supplies	1,000				
8						
9						
10						

AoR - TCR check

0

Total Program Cost (dollar amount)

$41250

Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)

$1100

Amount of Income (dollar amount)

$18000

Name of contact person for follow-up questions:

Dana Zedd

Address

5403 Monument Avenue

Richmond, VA, 23226

Phone

(804) 545-8645

Email

dzedd@weinsteinjcc.org

1. Project Description.

The Carole and Marcus Weinstein Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Richmond, Virginia, is seeking support for the Second Annual JPrideRVA festival, to be held throughout June 2027. This initiative will center high-quality Jewish LGBTQ+ programming, including live performance, visual arts, and panel discussions, building on the success of the 2026 JPrideRVA events.

A key component of the 2026 festival was a panel discussion featuring a Richmond-grown Orthodox rabbi known for his advocacy around allyship, a local Reform rabbi, a Conservative rabbinical student who identifies as a queer Jewish person of color, and a local non-Jewish celebrity guest. This conversation created an accessible, thoughtful space for learning, reflection, and community-building. In 2027, we hope to expand this panel into an even stronger signature

program.

The 2027 festival will also feature a nationally known Jewish LGBTQ+ entertainer or speaker, expanded visual arts programming, and a Rainbow Shabbat Dinner. Through performances, facilitated discussions, and communal celebration, JPrideRVA is expected to engage over 500 constituents while increasing visibility for Jewish LGBTQ+ community members and strengthening a shared sense of belonging across the Richmond Jewish community.

2. How does this project meet the mission of your organization?

The Weinstein JCC has long served as a hub for inclusive, values-driven community engagement, providing cultural, educational, and wellness programming for individuals and families of all backgrounds. Grounded in Jewish values, the JCC's mission centers on fostering connection, belonging, and lifelong learning for the whole community, not only those already at its center.

JPrideRVA was launched within this broader mission to address a clear gap: the lack of programming specifically supporting Jewish LGBTQ+ individuals and their families. By creating meaningful opportunities for visibility, affirmation, and community-building, JPrideRVA extends the JCC's founding commitment to inclusion to a population that has too often had to choose between its Jewish identity and its LGBTQ+ identity. Rather than treating tolerance and diversity as abstract values, JPrideRVA puts them into practice through concrete, joyful, public programming: live performance, visual arts, and facilitated dialogue that model what a genuinely welcoming Jewish community looks like.

The overwhelmingly positive response to the inaugural 2026 festival is itself evidence of this mission match. JCC members and the broader Richmond Jewish community embraced JPrideRVA enthusiastically, confirming that this programming meets a real and previously unmet need within our community and validating the JCC's belief that belonging, connection, and lifelong learning must be extended fully to LGBTQ+ Jews and their families. That reception directly informs our confidence in growing the initiative for 2027.

3. Why is your organization the right one to carry out the proposed project?

The Weinstein JCC is uniquely positioned to carry out this project because it already holds the trust, infrastructure, and communal reach that this kind of programming requires. As Richmond's central Jewish communal institution, the JCC has an established base of members and community partners, existing relationships with local clergy across denominations, and a physical campus able to host performances, panels, and communal meals like the Rainbow Shabbat Dinner.

4. What needs will be addressed?

A recent report by Keshet, a national organization advocating for the full equality of LGBTQ+ Jews and their families, underscores the urgency of this work: 83% of LGBTQ+ Jews stated that their identities negatively impact their sense of belonging in the Jewish community; 88% reported a lack of representation and understanding in their communities; and 77% felt burdened by the need to explain or justify aspects of their identity.

These statistics point to a real and unmet need for deliberate, community-focused programming that promotes equity and belonging in Jewish spaces, particularly in Richmond, where no comparable Jewish LGBTQ+ programming previously existed. Without initiatives like JPrideRVA, LGBTQ+ Jewish individuals and families in Richmond lack visible, affirming spaces within their own faith community, and the broader Jewish community lacks structured opportunities to build understanding and allyship.

JPrideRVA addresses this gap directly by creating a specifically Jewish, specifically LGBTQ+-affirming festival: reducing isolation, increasing representation, and fostering the kind of open dialogue that reduces the burden of self-justification described in the Keshet findings.

5. Who will be served?

JPrideRVA primarily serves LGBTQ+ Jewish individuals and their families in the Richmond area, offering them visibility, affirmation, and community connection within their own faith community. The festival also serves the broader Richmond Jewish community and allies, who are invited into panel discussions and shared programming that build understanding and reduce stigma. Programming is open to JCC members and the wider Richmond community and is expected to engage over 500 constituents across the entire month of programs.

6. What are the specific program goals (with measurable outcomes)?

JPrideRVA at the Weinstein JCC is designed to foster inclusion, education, and celebration of LGBTQ+ identities within Jewish spaces. The following goals and measurable outcomes will guide the initiative:

Engage over 500 constituents across the 2027 JPrideRVA festival through performances, panel discussions, and the Rainbow Shabbat Dinner.

Feature at least one nationally recognized Jewish LGBTQ+ entertainer or speaker , measured by successful booking and delivery of the featured program.

Expand the signature cross-denominational panel discussion from its 2026 format, measured by an increase in panelist diversity and audience attendance compared to the prior year.

Deliver an expanded visual arts component, measured by the number of works or artists featured and community participation in art-making sessions.

Increase overall program count and attendance relative to the 2026 inaugural festival, tracked through registration and attendance data.

Collect member and community feedback via post-event surveys, targeting continued overwhelmingly positive response consistent with 2026 results.

7. Has your institution offered this program before?

Yes

8. Has a national institution offered this program before?

Unsure at the time of filling out application

8 A. If yes to questions 7 or 8, name the institutions and the results of the project.

The Weinstein JCC, held the inaugural JPrideRVA festival in June 2026. The festival featured visual arts and panel discussions centered on Jewish LGBTQ+ experience. The results were overwhelmingly positive: JCC members and the broader Richmond Jewish community responded with strong enthusiasm and appreciation, attendance exceeded expectations, and the event surfaced clear demand for the festival to continue and grow. This success directly informs the expanded scope proposed for the Second Annual JPrideRVA in June 2027.

9. What will define "project success"?

Project success will be defined by JPrideRVA 2027 building meaningfully on the momentum of the inaugural 2026 festival, both in scale and in depth of impact. Concretely, success means engaging over 500 constituents across the festival's programs; successfully securing and hosting a featured Jewish LGBTQ+ entertainer or speaker; delivering an expanded, well-attended signature panel discussion that fosters genuine cross-denominational dialogue; and hosting a well-attended Rainbow Shabbat Dinner that brings the community together in celebration.

Beyond attendance numbers, success will be measured by community impact: strong, positive feedback from JCC members and festival participants, consistent with or exceeding the overwhelmingly positive response to the 2026 festival; visible strengthening of belonging among LGBTQ+ Jewish individuals and families in Richmond; and increased engagement from allies and the broader Jewish community in conversations about tolerance, diversity, and human rights.

10. If the program was successful, will it continue beyond the time period of requested funding?

Yes

10 A. If yes, what are your long-term funding plans?

Beyond this foundation support, the JCC will pursue other grant opportunities plus a diversified funding base including donor gifts. As JPrideRVA's attendance and reputation grow year over year, the JCC also anticipates increased capacity for earned revenue through ticketed elements. The JCC's long-term goal is for JPrideRVA to become fully integrated into its core annual programming and operating budget, ensuring the festival's continuity regardless of any single funding source.

Get Page URL	https://form.jotform.com/260678337506161
Get Referrer	https://usc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/

Dana Zedd

dzedd@weinsteinjcc.org

Submission Date

Aug 18, 2026 4:33 PM

Submission Date

Aug 18, 2026

Focus Area

Holocaust Education

Please consider this proposal for the following funds:

Ipson Holocaust Education Fund

Henry and Gertrude Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund

Brenda Zimm Oscar and Melvin Zimm Memorial Fund

Herbert J and Ruth B. Rubel Holocaust Education Fund

Name of organization(s) requesting funding:

Carole and Marcus Weinstein Jewish Community Center

Project Title

Violins of Hope, Welcome Celebration

One sentence description of your Project:

An evening of music and storytelling honoring the Violins of Hope's journey from the Holocaust to Richmond, with a Belvedere Series chamber performance and Lloyd Wolf's Klezmer photography exhibit, 'A Joyful Noise

Project Start Date

Apr 8, 2027

Project End Date

Apr 8, 2027

Amount of Request

$ 2,500.00

How many will be served?

100

Total Project Budget

$ 12,100.00

Budget Table

	Program Expenses (text)	Total Program Cost (dollar amount)	Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)	Amount of Income (dollar amount)	Source(s) of Income (text)	Notes (text)
1	Lloyd Wolf photo exhibit fee (“A Joyful Noise!”)	500	500	0		
2	Print and frame “A Joyful Noise!” photo exhibit	2000	0	0		
3	The Belvedere Series performer fees	5000	2000	0		Chamber music Group
4	Catered reception	3600	0	0		
5	Marketing	1000	0	0		
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

AoR - TCR check

0

Total Program Cost (dollar amount)

$12100

Total Cost Requested (dollar amount)

$2500

Amount of Income (dollar amount)

$0

Name of contact person for follow-up questions:

Dana Zedd

Address

5403 Monument Avenue
Richmond, VA, 23226

Phone

(804) 545-8645

Email

dzedd@weinsteinjcc.org

1. Project Description.

Bringing Violins of Hope to Richmond is a citywide collaborative effort in Holocaust education and remembrance, presented in partnership with the Virginia Holocaust Museum and the Richmond Symphony. Each organization will host concerts and educational events throughout April and May 2027, offering youth, educators, and the broader central Virginia community multiple opportunities to engage with these extraordinary instruments and the histories of survival and resilience they carry. The community celebration at the Weinstein JCC serves as the welcome kickoff event for this citywide initiative.

The Violins of Hope collection includes 70 violins, violas, and cellos that once belonged to Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust. Each instrument carries its own remarkable story of survival. One violin was thrown from a cattle train on the way from France to Auschwitz. Another saved the lives of the musicians who played it in a concentration camp orchestra, helping them survive. A separate instrument was originally owned by an unnamed inmate who performed in the men's orchestra at Auschwitz and survived. Still another was buried under snow in Holland to keep it safe during the war. Together, these instruments stand as living witnesses to history, carrying forward the voices of those who played them long after their owners could no longer tell their own stories.

The Weinstein JCC will celebrate the arrival of the Violins of Hope collection in Richmond with an evening of music, storytelling, and community. This free event is open to the entire Richmond community. During the celebration, musicians will play instruments from the collection, bringing these restored violins back to life. The event includes a reception, a chamber music performance presented by The Belvedere Series, a local Richmond chamber music series, featuring violinist Domenic Salerni and friends, and a photography exhibit of Klezmer music, "A Joyful Noise!" by Lloyd Wolf. Guests will explore the photo exhibition, listen to music played on the violins, and learn directly about the instruments' journeys from the Holocaust to the present day, each violin a witness to loss, survival, and memory carried forward through music.

2. How does this project meet the mission of your organization?

The Weinstein JCC exists to provide high-quality educational, cultural, and wellness experiences guided by Jewish values, and to offer a safe, inclusive space where the community can gather and build meaningful connections. The Violins of Hope Welcome Celebration embodies this mission directly, using music, storytelling, and shared memory to unite the Richmond community around one of the most important educational legacies of the twentieth century.

By hosting the welcome celebration for Violins of Hope, the JCC extends its role as a communal gathering place into Holocaust education and remembrance, transforming its space into one where survivors' stories, preserved in these restored instruments, reach youth, educators, musicians, and neighbors across central Virginia. This reflects the JCC's vision of building meaningful relationships rooted in Jewish values, inviting the broader community, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, into shared learning and connection.

3. Why is your organization the right one to carry out the proposed project?

The Weinstein JCC is uniquely positioned to host the Violins of Hope Welcome Celebration because it already serves as a trusted gathering place for Richmond's Jewish community and the broader public alike. With dedicated event space and 80 years of experience hosting cultural, educational, and community-wide programming, the JCC has the infrastructure and expertise to deliver a polished, meaningful evening for a diverse audience.

This event is part of the JCC's Annual Art + Ideas season, a longstanding platform for bringing high-caliber cultural and educational programming to the Richmond community. Violins of Hope fits naturally within this established series, giving the project a built-in audience and proven programming framework for success.

4. What needs will be addressed?

This project addresses a critical and growing need for accessible Holocaust education as the number of living survivors continues to decline, making direct testimony increasingly rare. Violins of Hope offers a powerful alternative: instruments once played by Holocaust victims and survivors serve as tangible witnesses to history, allowing audiences to connect emotionally and personally with events that can otherwise feel distant or abstract, especially for younger generations.

The Welcome Celebration also addresses a need for inclusive, multigenerational community spaces where Holocaust remembrance is approached through multiple accessible entry points, including music, visual art, and storytelling, rather than academic instruction alone. This broadens engagement beyond those who might attend a lecture or museum visit, reaching families, musicians, and community members through the universal languages of art and music.

5. Who will be served?

This event will serve a broad, multigenerational cross-section of the Richmond and central Virginia community. Primary audiences include Jewish community members and JCC constituents of all ages, as well as the general public.

Because the event is part of the JCC's Annual Art + Ideas season, it will additionally reach the JCC's existing base of cultural program attendees, many of whom return year after year for high-quality educational and artistic experiences. Finally, by partnering with the Virginia Holocaust Museum and Richmond Symphony, this event will be marketed to members of those organizations' communities as well, expanding reach across Richmond.

6. What are the specific program goals (with measurable outcomes)?

Goal 1: Successfully launch the citywide Violins of Hope initiative in Richmond.
Outcome: Weinstein JCC will host a Welcome Celebration with at least 150 attendees, serving as a strong kickoff that builds momentum for partner events with the Virginia Holocaust Museum and Richmond Symphony throughout April and May 2027.

Goal 2: Increase community engagement with Holocaust history and education.
Outcome: At least 75% of attendees will report increased understanding of the Holocaust's history.

Goal 3: Broaden audience reach beyond the JCC's existing base.
Outcome: At least 25% of attendees will be first-time JCC guests or individuals outside the Jewish community.

7. Has your institution offered this program before?

Yes

8. Has a national institution offered this program before?

Unsure at the time of filling out application

8 A. If yes to questions 7 or 8, name the institutions and the results of the project.

n/a

9. What will define "project success"?

Project success will be defined by strong community turnout and engagement, with meaningful representation from first-time JCC guests, educators, and community members beyond the Jewish community. Success will also be measured through attendee feedback and observed engagement during the reception, concert, and presentation, reflecting a deepened understanding of Holocaust history through the evening's music, storytelling, and exhibition.

Equally important, success means establishing a strong, visible launch for the broader citywide initiative, setting a tone of collaboration and community investment that carries momentum into the Virginia Holocaust Museum and Richmond Symphony's programming throughout April and May 2027. A successful event will demonstrate that Holocaust education can be delivered through accessible, art-based programming that resonates with diverse audiences and generations.

10. If the program was successful, will it continue beyond the time period of requested funding?

No

Get Page URL

https://form.jotform.com/260678337506161

Get Referrer

https://usc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/

Stanley J., Sidney S. and Irwin A. Schapiro Education Fund

Purpose: To provide financial assistance to children in the Richmond area for such educational and cultural purpose as (but not limited to) tuition grants, youth services, scholarships for formal education or travel.

Benjamin M. and Mondel K. Saslaw Education Fund

Purpose: The Distribution Committee of the Endowment Fund will review grant applications to the Fund and prepare criteria for awards under the general guidelines described above. These awards may include, but are not limited to, scholarships for individual students in the pre-school, summer camp and day care programs in the Jewish Community Center, Rudlin Torah Academy, congregational religious schools, and similar institutions, or for programs in these institutions which will benefit a group of students, Special Jewish Camps or for study in Israel.

RJF Grants Committee Grants Report
January 1 - September 9, 2026

I. **DAFs**

	CURRENT		AMOUNT
LOCAL JEWISH			
Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives	1	$	1,000
B'nai B'rith Youth Organization	1	$	1,800
Capital Camps and Retreat Center	1	$	25,000
CBA - Congregation Beth Ahabah	10	$	33,650
Chabad of Virginia	3	$	2,381
Friends of Chevra Thelim Inc.	1	$	500
Friends of JCC Krakow	1	$	1,000
Friendship Circle of Virginia	11	$	10,410
Genesis Fund	1	$	180
Hillel at VCU	7	$	23,770
JCFR - Jewish Community Federation of Richmond	26	$	195,362
Jewish Life at VCU	5	$	5,805
JFS - Jewish Family Services	4	$	660
KBI - Keneseth Beth Israel	6	$	8,370
Or Ami - Congregation Or Ami	4	$	8,900
Or Atid - Congregation Or Atid (Richmond, VA)	4	$	8,542
Richmond Free Loan Fund	2	$	360
RTA - Rudlin Torah Academy	10	$	99,272
Temple Beth Ami	1	$	4,480
TBE - Temple Beth El	18	$	79,975
VHM - Virginia Holocaust Museum	2	$	350
Weinstein JCC	19	$	64,120
Yeshiva of Virginia	3	$	13,500
Total	141	$	589,387
NATIONAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS			
Aishel House	3	$	3,000
Aish Global	2	$	973
America Gives, Inc.	1	$	360
American Friends of Magen David Adom	1	$	2,500
American Friends of Netiv Aryeh Inc	1	$	20,000
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc	4	$	7,957
Birthright Israel Foundation	1	$	500
BSBI Synagogue	2	$	1,113
Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE)	1	$	6,500
Friends of Sir M B Davis Jewish General Hospital	1	$	5,000
Hadassah	2	$	2,000
Hadassah - Keepers	3	$	6,800

	CURRENT		AMOUNT
NATIONAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS Con't.			
Halacha Education Center	1	$	540
Hillel at Virginia Tech	1	$	300
Hoffberger Fund for Biblical Studies LTD	1	$	1,800
Israel Guide Dog Center	1	$	288
Jewish Center for Justice	1	$	250
Jewish Educational Loan Fund	1	$	1,800
Jewish Federation Bay Area	2	$	5,180
Jewish National Fund	1	$	500
JGive Friends of Asor Fund USA, Inc.	1	$	5,000
Milwaukee Kollel	1	$	1,200
Missouri Torah Institute	1	$	2,018
NCSY Baltimore	1	$	288
Project Inspire Inc	1	$	136
Rabbinical Seminary of America	1	$	2,500
Red Tent Fund	1	$	1,000
Temple Emanuel	1	$	4,850
The Chesed Fund	1	$	100
Torah Academy of Milwaukee	2	$	4,300
US Holocaust Memorial Museum	1	$	500
Wisconsin Institute of Torah	1	$	1,000
Yeshiva Elementary School	3	$	13,700
Yeshiva Keren HaTorah of Passaic Clifton	1	$	1,000
Yeshiva of South Bend	1	$	613
Zaka North Inc	1	$	1,000
Total	50	$	106,566

LOCAL NON-JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS			
ALS Association	1	$	150
American University Radio	1	$	500
Belmont Community Resource Services	1	$	2,000
Blue Sky Fund	1	$	5,000
Bon Secours Richmond Health Care Foundation	5	$	185,000
Boys and Girls Club of Metro Richmond	4	$	6,450
Collegiate School	1	$	2,500
Common Cause Education Fund	1	$	10,000
Communities in School of Richmond, VA	1	$	100
Community Tax Law Project	1	$	1,000
Feed More	2	$	18,250
For the Love of Poodles & Pooches Rescue of Richmond	1	$	20,000
Foundation for Financial Independence	1	$	1,000
Friends of James River Park	1	$	360
Goochland Cares	1	$	250
Grace Reproductive Fund	1	$	10,000
Groundwork RVA	1	$	2,000

	CURRENT		AMOUNT
LOCAL NON-JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS Con't			
Homes for America	1	$	5,000
Impact 100 of Richmond Virginia	4	$	2,900
Junior Achievement	1	$	180
Maymont Foundation	1	$	500
New Virginia Majority Education Fund	1	$	10,000
Omicron Delta Kappa Society and Educational Foundation, In	1	$	100
Planned Parenthood Federation of America	1	$	1,000
Richmond Ed Fund	1	$	10,000
Richmond Free Loan Fund	1	$	10,000
Sacred Heart Center	1	$	250
Sheltering Arms Foundation	1	$	250
SPARC	2	$	2,600
St. James Episcopal Church	3	$	10,500
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	2	$	852
The Steward School	1	$	500
Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad	1	$	200
UP RVA	1	$	500
USO	1	$	500
University of Richmond (Advancement Systems)	1	$	500
University of Virginia Law School Foundation	2	$	3,500
Valentine Museum Development Office	1	$	40,000
Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities	3	$	10,180
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy	1	$	10,000
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Foundation	1	$	2,500
VPM	1	$	500
Wikimedia Foundation	1	$	100
Worsham Cats	1	$	10,000
WVTF & Radio IQ	1	$	100
YWCA OF RICHMOND	1	$	100
Total	64	$	397,872

NATIONAL NON-JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS			
Alzheimer's Association	1	$	100
American Cancer Society	1	$	100
American Heart Association (Glen Allen, VA)	1	$	100
American Red Cross- (Greater Richmond Chapter)	1	$	100
Anti-Defamation League	1	$	5,000
ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation	1	$	1,000
Ayla's Acres	3	$	460,000
Best Richardson African Diaspora Literature & Culture Museu	1	$	10,000
Blood Cancer United (formerly LLS)	4	$	25,330
Bright Focus Foundation	1	$	500
Cat Haven Rescue Inc.	1	$	20,000
Children's Advocacy Center	1	$	1,200

	CURRENT		AMOUNT
NATIONAL NON-JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS Con't			
Cocoa Packs, Inc.	1	$	180
DAFpay Network	2	$	1,180
DAV Charitable Service Trust	1	$	12,000
Doctors Without Borders	1	$	200
For the Love of Poodles & Pooches Rescue of Richmond VA	2	$	65,000
George C. Marshall Research Foundation	1	$	500
Interstitial Cystitis Association	1	$	1,000
Lake Forest College	1	$	500
Masonic Villages of the Grant Lodge of Pennsylvania	1	$	100
Meals on Wheels Montgomery County	1	$	360
Medical College of Virginia Foundation	1	$	1,800
Metropolitan Golf Association Foundation	1	$	3,600
Parkinson's Foundation	1	$	500
Paws for Purple Heart	1	$	300
Pelotonia	1	$	100
Shriners Hospital for Children	1	$	500
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Inc.	1	$	500
The Connecticut Golf Foundation	1	$	250
University of Georgia Foundation	1	$	100
University of Virginia	1	$	100
University of Virginia (Rectors and Visitors)	1	$	12,000
WGCU Public Radio	1	$	2,500
World Central Kitchen	1	$	1,000
Wounded Warrior Project	2	$	400
Young Americas Foundation	1	$	1,000
Total	45	$	629,100
Total DAF Recommendations	**300**	**$**	**1,722,925**

II. SPECIAL PURPOSE GRANT RECIPIENTS

Aleph Bet Preschool	2	$	2,011
American Friends of Magen David Adom	1	$	21
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc	1	$	1,274
American Society for Yad Vashem	1	$	21
BBYO Washington	2	$	2,696
Beth Torah Cemetery Corporation	1	$	4,186
Bnos Ruach Chaim	1	$	2,000
Brith Achim Cemetery Corporation	1	$	10,051
CAMERA	1	$	21
Camp Bonim	2	$	1,000
Camp Menuchah	1	$	1,000
Camp Nageela	1	$	2,000
Camp Sternberg	1	$	1,000

	CURRENT		AMOUNT	
SPECIAL PURPOSE GRANT RECIPIENTS Con't				
Camp Tal	1	$	500	
CBA - Congregation Beth Ahabah	1	$	3,821	
FINCA International	1	$	637	
Friends Association for Children	1	$	493	
Friendship Circle of Virginia	1	$	558	
Genesis Fund	2	$	3,842	
Hadassah	2	$	851	
Hanover Education Foundation	1	$	10,000	
Hillel at VCU	1	$	8,600	
JCFR - Jewish Community Federation of Richmond	30	$	471,730	
Jerusalem Foundation	1	$	21	
JFS - Jewish Family Services	2	$	3,887	
KBI - Keneseth Beth Israel	2	$	3,100	
Masonic Home of Virginia (MAHOVA)	1	$	459	
MMW Camps	1	$	500	
NCSY Summer	2	$	3,000	
Neve Michael Children's Village	1	$	1,274	
Or Ami - Congregation Or Ami	1	$	211	
Or Atid - Congregation Or Atid (Richmond, VA)	1	$	211	
RTA - Rudlin Torah Academy	3	$	4,895	
Shineforth -Formerly UMFS	1	$	160	
St. Joseph's Villa	1	$	913	
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	1	$	6,000	
TBE - Temple Beth El	3	$	4,896	
Temple Beth-El (Providence, RI)	1	$	1,910	
TEMPLE SINAI (Newington, CT)	1	$	518	
The Virginia Home	1	$	297	
US Holocaust Memorial Museum	1	$	21	
VCU Foundation	1	$	3,432	
VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center	1	$	333	
VHM - Virginia Holocaust Museum	2	$	759	
Virginia Home for Boys and Girls	1	$	75	
Weinstein JCC	4	$	11,005	
Total Special Purpose Funds		**$**	**576,189**	

III. FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

BBYO (Washington, DC)	1	$	1,000	2025 Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund
Friendship Circle of Virginia	4	$	3,978	Joy Kramer Memorial Fund, Ernst & Anne Fischer Older Adult Fund, & Jill Peck Memorial Fund
GreenSpring Foundation	1		1,200	Joy Kramer Memorial Fund
JCFR - Jewish Community Federation of Richmond	1		4,000	2025 Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund

	CURRENT		AMOUNT	
FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS Con't				
JFS - Jewish Family Services	2	$	1,096	Ernst & Anne Fischer Older Adult Fund & Sylvia & Max Plotkin Memorial Fund
RTA - Rudlin Torah Academy	4	$	3,600	2025 Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund, Henry S. and Karin Fine Legacy Fund, Jill Peck Memorial Fund, & Joy Kramer Memorial Fund
Weinstein JCC	3	$	12,141	2025 Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund, Henry S. and Karin Fine Legacy Fund, & Ernst & Anne Fischer Older Adult Fund
Total Field of Interest Funds		**$**	**27,015**	
IV. MANAGEMENT/INVESTEMENT AGENCY GRANTS				
Total DAF Recommendations		**$**	**1,722,925**	
Total Education Tax Credits		**$**	**408,304**	
Total Special Purpose Funds		**$**	**576,189**	
Total Field of Interest Funds		**$**	**27,015**	
Total Life & Legacy Incentive Grants		**$**	**15,000**	CBA, COAmi, JFS, KBI, TBE, WJCC
Total Management/Investment Agency Grants		**$**	**1,798,190**	
Total 2026 RJF Grants (1/1 -3/17/26)		**$**	**4,547,624**	
Total checks: 419				

Richmond Jewish Foundation				
2021 - 2025 Fall Field of Interest Fund Distributions				
Year	**Organization**	**Program**	**Fund**	**Amount Awarded**
2025	Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities	Fostering Inclusion and Preventing Identity-Based Bullying: VCIC Administrator Workshops	Lebenstein Funds for Tolerance and Human Rights	-
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	1,500
	Temple Beth-El Religious School	From Holocaust Survivor to Refusenik: History of Anti-Semetism in the USSR	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	575
	Rudlin Torah Academy	The Memory Lab: Students Use Technology to Share Survivor Stories and Counter Antisemitism	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	3,000
	Weinstein JCC	Jpride RVA	Lebenstein Funds for Tolerance and Human Rights	1,100
	Weinstein JCC	Holocaust Rememberance Programming at the Weinstein JCC	Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund	1,900
	Virginia Holocaust Museum	UnBroken Film Screening, Panel Discussion and Teacher Workshop	Oscar/Zimm Holocaust Education Fund	1,700
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	2,000
	Hillel at VCU	Addressing Antisemitism on Campus & Commemorating Yom HaShoah	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	1,228
			Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund	80
			Oscar/Zimm Holocaust Education Fund	41
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	41
			Total Awarded	**13,165**
2024	Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery	Annual Kristallnacht Memorial Service	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	-
	Hillel at VCU	Antisemitism and Holocaust Education	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	2,700
			Oscar/Zimm Holocaust Education Fund	-
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	-
	Rudlin Torah Academy	Global and National Holocaust Museum Education	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	2,110
			Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund	182
			Oscar/Zimm Holocaust Education Fund	455
	Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities	Rapid Response Student and Educator Workshops	Lebenstein Funds for Tolerance and Human Rights	1,084
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	-
	Virginia Holocaust Museum	Deadly Medicine: Teaching about Science, Medicine and Decision Making during the Holocaust	Oscar/Zimm Holocaust Education Fund	1,291
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	3,509
	Weinstein JCC	999: The Forgotten Girls	Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund	1,800
			Total Awarded	**13,131**
2023	Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery	Annual Kristallnacht Memorial Service	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	1,605
	Rudlin Torah Academy	Names, Not Numbers	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	1,000
			Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	1,500
			Oscar/Zimm Holocaust Education Fund	1,500
	Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities	Middle School Prejudice Awareness Summit 2024	Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	1,000
			Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance	1,500
	Virginia Holocaust Museum and Temple Beth-El	Letters from Brno	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	2,100
			Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund	900
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	395
	Weinstein JCC	Marcel Marceau, A Silent Hero	Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund	1,000
			Oscar/Zimm Holocaust Education Fund	229

			Total Awarded	**12,729**
2022	Beth Sholom Home	Dreaming Home	Lebenstein	0
	Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery	Annual Kristallnacht Memorial Service	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	1,000
	NCSY	Project Never Again	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	1,000
			Oscar/Zimm	850
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	500
	Rudlin Torah Academy	Memory for the Future	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	1,700
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	500
	Rudlin Torah Academy	MLK Nonviolent Human Rights Education	Lebenstein	985
	VCIC	Inclusive Educator Network	Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	1,500
	Virignia Holocaust Museum	The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	1,000
			Oscar/Zimm	900
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	850
	Weinstein JCC	Wisenthal, the Nazi Hunter	Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund	1,900
			Total Awarded	**12,685**
2021	Congregation Or Atid	Memorial Rock Garden for Gan Chesed	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	1,200
	Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery	Annual Kristallnacht Memorial Service	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	1,500
	NCSY	Project Never Again	Ipson Holocaust Education Fund	1,846
			Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund	81
			Oscar/Zimm	605
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	1,720
	Temple Beth-El Religious School	Lessons from "The Blackbird Girls"	Oscar/Zimm	525
	Temple Beth-El Religious School	Removing the Stumbling Block II	Kramer Memorial Fund	2,000
			Peck Memorial Fund	430
	Virignia Holocaust Museum	Salvaged Pages: Young Writer's Diaries of the Holocaust	Lebenstein	919
			Oscar/Zimm	500
			Rubel Holocaust Education Fund	1,500
	Weinstein JCC	The Last Cyclist	Kupfer Holocaust Education Fund	1,800
			Total Awarded	**14,626**

Stanley J., Sidney S. and Irwin A. Schapiro Education Fund

Purpose: To provide financial assistance to children in the Richmond area for such educational and cultural purpose as (but not limited to) tuition grants, youth services, scholarships for formal education or travel.

Benjamin M. and Mondel K. Saslaw Education Fund

Purpose: The Distribution Committee of the Endowment Fund will review grant applications to the Fund and prepare criteria for awards under the general guidelines described above. These awards may include, but are not limited to, scholarships for individual students in the pre-school, summer camp and day care programs in the Jewish Community Center, Rudlin Torah Academy, congregational religious schools, and similar institutions, or for programs in these institutions which will benefit a group of students, Special Jewish Camps or for study in Israel.