

## STANDING TOGETHER TO SHAPE A NEW FUTURE



# WELCOME



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AJC San Diego was reborn in recognition that the San Diego Jewish community needed an advocate. Long before Oct. 7, 2023, community leaders saw disturbing growth in antisemitism and anti-Israel activity, alongside its previously unthinkable legitimization. Under the leadership of Mitch Siegler, we re-established the San Diego office in 2023 with a focus on three critical areas: **K-12 education, elected officials, and intergroup and interreligious allyship.** Thanks to your investment, AJC San Diego is now the address for advocacy assistance, especially when combatting antisemitism across institutions and communities.

From its inception, AJC San Diego incorporated the experience and expertise of AJC's dozens of U.S. and overseas offices to build an effective approach to the challenges and opportunities we face. **We build relationships with decision makers well before challenges arise, educate them about our community, about Israel, and show how we can partner with them on positive initiatives.** And when challenges arise, we respond through a combination of direct engagement, public education, and advocacy. We call out antisemitism no matter its source, and partner with organizations and institutions across the community to ensure our efforts are coordinated, magnified, and impactful.

This year, our **Government Relations Committee** met with over 28 elected officials across the county at every level of government. We played a key role with the many elected officials who declined to participate in this year's Pride Festival when a renowned anti-Israel musician was selected as the event's headliner.

This year, we brought key elected officials and Jewish community leaders on an **AJC Project Interchange** trip

to Israel, adding to the thousands of elected officials and thought leaders Project Interchange has taken to Israel to learn about the country, its accomplishments, its peoples, and its challenges. Delegates returned with a deeper understanding of Israel and tools to pierce the shallow slogans and disinformation about the Jewish state.

We are a trusted partner for educational institutions, working to combat antisemitism and anti-Zionism both on campus and in curricular content. We held professional development workshops for educators and administrators, supported campus Jewish student clubs, and celebrated Jewish pride and identity. Our **Leaders For Tomorrow** program, now in its second year, trains Jewish student leaders and provides them with tools, a community of peers, and guidance they need to face today's and tomorrow's challenges.

In partnership with the Jewish Federation, we expanded our annual **"Standing Together: A Community Response to Antisemitism"** to include a Teen Track and workshops for interfaith allies. Over 400 community leaders joined a momentous day of learning and engagement.

We deepened our intergroup allyships, from our **Latino Jewish Coalition** to celebrating the 60th anniversary of Nostra Aetate alongside the Catholic Diocese and University of San Diego.

As we close out our third year, AJC San Diego continues to stand up for Israel's right to exist, confront antisemitism no matter the source, and uphold the democratic values during this momentous shift in the history of the Jewish people. Our achievements are the direct result of your generosity and activism. Thank you for investing your time and resources to advocate for the Jewish community!

**ALAN VITERBI**  
Board President

**SARA E. BROWN, PHD**  
AJC San Diego Regional Director

# SYMPOSIUM

Our second annual "Standing Together: A Community Response to Antisemitism" symposium brought together a diverse array of community members, including many non-Jewish allies, for a day of learning about how to recognize and combat antisemitism and creating greater understanding across San Diego and beyond.



AJC San Diego Director Sara E. Brown, PhD, in conversation with author and journalist Franklin Foer, whose 2024 article in *The Atlantic*, "The Golden Age of American Jews," warns that antisemitism from both the political right and the political left threatens to upend the American Jewish experience.



This year, our symposium expanded to include a "Teen Track" for Jewish teens. Thanks to the generosity of the Melvin Garb Foundation, nearly 60 high school students registered to attend the specially designed program. Student leaders from across San Diego County gathered to engage with educators, young leaders, and social media advocate Sophie Harris on finding their Jewish identity, combating antisemitism, and being effective advocates.



Adult attendees had the opportunity to attend two breakout workshops led by key thought leaders, covering topics including: Disinformation in the Era of Social Media; DEI: What We Got Wrong and How WE can Make It Right; Education, Not Indoctrination; In Our Town: Antisemitism and San Diego Jews; College Campuses: Hotbeds for Hate or Opportunities for the Future; Practicing Allyship.



We were honored to present AJC's "Allyship Award" to social justice activist Nicole Murray Ramirez in recognition of his public service and dedication to the LGBTQ+, Latino, and Jewish communities. He noted that when gay San Diegans frequently faced prejudice and violence, it was the Jewish community that was the first to stand with them. Nicole has been a stalwart ally who has stood against antisemitism and defended human rights for all.



Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter John Ondrasik, also known as Five for Fighting, closed out the symposium. Among the songs he played was "OK (We Are Not OK)," a song he wrote about Hamas' October 7 attack, which he performed at Hostage Square in Tel Aviv. Ondrasik's presence was in many ways emblematic of what the symposium was all about. As he noted, "one does not have to be Jewish to condemn the evil that is Hamas, one just has to be human."

# STANDING UP FOR ISRAEL

## COMBATING FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT GENOCIDE

American Jewish Committee (AJC) has been at the forefront of addressing and refuting allegations that Israel's actions in Gaza constitute genocide. These false claims misrepresent the legal definition of genocide and distort the realities of the conflict, undermining both the gravity of the crime of genocide and the complexity of the Israel-Hamas War.

An expert in Genocide Studies, AJC San Diego's Sara Brown spoke out against the International Association of Genocide Scholars' (IAGS) biased resolution falsely stating Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. Sara continues to publish op-eds, give interviews, and drive advocacy efforts to combat these false narratives.



Scholars for Truth about Genocide

LEGAL, ANTISEMITISM, HISTORY, HOLOCAUST, AND GENOCIDE SCHOLARS, FORMER PROSECUTORS, AND OTHER AUTHORITIES INCLUDING DESCENDANTS OF SURVIVORS CALL ON INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GENOCIDE SCHOLARS (IAGS) TO RETRACT RESOLUTION ACCUSING ISRAEL OF GENOCIDE AMID CLEAR MISAPPLICATION OF LAW AND HISTORY

Alongside hundreds of scholars and experts, Sara signed an open letter from *Scholars for Truth About Genocide*, exposing IAGS for its prejudiced resolution and demanding a retraction.



# COALITION BUILDING



AJC San Diego's Latino Jewish Coalition provides a space for connection, dialogue, and learning between the local Latino Jewish, Jewish, and Latino communities. Our first annual Latkes and Tamales Holiday Mixer was a celebratory gathering commemorating the many holidays of light our communities celebrate and the light that our Coalition members bring to the world through their leadership.



Leaders of Spanish-language media across Tijuana, San Diego, and Baja California gathered for a screening of the first two episodes of Fuente Latina's docuseries, *7/10: Testigos Del Terror* (10/7: *Witnesses of Terror*), highlighting the stories of the Latin American victims and survivors of Hamas' October 7 attack.

In partnership with Congregation Beth Israel, AJC San Diego hosted a Latino Jewish Coalition Interfaith Seder, bringing together community members and allies to strengthen connections and deepen our understanding of the many cultures and communities here in San Diego. This program introduced the rituals and themes of the Passover Seder to many first-time attendees.



When the San Diego Pride Festival refused to remove a headline performer despite their rampant hate rhetoric against Jews, AJC San Diego joined dozens of Jewish community organizations to sponsor the first ever weekend of events celebrating Jewish LGBTQ+ Pride. By coming together as a community, we created spaces where Jewish members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community can safely and joyously celebrate Pride.

# LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

Leaders for Tomorrow (LFT) is AJC's year-long leadership program that empowers Jewish high school students to combat antisemitism, engage meaningfully within their communities, and advocate for the Jewish people and Israel on campus and beyond.



This year, AJC San Diego had its first ever LFT cohort. LFT prepares students for tough conversations about antisemitism and Israel, both in high school and later in college. Graduates developed and pitched Advocacy Projects, designing and implementing initiatives that advocate for the Jewish people and Israel.

“

I am grateful that LFT taught me so much about being a Jewish advocate.

LFT STUDENT  
2024-2025 COHORT

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San Diego LFT students lobbied in Sacramento, joining more than 550 advocates from across California. Students led advocacy meetings with CA Assemblymembers and State Senators, and met with CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond.



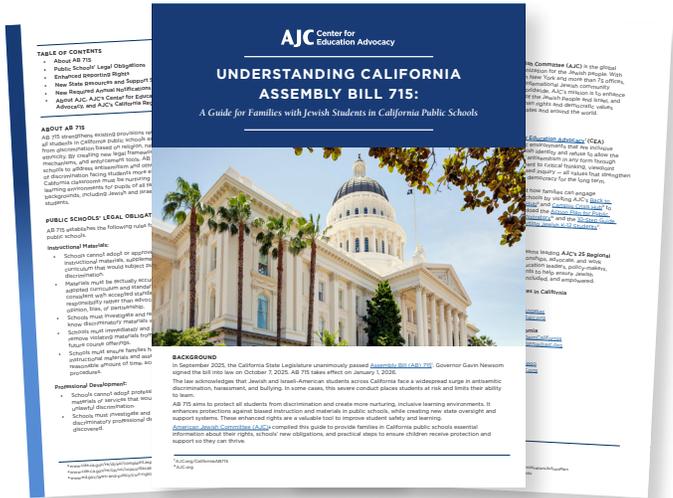
San Diego LFT student leaders in Washington, D.C. at the Susan & Bart Lewis LFT Advocacy Summit. In D.C., students worked with AJC experts, policy makers, and interfaith and intergroup leaders. Students also lobbied on Capitol Hill, meeting with Members of Congress.

# EDUCATION

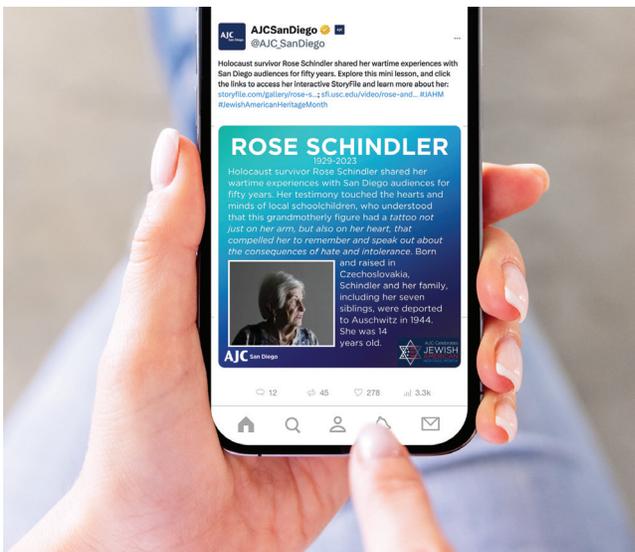
Education is AJC's strongest form of advocacy. Supporting students, teachers, and administrators in K-12 and University education is how we can effect change in supporting Jewish students in the state of California.



AJC San Diego and University of San Diego hosted an event to mark the anniversary of Nostra Aetate, the groundbreaking declaration that rejected collective Jewish responsibility for the death of Jesus, issued by the Second Vatican Council in 1965. USD President Jim Harris and Vice President for Mission Integration Michael Lovette-Colyer hosted AJC's Rabbi Noam Marans and Sara Brown for a productive conversation.



AJC's CA offices played a significant role alongside JPAC in the passage of Assembly Bill 715, providing legislators and stakeholders with research and expert guidance on addressing antisemitism and supporting the constitutional rights of students and educators. Now we are developing resources to help the community implement AB 715 and confront antisemitism in California's K-12 public schools.



AJC San Diego partnered with Dr. Joellyn Zollman to develop mini-lessons on notable Jewish San Diegans, including Holocaust survivor and Jewish advocate Rose Schindler z"l, that were shared throughout the county.



Sara Brown addressed the San Dieguito Union High School District Board of Trustees regarding AJC San Diego's training and engagement with the district following an antisemitic incident at San Dieguito Academy.

# ABOUT AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

## WHO WE ARE

American Jewish Committee (AJC) is the global advocacy organization for the Jewish people. AJC stands up for Israel's right to exist in peace and security; confronts antisemitism, no matter the source; and upholds the democratic values that unite us.

## WHAT WE DO

In the wake of Hamas' October 7 attack — the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust — AJC has mobilized its global network to tackle the unprecedented threats facing world Jewry.

From world capitals to college campuses, AJC works with leaders across society to support Israel and combat surging antisemitism, and we leverage strategic communications to educate, counter misinformation, and shape public opinion.

## WHO WE ENGAGE

- Presidents, prime ministers, and diplomats
- Officials in national, state, and local government
- University, college, and high school administrators
- Business and tech leaders
- Interfaith and intergroup partners
- Emerging Jewish activists

“

I have huge respect for AJC, for its historic role... for its **impact on the Jewish world and Israel.**

ISAAC  
HERZOG

PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL

”

# AJC GLOBAL FORUM

WASHINGTON, D.C. | MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2026

## THE PREMIER GLOBAL JEWISH ADVOCACY CONFERENCE OF THE YEAR

**AJC Global Forum is returning to Washington, D.C.** Don't miss this opportunity to join American Jewish Committee and more than 2,000 other activists as we gather in the epicenter of power and politics to make our voices heard. Together, we will engage in thought-provoking discussions on the future of the Jewish people, Israel, America, and the world.

### THE AJC GLOBAL FORUM PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE:

- **Powerful plenary sessions** featuring global leaders and headline speakers
- **Interactive breakout sessions** addressing key political, strategic, and social challenges
- **Face-to-face advocacy meetings** on Capitol Hill to advance the issues you care about most
- **Exclusive networking opportunities** with leaders and decision-makers from around the world

“

What an experience!  
The positive energy at GloFo was palpable.

**PARTICIPANT**  
2025 GLOBAL FORUM

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Register today at [AJC.ORG/GLOBALFORUM](https://ajc.org/globalforum)  
GlobalForum@AJC.org

**YES, I want to help AJC shape a brighter future for Israel and the Jewish people with a gift of:**

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# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

AJC San Diego has traveled across California sharing important findings from AJC's *State of Antisemitism in America 2024 Report* with local elected officials. At every meeting, staff, and lay leaders advocated for the San Diego Jewish community and discussed shared priorities and concerns.



In honor of Jewish American Heritage Month, AJC San Diego's Regional Director was invited by Mayor John McCann to be a guest speaker at the Chula Vista First Friday Breakfast. Sara unpacked the complexities of antisemitism and its impact for members of the Chula Vista City Council, Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce, and YMCA.



AJC San Diego staff and LFT student leaders attended JPAC Capitol Summit and lobbied in support of key issues, including expanding Holocaust education, protecting students from antisemitic learning environments, and strengthening guardrails in Ethnic Studies curricula.

## DONOR RECOGNITION SOCIETIES

American Jewish Committee's Donor Recognition Societies — **National Leadership Council (NLC)**, **Marshall Society**, and **Visionaries** — bring together AJC's most generous supporters.

Whether you're interested in global diplomacy, advocating for Israel, or building bridges to other faith and ethnic groups in your city, AJC's Donor Recognition Societies provide a unique platform for you to make your voice heard.

Each successive recognition level earns you increasingly exclusive access to AJC's global diplomacy, international missions, and other opportunities.

The challenges before us are profound. Some may say impossible. But AJC reimagines what's possible. With bold ideas and an unparalleled track record, AJC fights antisemitism and all forms of hate, strengthens Israel's place in the world, and defends democratic values. Together, we can shape history.

Learn about the benefits of joining an AJC Donor Recognition Society. Visit [AJC.org/supportourwork](https://www.ajc.org/supportourwork)

# AJC SAN DIEGO IN ISRAEL

In August, AJC San Diego led a delegation of local elected officials and Jewish community leaders on an **AJC Project Interchange trip to Israel** for a week of immersive learning, dialogue, and connection. The trip was designed to deepen delegate understanding of Israel's complexities, strengthen relationships, and inspire thoughtful leadership rooted in firsthand experience.



San Diego elected officials who joined the delegation, from left to right: Councilmember Raul Campillo (San Diego District 7), Senator Brian Jones (California 38th Senate District), Vice Mayor Lauren Cazares (La Mesa), Trustee Dr. Debra Schade (Solana Beach School District Board of Education).



Delegates explored religious diversity, border security, and long-term strategic engagement as they stood on the Syrian border, interfaced with Druze, Christian, Arab Israeli, and Palestinian leaders, and visited sacred religious sites.



Sha'ar HaNegev, San Diego's sister community for the past 27 years. Delegates toured Kibbutz Kfar Aza, visited the Nova Music Festival site, and heard from a panel of educators working with youth across the region.

“ I chose to visit Israel with AJC Project Interchange because I believe leaders have a responsibility to see the world, especially the most difficult parts, with their own eyes. With all things, but especially with the Middle East, we must learn not from headlines, but from human experience.

**RAUL CAMPILLO**

SAN DIEGO  
CITY COUNCILMEMBER AND  
AJC SAN DIEGO PROJECT  
INTERCHANGE ALUMNI





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New York, NY 10022

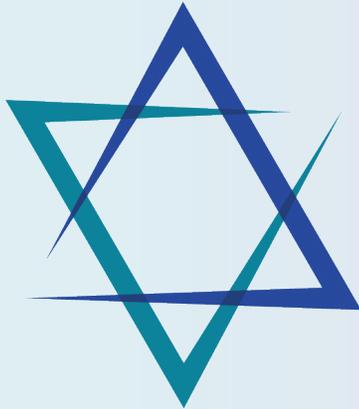
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## AJC SAN DIEGO

**Sara E. Brown, Ph.D.**  
Regional Director

**Sebastian Feldman**  
Assistant Director

**Sophia Muroff**  
Coordinator



# SAVE THE DATE

## STANDING TOGETHER

### AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

A Community Summit

April 19, 2026  
12:00pm

Hyatt Regency La Jolla  
at Aventine

[www.ajc.org/sandiego/summit](http://www.ajc.org/sandiego/summit)



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