



Young Leadership

Attracting and cultivating the next generation of Jewish leaders is a challenge for all Jewish institutions, whether it's attracting top-notch staff to work in salaried positions, or attracting volunteers to give their time, attention and monetary support. This is perhaps one of the biggest issues for our future.

Our Young Leadership Network is a vital force to nurture future leaders, both within B'nai B'rith and in the larger Jewish community.

Activities this year spanned the globe. In March, 13 young leaders (including five Alpha Epsilon Pi students and staff) traveled to Japan to participate in the Kakehashi Program, which strives to help bridge the gap between Japan and the American Jewish community.



Just weeks later, we hosted a Young Leadership Mission to Cuba where they met with local leaders and members of the small, but dedicated, local Jewish community.

In the fall, young leaders joined us at our International Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C., to participate in unique programming events, within the overall B'nai B'rith International leadership events, and with some special-for-young-leaders-only activities.

Our New York/New Jersey Young Leadership Network hosted a wide range of events in 2016, including Project H.O.P.E. (Help our People Everywhere) to make Passover food packages for the Jewish elderly and needy. About 40 people came out and created more than 100 bags for distribution.



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Our Conversations Around the World Series continued with a presentation from the Consul General of Bulgaria in New York. Young leaders came out to learn about the Bulgarian Jewish community and its relationship with the United States and Israel. In the Washington, D.C. region, the series stopped at the Embassy of the Netherlands. Young leaders enjoyed a conversation with several diplomats and learned more about the country's Jewish population and global relations and outreach.



The fall saw our young leaders “Take a Pie for Charity.” We teamed up with Brett Ari Fischer, creator of the #AllPieAlz pie challenge, which helps raise awareness for Alzheimers research. Young leaders enjoyed drinks and snacks while learning about this debilitating disease and the pie challenge.

At the B'nai B'rith International Leadership Forum we hosted special Young Leadership Network activities, including a Ghosts of Georgetown Walking Tour and special dinners.



Our Young Leaders also pitched in on some Disaster Relief activities with a fundraiser fan soccer game, to help raise money for relief efforts in Ellicott City, MD., after devastating floods hit the area.

A South Florida group of young leaders enjoyed a hike and later in the year, they sat down for a Sushi, Sake and Samurai Themed Shabbat Dinner co-hosted with local Jewish groups in Boca Raton. Some 40 young professionals came out to learn more about B'nai B'rith's global advocacy and the young leadership trip to Japan.

Also over the summer, a networking happy hour with B'nai B'rith Justice Unit at the AEPi conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. raised awareness about the Heroes to Heroes Foundation. This noble group introduces U.S. veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other injuries to Israel soldiers with the same issues. The interaction creates healing bonds.

A fall happy hour fundraiser in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. helped raise money for disaster relief to aid victims of Hurricane Matthew, which hit Cuba, Haiti, Florida and the Carolinas a month earlier.

Chicago Young Leaders took part in a pre-Rosh Hashanah apple cider event where they mingled and learned about B'nai B'rith's global reach in humanitarian aid and disaster relief. The Chicago group also raised money for earthquake relief via the B'nai B'rith Disaster Relief Fund for Ecuador and Japan. The group took part in a Windy City Shabbat and co-sponsored Jews and Brews with local Jewish organizations.

In Denver, happy hours were popular, along with participation in Denver's Leadville, Colo. Cemetery clean-up, an annual event where the entire B'nai B'rith community comes out to clean and maintain this Jewish cemetery.

B'nai B'rith is also forming a new Young Leadership group in the Detroit area. On the agenda: community service projects.

B'nai B'rith Australia is also active on the Young Leadership front. In Victoria/Melbourne a younger group of 20 and 30 year olds has been established, calling themselves the BBYA group. Activities were planned to appeal to this age range.