

JDRC CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025 | 27 Heshvan 5786

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"Gratitude is expressed in many languages - spoken, signed, and written." - Anonymous

Happy Thanksgiving from JDRC's home to yours!

Dear Friends of JDRC,

Shalom! As we approach Thanksgiving, we're filled with gratitude - for the progress we've made together in advancing access, and for the generosity of donors and partners who make this work possible.

Our website now features a [directory of congregations](#) committed to inclusive participation. Add your synagogue to the directory today - help us grow this

national resource!

This fall, JDRC trained over 150 ASL interpreters and Deaf interpreters (DIs) from across the U.S., strengthening access to Jewish life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Jewish individuals. These workshops built linguistic and cultural fluency for interpreting Jewish worship and life - addressing how Christian influences on ASL can impact accurate interpretation. Together, we're ensuring that Deaf and Hard of Hearing Jewish individuals can fully participate in meaningful, inclusive Jewish experiences.

Together with Melton School for Adult Jewish Learning, JDRC cosponsored a course, "A History of Hate: The Growing Threat of Antisemitism" -taught in ASL by a rabbi and captioned for inclusive access. Participants gained meaningful access to Jewish learning that is rarely available in ASL, giving them the tools to better understand and respond to rising antisemitism.

JDRC is proud to offer **scholarship funding** that reduces tuition costs for learners who need ASL interpretation for the Union for Reform Judaism's "Intro to Judaism Online" course, ensuring that financial barriers never limit access to this essential pathway to Jewish life. Through our partnership with UJA-Federation of New York and the URJ, we are making this learning experience fully accessible to more learners.

Thank You, Donors!

Your support helps JDRC create access that leads to belonging. From interpreter training to scholarships and accessible courses, your gifts make it possible.

Help us amplify this work!

Share JDRC's [new website](#) with your synagogue, friends, and colleagues.

Add your ASL-interpreted and/or captioned programs to our [event calendar](#).

Support continued access by making a donation [at this link](#).

Follow and share JDRC on [Facebook](#) and Instagram (#jewishdeafresourcecenterhere).

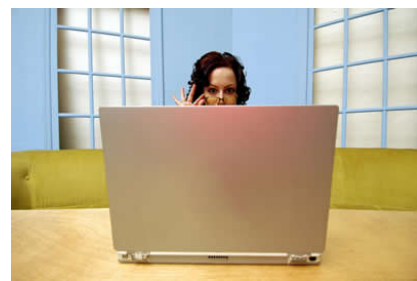
Together, we continue to build bridges for a more inclusive Jewish community.

Wishing you a Thanksgiving season filled with gratitude and connection.

With much gratitude,
Susan F. Cohen
President
Jewish Deaf Resource Center

**ACCESSIBLE HOLOCAUST
RESOURCES**

Access to education through media is essential for lifelong learning and connection. JDRC is pleased to share a few educational resources that are ASL interpreted and/or captioned, ensuring accessibility for viewers.



Six Million Voices, a project of the East Valley JCC in New Jersey, produced films aimed at educating and empowering six million people to be a voice all over the world through Holocaust education. The on-demand film "[Auschwitz: Daily Life in Camp in ASL](#)" is now available. This film is ASL interpreted, and is available to schools and organizations.

For more resources, check JDRC's website for a [list of museums](#) that share a commitment to accessibility.

UPCOMING COURSE

**INTRODUCTION TO
JUDAISM ONLINE**

*A Beginner-Friendly
Online Course Open to All*

**Reform
Judaism.org**

The JDRC is excited to spotlight this upcoming course, "Intro to Judaism Online," offered by the Union for Reform Judaism!

Registration is now open! A community of learners will explore a modern take on Jewish life through this online 20-session course, starting on January 11, 2026.

This cohort will be ASL-interpreted and auto-captioned on Zoom. For more information about this course, [visit this link](#).

2026 SCHEDULE

Sundays, 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM ET (with ASL Interpretation) with Rabbi Rebecca Dubowe.

Class Dates:

January 11 (no class 18), 25
February 1, (no class 8) , 15, 22
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
April (no class 5), 12, 19, 26
May 3, 10, 17, (no class 24), 31
June 7, 14, 21

Register: <https://bit.ly/intro-ASL>

Tuition: \$595.00-\$795.00, with the ability to pay monthly. We are committed to reducing financial barriers to Jewish learning and we offer discounted tuition for those who need; contact Learning@urj.org.

In partnership with UJA Federation of New York and Union for Reform Judaism, JDRC provided scholarship funding to help reduce the cost of tuition for learners who need ASL interpretation to take "Introduction to Judaism Online" - making Jewish learning more accessible for Deaf and Hard of Hearing participants.

Please share this announcement with your Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing connections.

COURSE OVERVIEW

CALLING FOR HANUKKAH EVENTS

Hanukkah (December 14 - 22, 2025) is just around the corner!

We're compiling a list of congregations and Jewish organizations that provide ASL interpretation and/or captioning access for in-person or virtual services Hanukkah events to feature on our website. We'll share this list widely so Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals can find welcoming, accessible spaces to observe the Hanukkah holiday or Jewish related programming.

To be listed on our Events page, fill out the [Event Submission Form](#).

If you receive requests for accessibility services and need help locating ASL interpreters and/or captioners, fill out the [Interpreter Request form](#). We'll do our best to support you in finding interpreters and/or advising on access.

Let's work together to ensure that all members of our community can participate meaningfully on these sacred days.



SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

WHO ARE WE?

Using the allyship model, the [Jewish Deaf Resource Center](#) (JDRC) serves as a communication access bridge by bringing together a partnership of Jewish Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals, their families, and the individuals and organizations in the wider Jewish community in North America.

JDRC is a 501(c)3 national nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law. No goods or services will be provided in exchange for your generous donation.

JDRC thanks UJA Federation of New York for partnering with JDRC through their operating grant.



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