



UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS

15th Annual Student Awards

20TH APRIL 2023



Running order

- Reception
- Food and cocktails
- Remembering Dave Kay z"l
- A welcome from our president, Joel Rosen
- First round of awards
 - Social Action Project of the Year
 - Jewish Enrichment and Engagement Award
 - Liberation Initiative of the Year Award
 - Alan Senitt z"l Outstanding Contribution to Campus Life
 - Event of the Year
 - New JSoc of the Year
- Break
- Dessert and drinks
- Second round of awards
 - Maurice Helfgott Award for Leadership
 - Interfaith Project of the Year
 - Israel Engagement Initiative of the Year
 - Campaign of the Year
 - Volunteer of the Year
 - Education Project of the Year
 - JSoc of the Year
- Close

Remembering Dave Kay z"l

15 years ago, Dave Kay inspired the idea of a UJS student awards. In this tribute, his friends consider his legacy.

Dave was a remarkable person and everyone who met him knew it. Dedicated to his friends, his family, his youth movement, his ideology - his determination to do something positive at every opportunity is beyond measure.

Dave didn't care about who you were, what you believed in, how you practised your faith or where you came from. Dave was there to make things happen and if you were too, then you were an ally and he would give you everything he had to make things happen together.

Like a modern-day Midas, everything Dave touched was improved by his actions. At Leeds University, Dave saw a JSoc that needed help and decided to dive in and make it better. Introducing training, mentorships, bringing in new sponsors and welcoming back old organisations that helped him transform Jewish student life in Leeds. Leading political campaigns, defending and celebrating Israel on campus, jumping out of planes, river dancing in his underwear at Purim, connecting with JSocs all over the UK and working to improve the way UJS supports students, even from behind the scenes where there is no glory and no praise. Dave did this because he felt it needed to be done.

People talk about living their dreams. Dave made Aliyah. Dave knew every inch of Israel and enjoyed nothing more than sharing that knowledge with anyone who was lucky enough to listen. When Dave got married and settled down with his wife it was in a small Kibbutz near the Kineret (of course he did), and they have a brilliant daughter who smiles just like him. We dream of things. Dave lived his dreams and made other peoples' dreams happen.

Dave Kay made so many lives better. On the 24th January 2018, at the age of 32, Dave passed away from cancer. He is sorely missed by his friends, family and the wider community. What he did for Jewish students will live on in his name and in the memory of all those who had the honour to know him. Zichrono livracha

1985 – 2018



Welcome from Joel

A warm welcome to this year's student awards.

As each year draws to a close, we gather together to celebrate what we collectively have achieved.

This year has witnessed a remarkable flourishing of Jewish life on campus. Together, we have provided Friday night dinners for thousands more Jewish students, supported the renaissance of student sport and welcomed new JSocs into our movement.

We revived some iconic projects from our history such as the Jewniversity Challenge quiz show that brings different JSocs together; the Jewish student journal Aleph that came back in print after a few decades in hibernation and the Lessons from Auschwitz Universities project that has educated hundreds of university leaders.

We can only do what we do because of you - the hundreds of students who volunteer their time and make Jewish life on campus happen. In dozens and dozens of JSocs, you have built inclusive, vibrant Jewish communities that provide a home away from home for Jewish students whilst ably representing them. Tonight we come together to thank you for your time and dedication.

As my time at UJS slowly draws to a close, I'm thankful that there are so many people I need to thank. So a heartfelt thank you for all of your hard work and the memories we've made along the way.

Sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

Social Action Project of the Year

A nominee for this award is an individual or a JSoc who led a project that encourages social change in local or national communities and/or on campus. They will have worked tirelessly on logistics and be dedicated to making change.



The nominees are...

Edinburgh JSoc

Edinburgh's interfaith Charity Fair, nominated for the Mitzvah Day youth social action award, was a real success this year.

They invited the university's Islamic Society and the Edinburgh Coexistence Initiative to help in hosting a fair showcasing an array of different charities for students. The idea was to provide them with information about various fundraising and volunteering opportunities, and along side the fair a collection for the Edinburgh Food Project food bank was also run. The event went really well, and the best bit was connecting different charities, different faiths and different wonderful people in one room. They also raised a significant amount of money in a charity raffle for SolidariTee, a student refugee action charity.

Social Action Project of the Year

Emma Sherrard, Central School of Speech and Drama

Emma put together an event for Central school of speech and drama which was held with Herts, middlesex and UAL- This event involved a discussion led by JAMI about mental health and imposter syndrome. This led to a really open honest discussion about dealing with mental health issues whilst at university.

Huddersfield JSoc

Huddersfield Jewish Society is one of the smaller Jewish student communities in the UK and although they are a small committee they took the initiative to reach out to other faith societies in their student union to ask to collaborate with them for Mitzvah Day projects. The Huddersfield JSoc Mitzvah Day projects included a volunteer day in DASH soup kitchen, and a collection for university building throughout the month of November to collect stationary items to donate to asylum seekers via Shared Goods. As a smaller JSoc (not so many Jews at Huddersfield uni) they really went above and beyond.



Jewish Enrichment and Engagement Award

This award is for an individual or group who has shown dedication during the year to bring Judaism to Jewish student life. Their work made a positive impact to Jewish students, could have been a one off or regular activity, and showed initiative and creativity.



The nominees are...

Aaron Black, Leeds

Aaron set up and is running the Year of Student Sport. His initiative has got dozens of Jews in Leeds engaged in JSoc and the Jewish community for the first time. His project has also created a community for plurality of different Jews from different backgrounds to come together and be Jewish and play sports. His project is having the same impact across the country.

Anna Ritschl Ebell, Cambridge

Anna has been instrumental in creating and facilitating egalitarian spaces in Cambridge. As egal rep on her JSoc, she has hosted prayer services and encouraged others to lead the services too! She has made Cambridge a more open and welcoming place for all.

Jewish Enrichment and Engagement Award

Lola Harding, Leeds

Lola volunteered to design and produce the cover for the Shabbat companion, the cross-communal prayer book used at convention by hundreds of students. She worked hard on this and deserves some recognition!

London FND committee

Aure and the London FND team have worked incredibly hard this year to provide weekly Friday night dinners to hundreds of students in London. They were instrumental in bringing London FND back from near-collapse, and the weekly effort to secure venues, students and food should not go unnoticed.

Joanna Pearlman, Naomi Fiddler, Noah Arazi, Rafi Davis, Leeds

The Leeds Gabbaim sustain the Leeds Hillel minyan, the only peer led weekly prayer services led by students for students. They work hard to include students from all backgrounds in the services and the Divrei Torah. They have done fantastic work in initiatives such as breakfast club.

Zac Bates Fisher, Sheffield

Zac has been a pillar of the local progressive community in Sheffield. He has led services and brought other students along with him. He embodied peer leadership through leading the progressive services at convention.



Liberation/Inclusion Initiative of the Year

Nominees for this award are students who has dedicated their time to educating others about liberation and inclusion. They will have provided a platform and space for students to speak about their experiences, be an activist for inclusion, or has facilitated inclusive spaces.



The nominees are...

Ariela Silber, Edinburgh

Ariela is Edinburgh JSoc's first LGBTQ+ Officer. On the 10th of March, Ariela held Edinburgh JSoc's first ever Pride themed FND (or Friday Night Dinner), providing a space for queer Jews to find community. It was a huge success, news of the FND had spread across Scotland, and students from Dundee, Glasgow, and Aberdeen had journeyed to Edinburgh in order to attend! Attendees spoke of how it was 'amazing to have this space' to connect with other people like them. Following the dinner, Ariela set up a WhatsApp group for queer, Jewish students in Scotland, which has since been a space to discuss babka and beer.



Emma Taylor, Hertfordshire

Emma has been a champion of LGBTQ+ representation and support on campus and across London. She has organised events with Keshet, specifically an education event for JSocs looking at gender, sexuality, identity and pronouns. She had also organised and co-hosted a UJS event for LGBTQ+ students. Emma also helped to create the LGBTQ+ network for Jewish students on campus. She's organised an event with JWA - women's and gender nonconforming (GNC) night to celebrate and facilitate a safe and inclusive space.

Katie Freedman, Sheffield

Katie introduced social stories to Sheffield JSoc and has been writing and posting them for JSoc events. These make events a lot more accessible for students with conditions like Autism or anxiety. This is a great example of leadership in accessibility.

Xander Ross, Manchester

Xander has passed several motion at UJS conference to improve accessibility and inclusion within JSOC. He is also fighting to make the events more accessible.

Alan Senitt z"l Outstanding Contribution to Campus Life

This award is given in memory of Alan Senitt z"l, who was UJS president 2001-2003. Alan was a role model for those working with him, inspiring young leaders and empowering those around him. He was an inspirational community leader and political activist with a great passion and belief for all that he did and with a great future ahead of him.

Nominees for this award are students in final year who have shown exceptional dedication to contributing to Jewish life on campus throughout their time and is both a leader and an example to others.



Dylan Grossman, Glasgow

Dylan is one of the most overlooked leaders of our UJS family. For his four years at university, he has devoted so much of himself to ensuring that Jewish life thrives on campus and beyond. He has served in every role imaginable from Welfare officer to President he always led by example and put the well-being of others above his own. An avid advocate for openness and proactive dialogues, he has spearheaded events, the IHRA campaign with our Unions and so much more. His dedication, understanding, and leadership has inspired and empowered so many within our Jewish community. His efforts and genuine accomplishments need to be acknowledged as he has created sustainable change within our JSoc that will be carried on by committees. I feel truly honoured to have been with him through the ups and downs, and I can tell you with confidence the Scottish student Jewish community would not work this well without him!

Emily Sinclair, Oxford

Everyone at Oxford is incredibly thankful for what Emi has done this year and previously – an ex Jsoc President and current Independent chair, she has been an incredible servant to the society both when on committee, and also when not. Most recently, this year, she redesigned the committee structure, re-wrote the bylaws and changed the constitution. Previously, she navigated a key, post-covid middle term, again steadying the ship and establishing the society back in its modern, post-covid look and form. Everyone at Oxford JSoc is incredibly thankful for Emi's selfless service to the society!

Emma Taylor, Hertfordshire

Emma is the co-president of her JSoc and has been an active and present leader this year. Emma has created a collaborative, inclusive and dynamic committee; encouraging discourse around sensitive topics and issues while making sure everyone feels represented and valued. She prioritised accessibility and diversity inclusion for her JSoc. She created an online accessibility forum on padlet for herts students for them to fill in throughout the year. Emma has collaborated with other small JSocs to create a Shabbaton and mental health workshop with Jami. She's created a forums for small JSocs to communicate and discuss ideas and promote one another's events. She also organised interactive Holocaust education for HMD and organised an interfaith event with her su for purim. She also spoke to Herts SU after the NUS report came out.

Jack Lubner, Cambridge

Throughout his time as a student, Jack Lubner has gone above and beyond to make an immeasurable impact on the lives of Jewish students across the country, and for years to come. Having most recently advocated for Jewish students in a national newspaper, Jack has led on several campaigns, ranging from opposing Islamophobia within our community to proactively campaigning within the Labour movement to ensure Jewish students, and more widely Jewish people, are made to feel welcome, including providing antisemitism awareness training for student Labour clubs. Specifically, he has held several positions on the Cambridge JSoc committee including President, Cantinee, External Affairs, and LGBT officer. Jack has also proposed multiple motions at several UJS conferences which have made Jewish student life more accessible and inclusive while committing UJS to proactively campaign on behalf of Jewish students. Without Jack Lubner's tireless efforts to advocate on behalf of Jewish students throughout his time at university, Jewish student life would not be as we know it.

Kesem Inglisky, Aberdeen

Kesem's career in Jewish communities spans across nations, and universities. Originally, she was the president of Glasgow Jsoc where she created a culture of caring, and a familial environment that we cherish til this day. She combatted antisemitism, prioritised the mental and physical well-being of her members and committee. She also led the organisation of the Glasgow Jsoc's 110th anniversary gala! Then she took her talents to Aberdeen. A university with a tiny community. Not only did she revive their JSoc but she invigorated the community by providing opportunities for her members to socialise with other JSocs and creating events by devoting her very limited free time. For the first time in many years, she created a channel of communication with the university administration to advocate for the needs of Jewish students on campus and ensure their well-being for the future. She is a person that inspired me and many others across the UK and Ireland. There aren't enough words to describe her contribution to Jewish life in Scotland and she is truly deserving of this award!

Sophie Wimborne, Durham

As president of Durham JSoc, Sophie has led the society from strength to strength and has successfully created a home away from home for Jewish students in Durham. When the world began to open up after Covid, Sophie was determined to get involved with Durham Jsoc and so successfully ran to become Jsoc Social Sec. As Social Secretary she started the hard task of re-growing the society post-Covid. After her success in this role, Sophie then decided to run for JSoc President. I believe that Sophie is incredibly welcoming and supportive as a JSoc president. She has worked tirelessly to ensure the opening of Durham's Jsoc house! Despite Durham not being the biggest JSoc, with a small exec, she has persevered to ensure that there is at least one (and often two) JSoc events a week.

Event of the Year

The event of the Year award can be awarded for an event of any size. The events nominated made a positive impact to Jewish student life and is different to the JSoc's usual events. The event would have shown creativity and initiative and embodies UJS' values.



The nominees are...

Southampton JSoc Ball

Southampton JSoc hosted a south coast JSoc ball for Southampton, Portsmouth, Bournemouth, Poole, Surrey and more south coast students and alumni. The JSoc even hosted guests from other JSocs at their houses to ensure they could attend. The event had a kosher buffet, cocktails, and music. Non-Jewish students who attended also enjoyed learning more about our culture, and trying traditional food. This type of event has never been done in Southampton before and it was a huge success as it unified many Jewish students at a great evening.

Central School of Speech and Drama JSoc FND

First Central FND ever!!! This Friday night dinner was attended by 10 people, as well as Central's principal. At the event, antisemitism on campus was discussed, and how the school can improve their support for Jewish students. The event was a big success.

Event of the Year



Oxford JSoc Holocaust Memorial Day

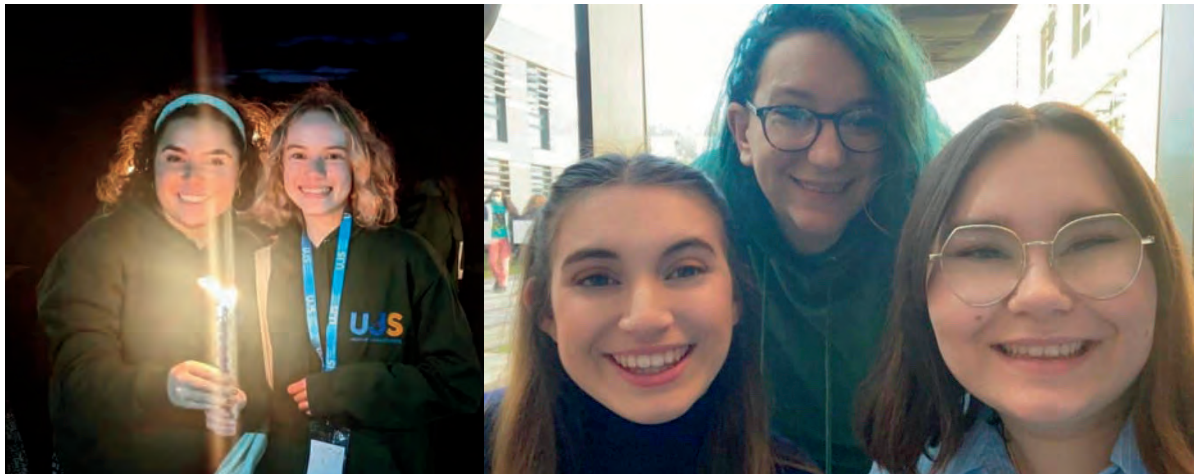
They managed to get the event held at the Sheldonian theatre - the most spectacular room in Oxford University. Against all expectations, with a lot of money on the line, almost all 750 seats were filled. It was an extraordinary event - Holocaust Survivor Janine Webber spoke so movingly to an audience mostly of students never having heard a testimony before. Jojo Sugarman introduced the survivor beautifully and chaired the Q&A which was very well done.

Scotland FND

Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews and Aberdeen JSocs came together and organised a Friday night dinner held in Edinburgh on the 20th January 2023. They hosted 250 students!!! from across Scotland and they even organised places for people to stay who wanted to stay the whole of shabbat. It was an amazing event and the biggest ever student Friday night dinner in Scotland, with many claiming to be a highlight of their time at JSoc in Scotland.

New JSoc of the Year

The criteria for this award is a JSoc that established or re-established within the last three academic years. They will have created a vibrant Jewish life on campus which supports Jewish students.



The nominees are...

Bath Spa University JSoc

As a small committee and society Bath Spa have been really trying to run lots of fun events for their small number of members including a movie night (collaboration with other societies), a welcome back Pizza Friday night dinner, a hamantaschen baking event and a Purim party. They also recently did a bake sale to raise money for World Jewish Relief and were able to raise £120 thanks to the generosity of people who came by. Becky is in her final year, but she's really held our society together and been amazing. She's helped us join UJS, as well as having a massive role in the planning and execution of our events, including holocaust memorial events and planning for Purim. They have worked to create something incredibly important for a small community.

New JSoc of the Year



Cork JSoc

In the almost 200 years since the founding of the University College of Cork, there has not been an official community of Jewish Students. Despite this, there has always been a thriving Jewish community in Cork and Ireland as a whole, though this was never represented in campus life. Ever since their first Sukkot event (involving thirty students in a Sukkah on campus) in October 2022, Cork JSoc has gone from one strength to the next. Starting from scratch, the committee has cultivated a sense of community among its members through events such as regular Erev Shabbat hangouts, paint nights, poetry nights, and parties for Hanukkah and Purim. In March 2023, after weeks of planning and rehearsals, members of the JSoc performed a Purim spiel to students and the wider Cork community, raising money and donations for a food bank. Cork is a shining example of the best of Jewish life on campus, engaging students and fostering community.

Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

Emma and Laura have reignited the JSoc at RCSSD. They have made a welcoming space for all Jewish students at RCSSD, regardless of their beliefs, affiliations or connection to the religion. They have successfully run 6 events, including interfaith education, a Chanukah party, and a powerful Holocaust memorial day exhibition and collaborated with other JSocs. They have been vocal Jewish activists on campus and have managed to make antisemitism training mandatory for university staff and send a large delegation of SU staff to Poland on a Holocaust education trip. They have also held the first ever Friday Night dinner.

New JSoc of the Year



Royal Veterinary College

This is the first time a Jewish Society has been in place at The Royal Veterinary College and has officially been running since October 2022. In this short time they have managed to arrange Friday night dinners, Chanukah party, Falafel night and other events that bring together Jewish students. They have made a place for Jewish students to feel welcomed and that they have a Jewish community supporting them. In addition, they welcome all non-Jewish students at their university to attend events and learn about Judaism and Jewish culture.

UAL

The UAL committee have relaunched their JSoc this year and made it a welcoming space for people who identify with Judaism religiously, culturally and ethnically. This was no easy task, especially as they have students all over London across 12 UAL campuses. They have made the JSoc active again and have run and co-hosted exciting events this year that included a games night, movie night, mental health workshop and were involved in organising bigger London JSoc events such as the Purim party. In addition, the committee put in place mandatory antisemitism training for their university.

Maurice Helfgott Award for Leadership

Maurice Helfgott started out his involvement with UJS as a student at Manchester and with Manchester JSoc. After almost 9 years on the Board, Maurice stood down as the Chair of Trustees of UJS in 2020.

Maurice committed countless years of support and guidance to UJS, its presidents and teams, and in turn impacted thousands of Jewish students in his time. Maurice held the wholehearted belief that he was the Chair of Trustees on behalf of the entire Jewish community. His leadership through challenging and affluent times, steadying the ship and showing the true meaning of communal leadership is the reason that, upon him standing down from the Board of Trustees, UJS created the Maurice Helfgott award for Leadership - for a student who emulates the qualities and passion that Maurice has brought to years of student life.



Maurice Helfgott Award for Leadership

Aaron Black, Leeds

Aaron has set up and is running a flagship project called “The Year of Student Sport”. This project, which Aaron has been pretty much single handed in promoting and pushing the project, growing a social media following, getting more than 200 students signed up to it (mostly new unengaged students) and establishing new teams across the country. The Year of Student Sports creates social community for plurality of different Jews from different background. His project is having the same impact all over the country in many different JSocs. Has also provided other students with leadership and media opportunities through sports. Getting peoples articles published in newspapers and empowering young Jews within the teams nationally.

Ábel Keszler, Glasgow

Ábel has been a huge asset to Glasgow Jsoc over his past two years on the committee. In his first and second years at university, Ábel was a peripheral figure in the Jsoc but in his third year, he joined the JSoc Committee and as social secretary. Ábel was diligent, creative, and always ready to present new ideas or lend a helping hand. He has continued to go from strength to strength as Co-President. He continues to plan dynamic and engaging events, such as Tea and Torah, and Chevruta at FNDs. He has worked tirelessly to engage the larger Scottish Jewish community as well through his Holocaust Memorial Day project that was recognized by the Scottish Parliament. Additionally, it was he that first put forth the idea and organized the first Scottish JSoc summit that introduced committee members from across the nation to each other for the first time in generations. Ábel is wholeheartedly dedicated to helping our community. This is readily evidenced by his WJC fellowship, and engagement with student unions on IHRA, campaign for UJS president that made every small JSoc feel seen but especially just being there for the JSoc members whenever they need.

Maurice Helfgott Award for Leadership

Aiden Domb, Manchester

They have been an amazing JSoc president for Manchester and has single handily turned things around for Jewish students in Manchester making it inclusive for everyone. Aiden has claimed to beat the record for Friday Night Dinner attendance in Manchester by having over 60 people in attendance and has constantly invested a huge amount of time and energy in Jewish life on campus. Manchester JSoc simply would not be what it is without Aiden.

Hannah Haskel, Cambridge

Hannah is passionate about being involved and cares about Jewish student life on campus. She has hasn't had the easiest time due to antisemitism but she has combatted and fought for what is right. Hannah has held several roles on Cambridge JSoc committee including President. Hannah was recently elected as an NUS delegate and represented Jewish students at the recent NUS conference. Without Hannah's exemplary leadership, Jewish students would not have had such a prominent voice on the NUS conference floor. Hannah takes on leadership challenges and is a proud Jewish activist locally and nationally. Hannah is diligent, modest and decisive, ensuring that everything she has set her mind to is completed and completed to the most exceptional level possible, as a perfect example of what it means to support AND lead a Jewish student community.



Maurice Helfgott Award for Leadership

Rheannon Platman, Belfast

As JSoc President of Belfast JSoc, Rheannon has taken the JSoc to new strengths. Rheannon has ably led the JSoc, recruiting new members at freshers fair and then continuing to engage these members with regular Friday Night Dinners, an event to break the Yom Kippur fast, a Purim party, and an interfaith mitzvah day event - all while leading a committee of just two people. In February and March 2023, Rheannon also led the JSoc through a very challenging SU election, strongly advocating for Jewish students while protecting and ensuring Jewish students' welfare.

Sophie Wimborne, Durham

Sophie Wimborne has been pivotal to the success of Durham JSoc throughout her time at university and has made a significant contribution to improving Jewish life on campus. In her second year, Sophie was social secretary of Durham JSoc and supported students by organising several weekly events. Sophie was subsequently elected as Durham JSoc President in her final year of university. Most notably, as Durham JSoc President, Sophie secured a space for a JSoc house in Durham and opened it, enabling the JSoc to host events while providing Jewish students with a kosher kitchen on campus. This work will continue to benefit the Jewish students of Durham for years to come and has often got uncredited. Sophie's work has been guided by the core values of UJS.



Interfaith Project of the Year

This award is for a project that brings people of different faiths together and has a positive impact on faith communities. It can include a social event, educational event, representing JSoc to interfaith networks, and more.



The nominees are...

Huddersfield JSoc

Huddersfield arranged to work with the Islamic Society on a charity bakesale for Turkey and Syria. They worked together excellently and served amazing fresh food. They made a remarkable £1300! Huddersfield are also a really inclusive society who embrace all faiths whilst celebrating and educating about Judaism.

Interfaith Project of the Year

Maanya Patel, Oxford

This February Oxford JSoc hosted the largest ever Interfaith Friday Night Dinner along with 7 other faith societies! We had members from the Islamic society, Shia society, Buddhist society, Christian Union, Hindu society, and the Oxford interfaith scriptural reasoning group. The Interfaith and Outreach rep Maanya came up with this idea, executing and facilitating the event with great professionalism. Notably, her role included organising speakers from each society all discussing on a common theme, ensuring that all the external guests respected the rules of the Synagogue whether that be the content of the interfaith discussions or the dress code.

Noah Getz, St Andrews

Introduced interfaith football league to St Andrews. He encourages all abilities to get involved and has organised space, kits and teams from all faith societies to create a popular and thriving league in town that plays every week. The league has created great interfaith connections and the players raise money for the British Heart Foundation.

Zack Colton, Bristol

Bristol JSoc held an interfaith day event, during which different religious societies held interfaith events. The day started with Bible discussion and lunch with Just Love Bristol Christian society, followed by prayer with the Islamic society and then Buddhist meditation. The evening ended with Friday night dinner hosted by JSoc. The day was a big success and celebrated all faiths.



Israel Engagement Initiative of the Year

In partnership with UJIA

UJIA's vision is a strong British Jewry with lifelong commitment to Israel. For over 100 years UJIA has been building meaningful connections between the UK Jewish community and the people of Israel. UJIA has provided long term support for UJS and have a commitment to young people across the UK Jewish community.

This award is for an initiative or student that engages with Israel in a productive manner. It can be political, educational, social, or charitable. The project or student will have made an impact on the conversation around Israel on campus.



Israel Engagement Initiative of the Year

Jacob Barnett, Leeds

Jacob is one of the most eager students when it comes to anything Israel. He's always up for a political conversation about the topic, and is never one to shy away from engaging with all the tough questions. Over the past year, Jacob helped facilitate the Israeli wine tasting night in Leeds, while going above and beyond in encouraging other JSocs to hold similar events. He was eager to help out at our Art Of Dialogue stall, highly engaged with the Yachad speaker event and deeply involved in discussions regarding Israel-diaspora relations in light of the Israeli election outcome and UJS's statement on the matter. Since running for Campaigns Officer two years ago, Jacob has become deeply knowledgeable and engaged with anything Israel-related on campus.

Leeds JSoc

Leeds JSoc stood out this year as one of the most active on Israel engagement. Highly successful events such as the Israeli wine tasting night and the Yachad speaker event, along with high JSoc assistance at the Art Of Dialogue stall, are worthy of recognition. Many JSoc members have shown themselves deeply interested in Israel, culturally and politically alike. The JSoc has also shown itself more than willing to push through any hurdles for its right to engage with Israel in any way they see fit, and is the first to embrace any opportunities to engage with Israel.



Israel Engagement Initiative of the Year

QMUL & UCL JSocs

Tel Aviv Takes London was back again this year with a bang. The event proved to be a huge success. Queen Mary and UCL JSocs created an event that was not only fun, but explored Israeli culture through music, engaging students from multiple JSocs across London and beyond. The event showed the vibrancy of Israeli culture offering a new route into Israel engagement.

Noah Arazi, Leeds

Noah has been extensively involved in the campus Israel scene this year, and deserves recognition. Having helped out JSoc from outside committee for many Israel events, Noah has also been engaged as an Emerson Fellow and played a central role running-up to UJS Conference regarding the Israel debate among Jewish students, submitting a number of motions. He was also one of the most active participants during Conference, frequently volunteering to speak up on the subject in front of hundreds of people to defend his positions.

Rachel Moshal, Queen Mary

Rachel is the welfare officer and Head of Israel affairs at Queen Mary JSoc. During this year she took initiative in many Israel engagement projects such as Tel Aviv Takes London, arranging her own unique Israel engagement stall and hosting speakers. This year, QM JSoc had to deal with challenging situations regarding antisemitism and other issues related to Israel, and Rachel took on an important role in trying to deal with these issues.



Campaign of the Year

In partnership with CST

Community Security Trust (CST) is a charity that protects British Jews from antisemitism and other related threats. CST provides security advice and training for Jewish communal organisations, schools and synagogues. CST secures over 650 Jewish communal buildings and approximately 1,000 communal events every year. CST works on campus to support UJS and JSocs to run their events safely and securely, giving guidance through a network of student volunteers. To get involved contact 02084579999.



The nominees are...

#ScotlandRemembers, Glasgow

The #WeRememberScotland2023 campaign aimed to fill the gap in Scottish Holocaust remembrance by bringing together members of all current Scottish JSocs in Scotland. The campaign began online with individuals posting a picture of themselves holding a sign that said #WeRemember, then the campaign concluded in a national memorial in Edinburgh. Jewish students from across the region attended it, and it was streamed in Ireland. Furthermore, all current Members of the Scottish Parliament made a pledge online to commit themselves to the ideal 'Never Again'. Finally, the campaign made it into the Scottish Parliament as a motion, that recognised our initiative and urged the members of the parliament to participate. Moreover, the motion recognised the rise of antisemitism and racism on University campuses.

Campaign of the Year

Spread Hummus Not Hate, Edinburgh

In November 2022, Salman Abu Sitta was invited to speak at Edinburgh University despite his history of incendiary remarks. Edinburgh JSoc first submitted a complaint internally to the university, securing important accommodations and compromises for Jewish students. They hosted a round table on the lunchtime of the talk with the University's Deputy Secretary for Students, and then held a protest 'Spread Hummus not Hate' outside the venue, with simple placards forming an effective and well judged response to the invitation. They were calm and decisive throughout and supported their members while opposing the speaker.

IHRA campaign, UCL

For over two years, UCL has formed a succession of working groups to decide whether to repeal the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Elie, Fabio, and the UCL JSoc committee have kept track of the results of these working groups. In January, the JSoc were informed that the working group would recommend that JDA and other definitions were also adopted at UCL. Elie and Fabio made very effective representations to UCL's senior leadership, and then when the proposal was put before UCL Council, they coordinated a letter signed by six Jewish community organisations underlining the importance of the IHRA definition and encouraging the Council to reject the recommendations. They then advocated for UCL's Jewish students to UCL Council, and held up to extensive questioning by Council members. Due to this work, they were able to successfully persuade the Council to not immediately accept the working group's recommendations and instead to do more research before coming to a decision.

Campaign of the Year

Fighting Antisemitism on Campus, Ellie Defries, York

Following the release of the NUS antisemitism report, Ellie decided to write an article about the York Student Union's response to antisemitism on campus. This included the lack of response to the NUS report, which as an affiliated Union was unacceptable. Other topics focused on incidents on campus, lack of response from the University and Student Union and interviews with individual students and their experiences. When this article went through the press office it was unfairly edited. Ellie continued to fight for Jewish voices to be heard by alerting the student body to edits made and replies which were not allowed to be included before. Her continued fight for the recognition that official channels could be doing better to help Jewish students should be recognised.

Fighting BDS, QMUL

In November 2022, two motions were submitted to QMUL SU's Assembly - one calling for BDS and the other denying and excusing allegations of antisemitism in the NUS. The QMUL JSoc committee encouraged Jewish students to come to the meeting, and gave speeches standing up for the university's Jewish community. They stayed in the meeting for a number of hours, grappling with procedural motions and putting up a strong fight against these motions.



Volunteer of the Year

A nominee for this award is for an individual who has given many devoted hours of encouragement and help they give both inside and outside the community. They will have made a positive impact to Jewish life on campus, supported others, and shown exceptional dedication to volunteering.



The nominees are...

Aaron Black, Leeds

Aaron has dedicated countless hours to the Year of Student Sport project, where he has managed to engage Jewish students through sport across the UK. He has given time for meetings with partners, sponsors, and fellow students, making all he speaks to about sports feel as if they are his number one priority. His project also highlights individuals who participate in sports (#jathletes) which he takes time to reach out to to make them feel included in the project.

Emily Spungin, Bristol

As secretary of Bristol JSoc, Emily went above and beyond to take the JSoc to new strengths. Emily worked hard on recruitment for JSoc events and logistics for these events so that everything ran smoothly and so Jewish students could have even better spaces to come together. Even though this took her a lot of time, Emily embodied what it means to be a volunteer, working diligently and effectively to ensure the very best for Jewish students.

Volunteer of the Year

Emma Sherrard, Central School of Speech and Drama

On top of Emma's very full university schedule, she visits elderly Holocaust survivors twice a week at the Holocaust survivor centre. She has befriended individual survivors by doing house visits, calling regularly on the phone and helping with general needs that are taxing on their wellbeing. She also runs monthly improv and acting classes with the survivors based on situations of the survivors choosing, this stimulates their brains and also creates enjoyable experiences for them. Additionally, Emma dedicates her time to Holocaust education by taking testimony from the survivors about what they wish their legacy to be.

Hannah-Sarah Selig, Oxford

The role Hannah took on this year, Oxford Meals Officer, is the biggest role on committee in every metric: time commitment, importance, pressure, thanklessness etc. It is a yearly role (not termly like any other, on Oxford JSoc). The job is usually two people for a reason (and that is often not enough). The effort she put in alone – selflessly and often without praise – was genuinely the difference between JSoc functioning or not.

Jenna Morris, Nottingham

Alongside a doing a medical degree, Jenna put in countless hours to coordinating Nottingham JSoc Netball. For netball, Jenna helped coordinate large events such as DIFD, but also on a weekly basis organises the teams fixtures and coordinates with the players. She does all this whilst not actually participating herself which is incredibly selfless. For JSoc, Jenna also led a project on suicide and crisis prevention training with the OLLIE foundation. Not sure where she finds the time.



Education Project of the Year

This award is for a project that focuses on a range of topics, including but not limited to: religion, politics, Holocaust education, and philosophy. It can be peer-led or run by an external speaker and can be regular events or a one off. The education project had a big impact and embodies UJS' values.



The nominees are...

Hannah Pearlman, Cambridge

Hannah Perlman is a dedicated member of Cambridge JSoc who contributes to the education of our community in numerous ways, serving in many roles including as JSoc President. Each week she posts a Dvar Torah with details of JSoc events and goes above and beyond to organaaise events such as services, the Rabbi Dweck talk, the women's megillah reading and other learning events.

KCL JSoc

Hearing from a Holocaust Survivor John Dobai from the holocaust educational trust (HET): event with over 120 bookings. Held in collaboration with KCL History Society as well as all of the London JSoc's, meaning the event was attended by half Jewish and half non-Jewish students. This meant it was also an outreach event, and many students found it very emotional and meaningful and came to thank John personally afterwards. Attended also by the Dean of university and several other staff.

Education Project of the Year

Oli Blair, Edinburgh

Oli pioneered, organised and ran the talk with Manfred Goldberg, a Holocaust Survivor, at the Uni of Edinburgh in January 2023. The event was an incredible success. He booked the Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre, the largest in the university with 450 capacity; this was promptly filled up, meaning we established an online live stream which over 100 people signed up for. Oli's beautiful words at the start reflected just how important this event was - for many of the non-Jewish students there (of which there were hundreds), this was their first experience of hearing a Holocaust Survivor speak. The room was awe-struck and deeply moved, and a number present described the event as life-changing.

Queen Mary East End Walking Tour

In February, Queen Mary JSoc hosted a walking tour of the Jewish East End. A group of students were taken on a tour of the heart of London's Jewish hub in the early 20th century, and were shown synagogues, marketplaces, and houses from a millennium of Jewish history. The group were also entertained by one member's family stories from the area, watching videos taken at the locations they were walking through! Everyone who attended learnt a lot about Jewish history and took a lot from the tour.



Education Project of the Year



Ruby Kwartz, Birmingham

This year Birmingham hosted a Holocaust Memorial day event in a lecture theatre, which involved holocaust survivor Mindu Hornick speaking to Birmingham students. This event was open to all Birmingham students, not just the JSoc. The event was one of the first HMD events that the JSoc has done with the university for a long time, with over 200 students attending. Ruby should be recognised for their hard work in putting on this event that is different to what Birmingham JSoc usually offers.

UCL Lunch and Learns

UCL Jsoc work hard to host interesting and innovate lunch and learns throughout term-time on campus. Collaborating with various organisations to bring speakers to students at UCL and surrounding JSocs, UCL should be commended for their hard work in educating and engaging with Jewish students

JSoc of the Year

The JSoc of the year Award is a hallowed award, having previously been given to many great JSocs in the past. This award goes to a JSoc that has been doing more than most, innovating and exciting Jewish student life to be vibrant and exceptional. This JSoc goes above and beyond to provide for its members, creating a Jewish home away from home on campus. They will offer a variety of regular events throughout the year and will have shown progress and development from the previous year.



JSoc of the Year

Durham JSoc

Durham JSoc has grown an extraordinary amount this year and sell out Friday Night Dinners most weeks. They have just opened their JSoc house, which has been the culmination of four years and multiple committees' hard work. The JSoc house has allowed Jewish life in Durham to flourish, and they have so far hosted Challah Bakes and Learnings sessions there. Durham JSoc has stepped up to provide support to multiple students facing antisemitism. They have also been part of multiple interfaith events and are highly involved in social action initiatives through work with Rene Cassin and Durham STAR to protest migrant detention centres near to the city. Durham might not be the biggest JSoc, but it has become a family, providing support for students who would otherwise be very far away from their previous Jewish community!

Edinburgh JSoc

It has been a year like never before for Edinburgh JSoc. They are one of the fastest growing JSocs in the UK, and this year's committee led by Louis Danker has had their calendar filled. Some highlights of the year so far include hosting a Rosh Hashana Dinner for 200 students, weekly bagel lunches, collaborating with ISoc for an Islamophobia and antisemitism awareness potluck dinner, organising an interfaith charity fair, which was nominated for a Mitzvah Day Award, running mental health awareness sessions with Jami, hosting a Holocaust Survivor, hosting the Scotland-wide FND, the first ever Pride FND, a collaboration with Edinburgh's Feminist Society about experiences of women in Judaism, and the JSoc ball. Edinburgh JSoc also ran an anti-hate campaign in light of a controversial event on campus, made representations to the university which resulted in the reviewing of its policy for events and speakers, pushed successfully for the establishment of a faith and belief subcommittee within the university's EDI structure, and hosted a number of events providing support and reassuring Jewish students through difficult times. Edinburgh JSoc is a place where students can be proud of their culture.

JSoc of the Year

Huddersfield JSoc

The Jewish society at Huddersfield has ran a tremendous amount of exciting events despite there being essentially no Jewish community in the area outside of the JSoc. This year so far they have had meet and greets, sukkah building and high holy days events, volunteered at a soup kitchen for Mitzvah Day, gave out 300 donuts for Chanukah on campus, had a beautiful holocaust memorial with live classical music, pride day night dinner raising money for Keshet and a memorial for Brianna Ghey, a bake sale for Turkey and Syria with the Islamic society, and an Adam Sandler themed Purim celebration. The entire committee and the co-presidents Noah and Sadie work tirelessly for there to be a Jewish presence on campus, to educate others on Jewish culture, and run fun community events.

LSE JSoc

LSE JSoc has had another fantastic year. They host weekly lunch and learn events with informative speakers and free kosher lunch on campus, providing a diverse community of Jewish LSE students with engagement with their culture and identity. This included leaders of charities, including Mitzvah Day, a wide range of Rabbis, and opportunities for Law with Israel Engagement. The committee joined once again the other faith societies for a soup kitchen in the local area for Interfaith Week and they had joint events with all London JSocs, including chagim parties and a London JSoc ball. The JSoc have dealt successfully with cases of antisemitism and disproportionate discrimination, including challenging the lack of inclusivity of Jewish students in the LSE Student Union. LSE JSoc were able to get social media posts by the SU taken down, and have successfully helped organise a restoration of a defamed art piece on campus. They organised for a mobile sukkah to come to campus, and have always been helpful for any student who needs support whilst getting accustomed to living in London.

JSoc of the Year

Manchester JSoc

Manchester JSoc is an inclusive environment that caters to all Jews. They have began a monthly egal service and a recent Friday night dinner saw 50% of attendees who had never attended a JSoc event before. Manchester JSoc has also started doing monthly LGBTQ+ socials which has helped attract so many new members from across the religious and political spectrum. Manchester JSoc has fluctuated in size in the past years but is a thriving Jewish student community.

Oxford JSoc

Oxford JSoc has had a stellar year. Some highlights include weekly themed sold out FNDs, building relationships with other political societies after relationships being poor previously. First Jewbilation back in the OJC in years, two holocaust events for the whole university student body, re-started weekly Egal services as well as continuing weekly orthodox services (FND and weekday minyans), hugely Increased kosher weekday meal use due to linked events. Oxford JSoc has had an insanely strong year, strengthening in all areas, as well as dealing well with the challenge of High Holy Days freshers week.

York JSoc

With only a small Jewish community in York, the JSoc always hosts events for holidays, even during breaks for international members. Free Friday Night Dinners are held every single week during term, and without any kosher options the JSoc has become creative with vegan and vegetarian meals and challah is generously provided by members who have chosen to bake that week. Despite being a small JSoc, more regular events have been introduced in the past year, with social events offered every week. These have included film nights, bar crawls, board games and so much more. The range offered means that there is something available to all members! With a committee of only 4 people, the organisation of all of this is difficult and time consuming, but makes a huge difference to Jewish life in York.



UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS

**Thank you all for
coming and for
everything you do on
campus for Jewish
students!**

