

# JVP'S ORGANIZING MODEL

DEVELOP THE LEADERSHIP OF THAT  
BASE THROUGH BUILDING POLITICAL  
ANALYSIS, ORGANIZING SKILLS AND  
THE ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER



TAKE ACTION THROUGH CAMPAIGNS & MOBILIZATIONS  
THAT ACHIEVE CONCRETE CHANGE, IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BROADER MOVEMENT  
FOR PALESTINIAN FREEDOM AND INTERSECTING  
STRUGGLES FOR JUSTICE

BUILD A BASE OF MULTI-GENERATIONAL,  
MULTI-RACIAL JEWISH COMMUNITIES  
ROOTED IN SHARED VALUES

# Who we are:

Jewish Voice for Peace is the largest progressive Jewish anti-Zionist organization in the world. We're organizing a grassroots, multiracial, cross-class, intergenerational movement of U.S. Jews into solidarity with the Palestinian freedom struggle, guided by a vision of justice, equality, and dignity for all people.

At JVP, we believe that every single person deserves to live in safety, dignity and freedom. No exceptions.

Jewish Voice for Peace Action is harnessing the power of our grassroots movement to transform U.S. policy and end U.S. government complicity in Israeli apartheid.



# JVP National History and Structure

- Founding and History

- JVP was formed in 1996 by Julie Iny, Rachel Eisner and Julia Caplan, undergraduate students at UC Berkeley
- In 2002, members decided to build a larger grassroots base that could one day change U.S. policies towards the region. Funds were raised then, as now, through a grassroots campaign focused mostly on small, individual donors.
- In 2011, the group claimed to have 600 dues-paying members, which had risen to 9,000 by 2015 and more than 32,000 by 2024.
- JVP is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) organization verified by the IRS. Our staff, membership, and donor base are overwhelmingly based in the United States.
- More information can be found at:
  - [jewishvoiceforpeace.org/faq/](https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/faq/)



# JVP National History and Structure

- Current Structure

- JVP is a grassroots, membership organization. Our dues-paying members elect a national board, who are responsible for overall stewardship of the organization, and who in turn hire/supervise an Executive Director. The Executive Director hires and leads a talented team of staff who run the day-to-day of the organization nationally.
- This includes building the infrastructure for local organizing and developing and supporting the leadership of member-leaders who lead the vast majority of JVP's organizing around the country.

- National Leaders (some of them)

- Stefanie Fox: Executive Director
- Shelby Handler: Chapter Organizer
- Bethany: JVP Action Senior Legislative Organizer
- Denée: California Chapter Organizer and Liaison



# Core Values



## Accountability to Palestinian Partners

Our accountability to Palestinian partners is a set of principles, commitments, and structures that serve as the foundation of our work. It is an ongoing process: of deep listening, continual relationship-building, and genuine re-assessment. We commit to building and maintaining close relationships with local, national, and international Palestinian leadership of the movement for Palestinian freedom, justice, and equality, as well as with our partners in the US movement for justice in Palestine. We are accountable to Palestinian-led organizations and coalitions that represent, and are themselves accountable to, Palestinian communities and who share the values of freedom, justice, and equality for all people.

We understand that our voices and actions are needed because the Zionist movement and the state of Israel purport to speak for and act on behalf of all Jews. We maintain accountability by centering this understanding and let it guide our work as anti-Zionist Jews taking responsibility in and for our communities. We work to answer the call of our Palestinian partners to build a mass movement of Jews that can effectively interrupt the U.S. state and institutional support that sustains Israeli settler-colonialism, occupation, and apartheid. Rooted in the understanding that systems of oppression are interconnected, we work to build with allied U.S.-based movements for justice towards liberation in Palestine and everywhere.

# Core Values



## Commitments to Jewish Communities

We organize our people and we resist Zionism because we love Jews, Jewishness, and Judaism. Our struggle against Zionism is not only an act of solidarity with Palestinians, but also a concrete commitment to creating the Jewish futures we all deserve. We are fighting for a thriving Judaism and Jewish communities, for a multiplicity of Jewish cultures and for the future of the Jewish people.

We gain strength from the long lineage of Jewish freedom fighters. Behind us are Salonican socialists, Warsaw Ghetto fighters, Israeli Black Panthers, labor organizers, Civil Rights veterans and many more ancestors who worked tirelessly for liberation – of Jews and all people.

We know our communities are under threat. We commit to dismantling antisemitism in the most effective way possible: as part of our struggle against all forms of oppression and bigotry. Our struggles must be united to succeed and we intend on succeeding.

# Core Values



## Commitment to Racial Justice & Collective Liberation

Our commitment to racial justice is a core praxis in our work, by which we mean an ongoing cycle of action and reflection within which we are striving to dismantle racism—both outside and within the organization—while also working to grow a liberatory culture for our organizing.

We understand that racism shapes everything in the US, Israel and beyond. Racism dictates who lives and dies, who has the resources they need to survive, who has the power to govern, who faces the most violence, who has the freedom to stay in or move from their homes, whose stories are told and believed. As a diverse, multiracial, cross-class, intergenerational movement of Jews we also understand that white supremacy, homophobia, transphobia, patriarchy, colonialism, militarism, and capitalism are intertwined at the roots, and that we can't fully address any of them without addressing all of them. Our commitment to Palestinian liberation is fundamentally a commitment to fight against racism and for a world where everyone lives with dignity, power, love, community, beauty, and justice.





# ZIONISM

A settler-colonial ideology and movement to establish a Jewish state in Palestine through the domination and elimination of the existing Palestinian Arab society.

Zionism emerges out of and relies upon Western Imperialism.



# KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF ZIONISM

- Imperialism (foreign sponsorship and subsidies)
- Jewish supremacism (core conflict is between the colonized and colonizers' respective societies)
- Militarization (use of force to establish a Jewish majority, remove Palestinians, and suppress resistance to colonialism)

# Three Pillars of the US-Israel Alliance



# JVP's Political Stance

**One or Two State Solution:** We're a U.S.-based Jewish organization, so we really don't believe it is our place to tell Palestinians what the best political outcome is toward a just, equitable, and sustainable peace. Instead, we focus on building a Judaism beyond Zionism, and using our power and leverage as American Jews to end the Israeli government's apartheid and violations of Palestinian human rights. However, we will not ignore decades of Israeli settlement expansion and the Israeli government's consistent march toward Palestinian expulsion. Because of this, it is our obligation to assert the vanishingly small likelihood of a two-state solution.

**Right of Return:** We Fully support the right of people to return as enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.

**Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS):** JVP has proudly endorsed the Palestinian led call for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (more commonly known as BDS) against the Israeli government since 2015.

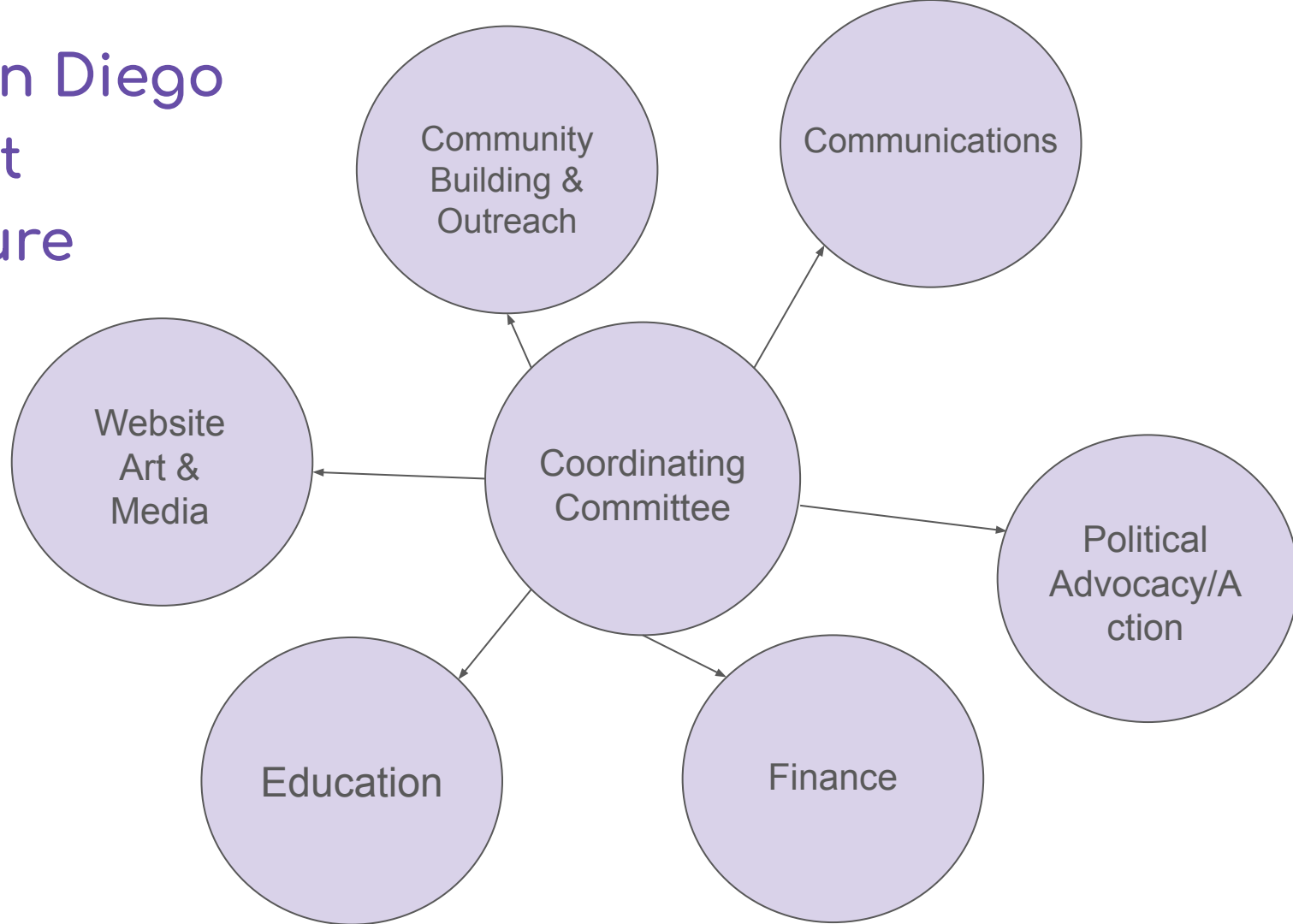
**Zionism:** JVP is guided by a vision of justice, equality and freedom for all people. We unequivocally oppose Zionism because it is counter to those ideals. While it had many strains historically, the Zionism that took hold and stands today is a settler-colonial movement, establishing an apartheid state where Jews have more rights than others. Our own history teaches us how dangerous this can be. Our struggle against Zionism is not only an act of solidarity with Palestinians, but also a concrete commitment to creating the Jewish futures we all deserve.

“Change never happens at the pace we think it should. It happens over years of people joining together, strategizing, sharing, and pulling all the levers they possibly can. Gradually, excruciatingly slowly, things start to happen, and then suddenly, seemingly out of the blue, something will tip.”

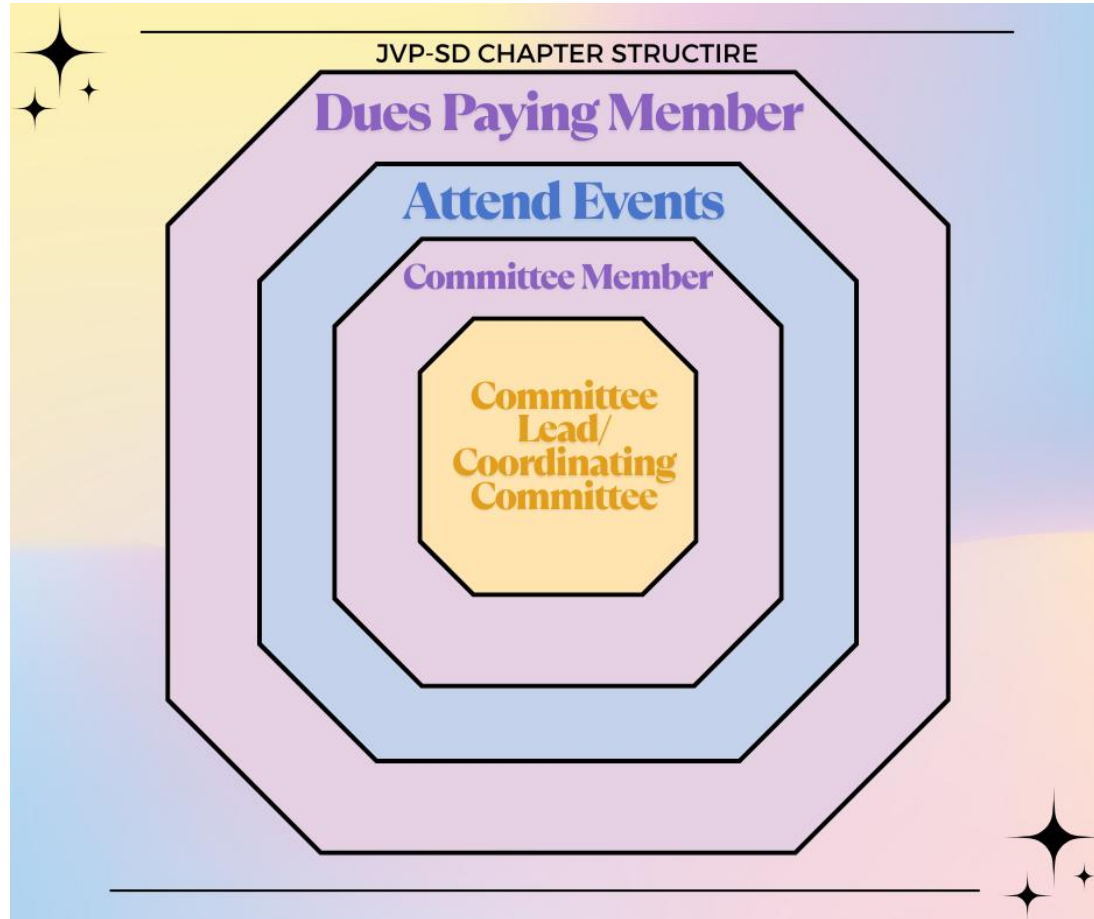
-Judith Heumann, Disability Rights Activist



# JVP San Diego Current Structure



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# Joining A Committee

All Chapter Members able to commit time and labor to supporting the work of the Chapter are eligible to join a committee according to their skills and interests. Committee participation is essential to develop leadership, create connections, and build collective capacity. Members should be informed of the time commitment involved in each committee, and should be asked to join. Members may join more than one committee, or leave one and join another.

Joining a committee entails making a time commitment: time meeting weekly or bi-weekly, time doing labor independently, and time corresponding with others. The exact amount of commitment will be determined collectively in each committee.



# Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating committee of JVP San Diego is a body consisting of a set number of Coordinators from each committee responsible for coordinating the work of the committees, maintaining and strengthening the Chapter infrastructure, weighing in on strategic decisions, and liaising with JVP National.

At the agreement of the Coordinating Committee, active members who are not Committee Leads but are dedicated to the work of our chapter may serve as members of the Coordinating Committee.



# Education Committee

## Internal Education

Create a curriculum to educate new members on JVP's political analysis, values and positioning on issues to facilitate effective onboarding of new members. Support CBO Committee with information for the newsletter, membership educational resources, and education on Judaism. Support all other committees with educational resources.

## External Education

Hold community workshops providing education to JVP community and the community at large. Support advocacy work within education systems, school districts, etc.



Meets monthly on a rotating basis

# Political Advocacy/Action Committee

Work on local campaigns for Palestinian liberation including participating in local coalitions.

Working with JVP CA formation to advocate on a statewide level against harmful zionist policies in state legislature  
Developing our own local campaigns based on member interest and capacity (ie Israel bonds, drop the ADL, BDS aligned campaigns.)

Prepping chapter members to speak to legislators and give public comment

*Action Subcommittee:*

- Plan and support local mobilizations for Palestinian liberation
- Maintain a safety team that can support local actions and JVP organized events



Meets every Wednesday at 7:30 pm

# Community Building and Outreach Committee

Maintaining the new member interest form, and coordinating new member meetings and 1:1s: New Member 1:1s will be assigned by the committee to members of the committee, and to Coordinators in accordance with the information provided in the forms while ensuring equitable distribution.

- Hold regular outreach meetings (phone banking)

Facilitate onboarding of new members Plan and Facilitate bimonthly in person chapter meetings, with support from other committee leads.

*Ritual subcommittee:* plan Jewish Community events for community engagement and relationship building.



Meets every Monday at 6:00 pm

# Website, Art and Media Committee

Maintain internal data storage, communications, and documentation standards and practices: including, but not necessarily limited to, the organization and access to our Google Drive, shared calendar, Chapter email account, listserv, Action Network, Signal, agenda format and meeting facilitation standards, manage and maintain chapter website, primary for social media updates and posting



Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm

# Finance Committee

- Maintaining financial records
- Checking bank accounts
- Fundraising
- Reimburse members for personal costs
- If you are interested in working with money/numbers, the financial committee may be right for you.



Meets on an as needed basis



# Communications Committee

- Prepare JVP SD members to speak at local rallies, demonstrations, classes, and other events through maintaining an active “Speakers bureau” with individuals who are well-versed on JVP’s core values, theory of change and latest talking points
- Prepare flyers and fact sheets for events
- Respond to media requests, ensure that members are prepared to talk to the media with the latest talking points
- Write op-eds and letters to the editor



Meeting time TBD



# JVP Student Committee

Founded from the amazing work of JVP students at UC San Diego, this committee provides students the opportunity to work closely with JVP - San Diego activists in building their organizing skills, in addition to forming relationships and community with students across the San Diego area. The committee is a collective of students who are members of JVP - San Diego located on campuses throughout San Diego.



# Next Steps

1. Join a committee if you haven't already  
[Get Involved Form](#)
2. Sign our member agreements [Member Agreements Form](#)
3. Reach out to our coordinating committee (sandiego@jvp.org) with other questions or concerns about information shared today or ideas for our chapter

