

Council Matters

December 2018

Focusing on Security Following the Tragedy in Pittsburgh

The Baltimore Jewish Council and The Associated remained busy on security issues throughout the month of November following the tragic shooting in Pittsburgh.



On November 7, the BJC convened more than 100 representatives from Jewish institutions across the region to hear from top law enforcement and homeland security officials with Baltimore City, Baltimore County and the State of Maryland. The leaders shared all of the steps that they are taking to help protect the Jewish community and offered suggestions of areas that institutions ought to examine as they seek to ensure being both safe and welcoming places.

A few days later, the BJC hosted an active shooter training session for more than 60 representatives of community. Throughout the month, Director of Security Keith Tiedemann visited a number of synagogues and schools to assess security and recommend infrastructure and personnel upgrades. Keith also continues to collect the confidential surveys of security from institutions in the community. The BJC plans to use the information collected in those surveys to help to advocate for additional resources from government and other sources.

BJC Readies for the Upcoming Legislative Session



With the 2019 legislative session slated to get underway in just over a month, the BJC's government relations team is hard at work, preparing to advocate for a robust agenda. On Monday morning, the BJC held its annual legislative breakfast for many of the lawmakers who represent

the Jewish communities of the region. The BJC shared its goals for the 90-day session, and many of the delegates and senators described their top priorities for legislation.

Issues related to senior citizens, elder abuse, hate crimes and antisemitism, and Holocaust education are likely to be among the top priorities of the BJC this session, as well as funding for such major projects as the new outpatient care building planned for Sinai Hospital, the new Hillel Center planned for the University of Maryland College Park, and overdue maintenance and repairs at the Myerberg Center.

Once the session starts, the BJC will be sending out regular email updates from Annapolis, and a date for the annual Maryland Jewish Advocacy Day will likely be announced later this month.

Sue Glick Liebman Visiting Israel Scholar Program Wraps Up

Making 14 appearances earlier last month to share her moving life story, Dr. Yarden Fanta helped

mark another successful installment of the Sue Glick Liebman Visiting Israel Scholar Program. To kick off the week long series Dr. Fanta joined the Baltimore Israel Coalition to recount her family's daring journey out of her native Ethiopia. She traveled by foot and under constant threat by an Ethiopian government, but Fanta eventually



made it to Israel. While her remarks focused on different parts of her story based on the context of her audience, one theme was constant throughout the series: the opportunities that she found in Israel, that she could not have had anywhere else in the world. [You can read more about Dr. Fanta's life in the Jewish Times' coverage of this series.](#)

Happy Chanukah!

FROM ALL OF US AT THE BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL



Upcoming Opportunities

NEXT WEEK: Charting the Course for Environmental Change in Maryland

Tuesday, December 13, 7 PM. Jewish Museum of Maryland

[Click here for more information and to RSVP.](#)

The Land We Always Dreamed Of: The Jews, the Holocaust, and the Yearning for a Homeland

Sunday, January 13, 2019, 3 PM. Park Heights JCC Community Room

[Click here for more information and to RSVP.](#)

Rescheduled Due to Weather: Lessons of the Shoah.

Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

School personnel interested in participating may contact: jparmigiani@baltjc.org.

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