June 2020

Tomorrow is Election Day! Have You Mailed In Your Ballot Yet?

Tomorrow is Election Day! Maryland’s 2020 primary election will be held exclusively by mail. Your ballot must be postmarked by June 2nd to ensure that your vote is counted, and no postage is required. Be sure that you follow all instructions included with your ballot, including signing the outside of the envelope. Limited in-person voting sites are available, and a list of these locations can be found here.

Did you know that U.S. Census dictates how more than $675 billion in federal funding is distributed each year across the states? That means that an inaccurate census count can lead to serious funding gaps for our state. The BJC is proud to be an Official Partner for the 2020 Census and if you have not yet been counted, please do so right now online. The census only takes a few minutes to complete, and is entirely confidential.

Save The Date: Virtual Annual Meeting June 15

Each year the BJC’s programming calendar culminates with our Annual Meeting. We are as committed as ever to continuing to bring you our programs both reoccurring and new, and the Annual Meeting is no exception. We hope you will join us June 15 at 12:00 PM on Zoom. Together we look back on the year’s work, as well as forward on to the year ahead, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic forces us to re-think how we will continue to serve the community. Additionally, the Annual Meeting will formally conclude the 2018-2020 term of our Board of Governors headed by President Yehuda Neuberger. This event is open to the public, however advance registration is required in order to receive the link to this Zoom webinar.

Annapolis Update: State Moves Forward With Pimlico Redevelopment

In a major win for Northwest Baltimore and the entire region, a historic plan to redevelop the Pimlico Race Course that was approved this year by the Maryland General Assembly, has now become law. The BJC was part of a broad coalition that advocated for this $389 million plan, including the Maryland Jockey Club, CHAI, and Park Heights Renaissance. The package includes extensive upgrades to the entire Pimlico facility that will transform it into a year-round community center, while guaranteeing that the Preakness remains in Baltimore.

House Bill 498, one of our top priority bills this past session, unfortunately succumbed to newly imposed budgetary restraints stemming from COVID-19 and was vetoed by Governor Hogan. The bill would have mandated at least $100,000 in annual funding for grants to be used specifically for establishing aging in-place-programs. We will continue to work with our bill sponsor and partners on this issue to readdress it next year as the need for more aging-in-place programs will only continue to grow. We are keenly aware that fiscal constraints will continue to tighten at all levels of government, and are closely
monitoring what that might mean for community programs which rely on state funding, and will be sure to keep you informed of any updates.

**BJC Virtual Content Now Accessible In One Place**

COVID-19 has forced us to approach nearly every aspect of our programming differently. Our webinars have featured Q & A sessions with community leaders, educational sessions on the Holocaust and Israel, and interactive and collaborative programs with other Associated agencies exploring topics like grief and social justice. Since March we have averaged at least one program each week, and we aim to make each of them as accessible as possible, even if you are not able to join us live. *We are pleased to now have all of our past recorded virtual events on our website in one convenient location for you to access at any time.*

**The Associated Continues Responding To COVID-19**

From ensuring that vulnerable seniors are safe in their home while social distancing, to helping laid-off workers to navigate the process of receiving unemployment insurance and finding a new job, all while continuing to engage community members of all generations to build a stronger Jewish Baltimore. *The work of the many agencies that make up The Associated could not be more imperative during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a proud agency of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, is able to respond in times of crisis thanks to the funding and financial support it receives from The Associated’s Annual Campaign. Now, more than ever, our Associated network needs your support to continue meeting the growing needs in our community due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

*Please give generously: associated.org/donate*

**Upcoming Events & Opportunities**

**Annual Meeting**

**June 15, 12:00 PM**

*Advance Registration Required*

**Save The Date: Summer Teachers Institute**

**August 3-5**

This three-day course is designed for educators looking to learn new ways to teach their students about the Holocaust. This program will take place entirely online.

More info and registration coming soon. Please contact Ilene Dackman-Alon at 443-873-5178 or email at idackmanalon@jewishmuseummd.org with any questions.

**Submit a Nomination for the BJC Leadership Development Program**

*Learn more about LDP and nominate someone who you think would be a good candidate for the 2020-2021 cohort.*