March 2020

Jewish Community Advocates Make their Voices Heard in Annapolis

Lawmakers in Annapolis hear from lobbyists and paid advocates all the time. However, when nearly 200 community members show up to express their support for some of the most pressing issues facing the Baltimore Jewish Community, it sends a powerful message.

After a one-year absence from Annapolis due to weather, Maryland Jewish Advocacy Day returned with a new format but the same level of impact. Community members met with their elected representatives to advocate for more protections for our aging population, keeping the Preakness in Baltimore while creating more opportunity for area residents, and for more ways to keep our community safe while combating hate crimes.

We would like to thank everyone who joined us in Annapolis last month, House Speaker Adrienne Jones for delivering our keynote address, and to all of the elected officials and cabinet members who joined us for our reception. If you were not able to make it, please learn more about each of the bills and budget items we advocated for.

Stand For Jewish Civil Rights

Vida Velasco is not your typical Israel advocate. She was born in the Philippines and is a devout Christian, but has been instrumental over the last decade in building support for Israel in non-Jewish communities. Velasco saw the misunderstanding and misrepresentation of Israel, and knew she had to do something. Since then she has spent time at StandWithUs, earned a masters degree in Jewish Studies, and spoken at AIPAC.

The community is invited to hear from Velasco and learn about her experiences during an appearance at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation on March 26 at 6:30 PM. Advance registration is required.

This Passover Share Your Seder

It is hard to believe that Passover begins next month! This year The Associated and BJC are joining with 2 for Seder, an effort to help combat Antisemitism by giving someone their first experience with Passover.

2 for Seder aims to create understanding between Jewish and Non-Jewish Communities and asks us to host two new friends, neighbors, co-workers or others you know, who have not experienced a Seder. They are with you every step of the way and have even created a host kit with everything you might need.

You can learn more about 2 For Seder and sign up to become a host at 2forseder.org

Major Progress On Legislation Combating Hate Symbols

Nooses and swastikas are unmistakable symbols.
of hate that each carry an immensely ugly history. Neither have a place in our state.

We have been working to combat these hateful symbols this legislative session through HB5 in the House of Delegates and SB161 in the State Senate, sponsored by Delegate Mark Change and Senator Sarah Elfreth respectively. This bill would prohibit anyone from placing or inscribing a noose or swastika, whether temporary or permanent, on any real or personal property, without the express permission of the owner. We are thrilled that both bills have passed their respective chambers and are now one significant step closer to reaching Governor Hogan’s desk.

Do You Know Someone 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.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

**TODAY!**

**Holy Silence: Reconsidering the Catholic Church and the Holocaust**

Monday, March 2, 7:00 PM

Gordon Center
3506 Gwynbrook Ave., Owings Mills, MD 21117

Purchase $10 tickets and more information

**Social Justice Teen Summit**

The Future Is Up To Us: Youth Voices in Activism

Monday, March 22, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Loyola University Maryland
Andrew White Student Center
Baltimore, MD 21210

More information and registration

**Vida Velasco: Standing For Jewish Civil Rights**

Thursday, March 26, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
7401 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore, MD 21208
Of Substance: A Stoop Storytelling Event  
Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
Goucher College, Kraushaar Auditorium  
1021 Dulaney Rd., Towson MD 21204  
More information and registration

Save the Date | Yom HaShoah  
Remembering Liberation: The 75th Anniversary  
Sunday, April 19, 4:30 - 6:00 PM  
Har Sinai - Ohev Shalom Congregation  
7310 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore, MD 21208  
More information and registration coming soon

The Land We Always Dreamed  
Sunday, April 26, 1:00 - 2:30 PM  
Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah  
7000 Rockland Hills Dr., Baltimore, MD 21209  
More information

Save the Date: Annual Meeting  
Thursday, June 4, 8:00 - 10:00 AM  
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation  
More information and registration coming soon