

## March 2020

### Jewish Community Advocates Make their Voices Heard in Annapolis



Lawmakers in Annapolis hear from lobbyists and 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 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](https://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.



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### 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.](#)

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### Upcoming Events & Opportunities

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# 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](#)

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#### **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](#)

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#### **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

[More information and registration](#)

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**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](#)

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**Save the Date | Yom HaShoah  
Remembering Liberation: The 75th Anniversary**

Sunday, April 19, 4:30 - 6:00 PM

Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation  
7310 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore, MD 21208

*More information and registration coming soon*

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**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](#)

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**Save the Date: Annual Meeting**

Thursday, June 4, 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

*More information and registration coming soon*

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Baltimore Jewish Council | baltjc.org

STAY CONNECTED



**100**  **The Associated**  
Jewish Federation of Baltimore