Legislative Session Concludes With Major Wins For Community

The 442nd legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly concluded on April 12, 2021, and we are excited to report a wide range of achievements on behalf of the community. Governor Hogan and the General Assembly increased funding for projects like expanding the Pearlstone Center, and continued to support critical care for Holocaust survivors. Important legislation passed expanding access to telehealth and ensuring those convicted of hate crimes can undergo anti-bias education. The state will also move forward with a task force to study domestic terrorism.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without wide ranging support from the community. If you attended a virtual advocacy day event, sent an email, or made a call to your legislators, we are deeply appreciative. You can view our full post-session legislative report to learn about the outcome of more of the bills and budget items we advocated for.

Additionally we invite you to join us on May 11 when we will be teaming up with Jews United for Justice to look back at some of the most critical justice related issues taken up by the General Assembly. We are excited to be joined by representatives from the Maryland NAACP, League of Conservation Voters, Public Justice Center, and Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle.

Weinberg Foundation Supports BJC Antisemitism Work

The Weinberg Foundation announced last month its plans to award $2.5 million in new grants to nonprofits focused on combatting antisemitism throughout the United States, and the Baltimore Jewish Council was thrilled to be selected as one of the participating organizations.

The new grants are part of the Foundation’s commitment to ensure the safety and security of the Jewish community, including fighting hate. In addition to supporting several national organizations, the grants will go to help the work of Jewish Federations and Jewish Community Relations Councils (JCRCs) within the Foundation’s U.S. priority communities, including Baltimore, Chicago, Hawaii, New York City, Northeastern Pennsylvania, and San Francisco.

The grant will provide a significant boost to the BJC’s work in implementing recommendations of our community task force on antisemitism.

Community Virtually Commemorates Yom HaShoah

Thank you to the hundreds of community members who virtually came together for this year's Yom HaShoah Community Commemoration. Though we could not be together this year, the sense of
community remained as strong as ever to mark this important occasion. The full program remains online and can be viewed anytime.

One of our longest standing Holocaust education partnerships is with the John Carroll School in Harford County, where each year we host Lessons of the Shoah. To commemorate Yom HaShoah, The Associated's Pulling Up A Chair podcast highlighted this collaborative program that connects young people with Holocaust survivors for a day of learning. You can listen to the episode now!

Apply Now: Social Justice Teen Fellowship

The fellows of the Social Justice Teen Fellowship are celebrating the rollout of the first series of the Justice Is Not Just Us podcast. Each episode, created by a team of fellows in the program, focuses on a social justice theme of their choosing. Each week one new podcast will be released, with the first premiering just today, and focusing on prison reform. On May 26 you can hear from the fellows themselves about the incredible work that went into each of these episodes.

The Social Justice Teen Fellowship is now recruiting members of its next cohort, launching this summer. Learn more about the Social Justice Teen Fellowship and encourage interested high school students to apply by May 15.

Lookout For Upcoming BJC Program Survey

The BJC will be conducting an online survey regarding our programming over the past year. The quick survey will be shared via email later this month.

Please keep an eye out for the survey, and we encourage you to share your thoughts on the programming we have offered during the pandemic. The insights and data we collect will help guide our planning for the coming year. Thanks in advance for your participation.

Support The Associated

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a proud agency of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, depends on the funding it receives from The Associated’s Annual Campaign. Now, more than ever in its 100 year history, our Associated network needs your support. Together we are addressing the urgent and critical needs of those most affected by the current coronavirus pandemic while ensuring the health and vitality of our community members through social services and connections to meaningful Jewish experiences. Donate now.

Please give generously

Upcoming Events & Opportunities
Looking Back on the Legislative Session: Continuing the Fight For Justice
With Jews United for Justice
Tuesday, May 11, 7:00 PM

Register Now!

Justice is Not Just Us: A Behind the Scenes Look at Creating the Podcast
Wednesday, May 26, 7:00 PM

Register Now!

Immortal Fire: Out Of The Ashes Of The Holocaust
Presented By The Washington Master Chorale
Streaming Begins Friday, May 21 at 7:00 PM

Tickets And More Information

Baltimore Jewish Council | baltjc.org

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