



November 2019

State Boosts Holocaust Education Requirements

Last month State Superintendent Karen Salmon released plans to enhance and expand required Holocaust education in Maryland public schools. The announcement follows months of efforts by lawmakers, the Baltimore Jewish Council and the



JCRC of Greater Washington. Nearly 80 state lawmakers from around the state signed a bipartisan letter urging the Maryland Department of Education to address this issue. With the recent upward trend in hate crimes facing both our state and nation it has never been more critical that we take a new look at how one the darkest periods in history is taught to our students. "With this announcement, our state educators are making an emphatic statement about our collective obligation to teach all children about the Holocaust in a consistent and detailed way," said BJC Executive Director Howard Libit.

The planned changes announced by Dr. Salmon include requiring Holocaust instruction within the state's new 4th and 5th grade social studies framework, teaching about the roots of Antisemitism as part of middle school social studies education, and strengthening the required Holocaust instruction in both high school U.S. history and high school modern world history. Through the work of our Holocaust Remembrance Commission we strive to ensure that as many community members as possible are able to hear stories of survivors and learn about the horrors of the Holocaust, but we are never going to be able to reach everyone. These changes will now ensure that everyone is able to learn from the Holocaust, because the most powerful tool against hate is education.

[Please read our full statement on this announcement.](#)

Remembering Congressman Elijah Cummings

On October 17th Baltimore lost a giant. With the passing of Elijah Cummings, our community, our city, and our nation lost a friend, a man of faith, and a remarkable leader. He was a champion of the city he loved and all of our

community's needs, priorities, and values, with a constant focus on creating opportunities for young people.

Representative Cummings' legacy will undoubtedly be known for his untiring commitment to the people of Baltimore as well as his unrelenting pursuit of the truth and justice as Chairman of the House Oversight and



Government Reform Committee. But it should also include his 20 years of work bringing together the African-American and Jewish Communities through the Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel (ECYP). We invite you to read more about the Congressman, ECYP, and his passion for the program that made a difference in the lives of so many, from our Executive Director Howard Libit in [The Forward](#).

BJC Board Receives Kirwin Commission Briefing



William "Brit" Kirwan, Chairman of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," speaks to the BJC Board at our October meeting.

Reconnecting Park Heights

We are less than two weeks away from "Bridging the Two Park Heights," an event where we will be joining with community leaders, elected officials, and residents to start a conversation

about the divides that exist in the Park Heights Neighborhood and how we can collectively overcome them. We will be joined by Council President Brandon Scott and Delegate Sandy Rosenberg for a panel discussion, followed by the opportunity for residents to huddle with their neighbors. This event will take place on November 12th at 7:00 PM at the CC Jackson Rec Center on Park Heights Avenue. [Please be sure to register in advance.](#)



Kristallnacht: A Legacy Lost



As we approach 81 years since the night of the broken glass, we hope you will join us as we once again come together as a community to commemorate the night that everything changed in Germany. Event

attendees will be able to discover the musical legacy left by German Jews that was almost lost for good. This musical revival will feature the choirs of Beth El Congregation and Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church. [This event is free, but please be sure to register in advance.](#)

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

**Maryland Jewish
Advocacy Day**

Save The Date

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Faith In The Workplace Forum

Tuesday, November 5, 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM

Temple Oheb Shalom
7310 Park Heights Ave, Pikesville, MD 21208

[More information and registration](#)

Kristallnacht Commemoration Concert

Sunday, November 10, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Beth El Congregation
8101 Park Heights Ave, Pikesville, MD 21208

[More information and registration](#)

Reconnecting Park Heights

Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 PM

CC Jackson Rec Center
4910 Park Heights Ave, Baltimore, MD 21215

[More information and registration](#)

Charting the Course for Environmental Change

Monday, December 9, 6:00 PM

Brown Advisory
901 S. Bond St., Baltimore, MD 21231

[More information and registration](#)

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