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## Council Matters

September 2019

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### Interfaith Trialogue Series to Kick Off Wednesday

The Interfaith Trialogue Series is returning, and it all starts Wednesday at 6:30 PM. The theme of the three part series is *Intersectional Moments*. When faith and justice, individuality and collectiveness, the sacred and the mundane all intersect, many questions become apparent, yet each faith might have a different answer. Led by Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faith leaders, participants will explore those answers and see where they overlap and how they differ. This series promises an engaging evening of music, discussion, and food, in an open environment. All are welcome to this free event regardless of religious background, though registration is required. Participants are encouraged to join us at all three installments of this series.



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### BJC Helps Bring Federal Security Dollars to Area Institutions



Baltimore area synagogues and other Jewish institutions learned in August that they are being awarded nearly \$1.45 million in federal homeland security grants, part of \$1.75 million that was awarded to religious institutions in areas of Maryland outside of the counties adjacent to Washington D.C. The grants can be used to both upgrade

building security infrastructure and – for the first time – to help cover cost of security personnel. Special thanks to BJC Director of Security Keith Tiedemann for all of his work conducting security assessments for area institutions and assisting in the application process. The BJC also continues to assist with the process of applying for state security grants from money allocated by Governor

## BJC Hosts Jewlicious Creator David Abitbol

It might be difficult to imagine a Jew striking up a friendship with someone who believes the existence of his entire religion, and everyone in it is an abomination, but David Abitbol found that it is more possible than one may think. Abitbol joined the BJC last month for an intimate conversation about his life and friendship with Megan Phelps-Roper, former member of the extremist Westboro Baptist Church. He also shared the lessons he has learned from helping Megan make the journey as an active member of a hateful religious extremist group, to leaving the church, and now traveling the country to speak about overcoming hate, and how we as a society can better work to understand each other. Abitbol, who is from Canada, and currently lives in Israel, also spoke about his multimedia brand *Jewlicious*, and how he has used it to tap into a new generation of Jews with everything from online content to music festivals.



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## Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel Fellows Return Home

After spending nearly an entire month in Israel, 13 fellows participating in the Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel program returned home in July. While the fellows visited many of the famous sites of Israel, including the Western Wall and Dead Sea, much of their time was spent at the Yemin Orde Youth Village. Here



the teens were able to meet and live among their peers from both Israel and around the world. After returning in July, the cohort worked with Stoop Storytelling to create a unique story based on their experiences in Israel. Each fellow then shared their story last month at the welcoming back event attended by the participants' families as well as the new cohort of fellows who themselves are just beginning the program. With the summer coming to a close, the fellows will continue the program through their senior year before graduating this spring.

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## Upcoming Events & Opportunities

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## Interfaith Triologue Series

Wednesday, September 4, 11, and 18, 6:30 PM

The Garage at R. House, 301 W 29th St, Baltimore, MD 21211

[More information and registration](#)

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## Kristallnacht Commemoration Concert

Sunday, November 10, 2:00 - 3:30 PM, Beth El Congregation

More information and registration coming soon

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Baltimore Jewish Council | [baltjc.org](http://baltjc.org)

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