



December 2020

A Retirement, and a Transition



As many of you have probably already heard, the BJC will sadly say goodbye this month to Jeanette Parmigiani, our long-time Director of Holocaust Programs.

Jeanette has been a determined, effective and caring advocate for Holocaust education and commemoration, helping to ensure that the BJC reaches thousands of students and adults each year. From connecting Survivors to speaking engagements, to organizing major community programs, to working with partners to facilitate student and teacher education, Jeanette consistently sought innovative ways to reach new populations.

We are sad to see her retire, but know that Jeanette is eager to spend more time with her husband, her children, and – most importantly – her grandchildren. And we are thrilled that Jeanette promises to stick around as a volunteer, which is how she actually began her work with the BJC.

Eagerly transitioning into Jeanette's role will be Emily Braverman Goodman, who many of you already know through her work with both Holocaust programming and the Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel. Emily's new full-time position will be Director of Holocaust and Antisemitism Programming, and her responsibilities will expand to include helping to implement the new community action plan to combat antisemitism.

We all extend our deep appreciation to Jeanette for her tremendous work, and we promise that we will honor her in person when it is safe for all of us to gather again in 2021.

BJC and Pearlstone to Focus Annual Summit on Environmental Justice



We are excited to once again be teaming up with the Pearlstone Center to present the fourth annual environmental forum on December 21 at 7:30 PM. *Charting the Course for a More Just and Sustainable Future* will take place in an all virtual format, and address how participants can integrate environmental justice in their work as advocates.

Dr. Sacoby Wilson, the director of the Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) laboratory, will be our keynote speaker, and Delegate Dana Stein will serve as host. Participants will be able to attend breakout sessions focusing on a different piece of environmental legislation to be introduced during the upcoming session. [Advance registration is required.](#)

Baltimore Community Task Force on Antisemitism Presents Findings

Convened after a disturbing number of antisemitic incidents in Baltimore and around the world, the Baltimore Community Task Force on Antisemitism presented its findings and action plan last month.



The task force co-chairs, BJC President Rabbi Andrew Busch and immediate past chair of The Associated Debra S. Weinberg, [authored an op-ed in The Sun where they discussed the task force's work, and how the community must confront antisemitism in all forms.](#) Members of the task force also included both lay and professional leadership, representing Jewish community organizations from across the region.

Thank You For Voting!

The 2020 presidential election results have been counted and certified in Maryland. This election we joined with The Associated and its agencies to encourage everyone in the community to vote, and vote by mail. We would like to thank everyone who exercised their civic responsibility by casting a ballot. This election saw a record number of votes cast by mail, but that was not the only take away. [Our own Matt Peterson recently shared some of his thoughts in Jmore, where he breaks down the results from a local and statewide perspective.](#)



Ponczak-Greenblatt Award Recipients Announced



For the past 21 years, ***The Ponczak-Greenblatt Families' Award For Excellence In Holocaust Education*** has been given to local leaders and educators, who pursue Holocaust teaching and programming with an inspiring dedication. The recipients have spanned religious denominations and boundaries. This annual award is given in memory of Holocaust survivors, Morris and Anna Greenblatt and Frieda Ponczak. This year two extraordinary educators, Ms. Katie Forbes of Bel Air Middle School and Dr. Amy Rosenkrans of Graceland Park – O'Donnell Heights Elementary/Middle School, will be welcomed into "The Ponczak-Greenblatt Families' Honor Roll of Schools."

Katie Forbes' Bel Air Middle School eighth graders have an intensive, four-month Holocaust unit: reading and discussing a variety of Holocaust literature and poetry; studying original Holocaust documents and survivor diaries. The students delve into *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by reading the play in class, view a local production of the play, and take a virtual tour of The Annex. The unit culminates with a visit from a Holocaust survivor for first-hand, Holocaust testimony, inspiring the students to carry on the memory of the Holocaust and to Never Forget.

Dr. Amy Rosenkrans' Graceland Park seventh graders spend four weeks learning about the Holocaust. After learning the context, chronology, and geography of the time period, students investigate the range of responses of individuals, groups, and governments to the

Holocaust. Particular emphasis is placed on the choices made by Upstanders. Throughout their study of Upstanders, students are encouraged to identify situations in their own personal lives when they have had to make personal choices about whether and how to take action. This unit provides students with the opportunity to analyze primary sources, particularly survivor testimonies, write narrative essays, and hone their speaking and listening skills.

The Baltimore Jewish Council extends our congratulations to Katie Forbes and the Bel Air Middle School faculty, headed by Principal Natalie N. Holloway; and to Dr. Amy Rosenkrans and the Graceland Park-O'Donnell Heights Elementary/Middle School community, headed by Principal Rita Mollally. We are grateful for their on-going dedication to Holocaust education and remembrance. The award includes a commemorative plaque and funds for the purchase of additional Holocaust resources.

Support The Associated On Giving Tuesday!

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

Charting the Course for a More Just and Sustainable Future

Monday, December 21, 7:30 PM

Join your peers, learn from trusted environmental advocates and plot your course for advocating in Maryland's upcoming legislative session.

[Register Now](#)

The 21%: The Arab Minority in Israeli Society

January 12 - Arab Citizens in the Start-Up Nation: A Work in Progress

February 9 - Looking Ahead: Emerging Visions and Realities for Shared Society

Each session is on a Tuesday at 1:00 PM.

[Register Now](#)

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