



January 2021

Legislature Convenes This Month For Session Unlike Any Other

Despite the upcoming session of the Maryland General Assembly looking like no other in the past, we will be there as always to advocate on behalf of the community. When the legislature convenes next week for the 442nd time, it will be for an almost entirely virtual session.

We are excited to get to work with our partners in the General Assembly, and our fellow advocates from across the state. Our agenda includes creating a domestic terrorism statute for Maryland, banning hate symbols in schools, and ensuring that perpetrators of hate crimes are educated about the communities they have offended. We will also be working to secure funding for community programs and projects that have never been more vital. Programs such as in-home support services for Holocaust Survivors, and the new primary and specialty care complex at Sinai Hospital.



As always, we invite you to become an advocate with us on Maryland Jewish Advocacy Day, taking place in an all virtual format. Save the date for **Monday, February 15**, when we will be joined by Governor Larry Hogan, and our partners from the JCRCs of Greater Washington and Howard County. Additionally, you will be able to participate in individual district meetings with your Senator and Delegates, taking place throughout February and March.

Learn With Us On MLK Day



Continuing a tradition of bringing the community together for learning or action on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we are teaming up with Jewish Volunteer Connection to discuss white privilege and how we can individually work to deconstruct racism. The event, taking place on January 18 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM, is part of JVC's MLK Days of Service.

We will be joined by facilitator Dr. Andrea Davis, founder of Scholarly Pursuits. Together we will view Baratunde Thurston's TED Talk *How to deconstruct racism, one headline at a time* and then come back together for an interactive discussion. [Advance registration is required.](#)

Annual Environmental Summit Draws Nearly 100 Participants

Close to 100 participants gathered via Zoom last month to learn how they can become better advocates for environmental equity. As they learned from Keynote speaker Dr. Sacoby Wilson, we must look more holistically at the issue of climate change as it affects more than just the environment, and its impact on people is far from equal.



We want to thank everyone who joined us, as well as each of our tremendous presenters: Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Delegate Dana Stein, Delegate Melissa Wells, Delegate Brooke Lierman, Senator Sarah Elfreth, Jamie DeMarco of Chesapeake Climate Actions Network, Jen Brock-Cancellieri of Moving Maryland Beyond Coal, Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, and Rabbi Daniel Burg.

Welcome Josh Sherman!

We are thrilled to welcome Josh Sherman to our team as the new Director of Community Relations, starting this week. Josh is no stranger to Jewish communal service in Baltimore, and we invite you to stay tuned for more great community relations programming throughout the new year. We look forward to more extensively introducing Josh in next month's Council Matters.

Task Force Co-Chairs Pen Op-Ed on "Our Community's Collective Fight"



BJC President Rabbi Andrew Busch and Immediate Past Chair of The Associated, Debra S. Weinberg, who served as co-chairs of the Baltimore Community Task Force on Antisemitism, recently authored and op-ed in Jmore about the task force's work.

As they write in the op-ed, it is now time to focus on the action plan: "We must do more to educate both our own Jewish community, and the world around us. We must advocate for laws that will help fight antisemitism and hate, from tougher anti-hate criminal laws to stronger requirements for education about the Holocaust."

[Read the entire piece, including more about what we can do as a community to combat this disturbing rise in antisemitism.](#)

Support The Associated In The New Year!

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

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Understanding White Privilege to Deconstruct Racism

Monday, January 18, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

[Register Now](#)

The 21%: The Arab Minority in Israeli Society

All sessions at 1:00 PM

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

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

[Register Now](#)

The Intersection of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace

January 12, 3:30 PM

Hear from legal experts about creating and implementing workplace policies to promote and foster a culture of belonging for all LGBTQI+ individuals. In addition, we will learn more about upcoming legislation to address hate crimes and issues of bias.

[Register Now](#)

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