



## January 2020

### Legislators Share Priorities with BJC and The Associated Leadership



The BJC's Legislative Team has been busy crafting our agenda for the 2020 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly. From meeting with agency staff, community leaders, other advocacy organizations, and elected officials, we have identified some of the issues most important to the community. Our work during the interim culminated in early

December with the annual BJC Legislative Breakfast, attended by legislators from both Baltimore City and Baltimore County, lay and professional leadership of the BJC and The Associated, along with Associated agency executives. At this informal event, attendees first heard from BJC Deputy Director Sarah Mersky Miicke who presented our legislative priorities, which includes addressing elder abuse, combating hate crimes and symbols, and the redevelopment of Northwest Baltimore. Next, legislators each shared some of the bills they will be sponsoring and issues they plan to address during the legislative session which begins Wednesday at noon.

We cannot advocate alone though, and we need you to make your voice heard with us in Annapolis. The best way to do that is on **Maryland Jewish Advocacy Day**, which is just over a month away on February 18. To learn more about Advocacy Day or to register visit [baltjc.org/AdvocacyDay20](http://baltjc.org/AdvocacyDay20).

### HonestReporting Editor to Present on Anti-Israel Media Bias

Simon Plosker, Managing Editor at HonestReporting, will visit Baltimore later this month to discuss anti-Israel bias in the media. Founded in 2000, HonestReporting's operating strategy is to monitor media coverage of Israel to expose bias and

inaccuracies, while also educating the public so that individuals are able to identify bias and feel empowered to counter it. Join the BJC on Thursday, January 23, at 6:30 pm at Beth El Congregation. For more information and to register please visit: [baltjc.org/HonestReporting](http://baltjc.org/HonestReporting).



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## BJC Board Briefed on Major Pimlico Deal



One year ago it appeared that the Preakness might be leaving Baltimore forever, and that Pimlico Race Course would be abandoned. But today Pimlico, Park Heights, and Northwest Baltimore may be on the cusp of a Renaissance. The recent historic deal announced in October, is worth close to \$200 million and aims to completely rebuild Pimlico Race Course and convert it into a state-of-the-art facility that will

also serve as hub for retail and community attractions. No two people are more knowledgeable on this plan than Bill Cole and Alan Rifkin, who negotiated every piece of it. They along with Alan Foreman gave an in depth presentation to the BJC Board in December, and made it clear that this is a once in a generation opportunity to revive a major part of Baltimore City. However, a lot of work still needs to be done before this deal is finalized, and much of it will happen at the state level during the upcoming legislative session. The revitalization of Pimlico and Northwest Baltimore will be among our top priorities on our legislative agenda, and something you can advocate for if you join us for Maryland Jewish Advocacy Day.

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## BJC Helps Celebrate Chanukah Around Town!

The BJC Team was all over town last month to help celebrate Chanukah. We joined Governor Hogan, Mayor Jack Young and members of the City Council, Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer, and community members at the Inner Harbor, to light many different hanukkiot, both big and small. We hope you and your family had a joyous Chanukah filled with light.





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## Upcoming Events & Opportunities

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### **The Kirwan Commission and the Future of K-12 Education in Maryland**

Sunday, January 5, 10:00 AM

Chizuk Amuno Congregation  
8100 Stevenson Rd., Baltimore, MD 21208

[More information and registration](#)

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### **Fighting Anti Israel Media Blas: Time for Some Honest Reporting**

Thursday, January 23, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

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

[More information and registration](#)

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### **Maryland Jewish Advocacy Day**

Tuesday, February 18, 5:30 PM

Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Baltimore, MD 21401

[More information and registration](#)

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## **Winter Teachers Institute 2020: Confronting Antisemitism**

Sunday, February 16 & 23

This professional development opportunity is designed for current education professionals looking to learn new ways to teach about the Holocaust, genocide, and Antisemitism.

[More information and registration](#)

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

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