

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 01, 2017

Auschwitz through the Lens
of the SS
Chizuk Amuno
7:00 P.M.

March 09, 2017

Jewish Educators Night
Jewish Museum of MD
6:00 - 8:30 P.M.

March 30, 2017

Interfaith Dialogue
Owings Mills JCC
6:30 P.M.

April 23, 2017

Yom HaShoah
Beth El Congregation
5:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Community Relations Committee will be meeting on March 7th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the rising issue of hate crime in Maryland, recap our most recent meeting with the Attorney General on the hate crime hotline and opportunities for education and awareness, and discuss strategic planning for a potential community event on hate crime to take place in April of 2017. If you are interested in joining this meeting - please email Madeline Suggs at msuggs@baltjc.org for the location.

Council Matters

MARCH 2017

Legislative Recap

The Baltimore Jewish Council has been hard at work in Annapolis advocating for issues important to the Jewish community. Hearings began yesterday on the BJC's top legislative priority, the bills to stop companies from engaging in a discriminatory boycott of Israel. A second hearing on the legislation is scheduled for later today, and we urge everyone in our community to reach out to lawmakers to urge them to support the legislation (Senate Bill 739 and House Bill 949). We are pleased to have met with nearly all committee members who will be voting on the bill to express the significance of this issue for both the Jewish community and the whole state.

The Maryland Jewish Advocacy Day on February 7 was a tremendous success, with nearly 250 attendees from around the state. Event participants spoke with their Delegates and Senators about critical legislation going before the General Assembly this session. Topics included anti-BDS legislation, earned sick leave, and funding for BJC's budget priorities. The Advocacy Day reception was attended by leaders from across the state as well as representatives of Governor Hogan.

We are proud to report that all budget requests have been level funded for one more year, including \$2 million for Sinai Hospital. The BJC is also working to support HB1, which would guarantee sick and safe leave for all Maryland workers. Last month, the Working Matters Coalition, of which BJC is a member, testified in support of the bill both in the House and Senate.



Young Pros Countering BDS

The BJC and The Associated are launching the third Young Professionals Countering Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) workshop series this spring! Over the course of six sessions, participants will learn about the history of the BDS movement and strategies to counter BDS on both a local and national scale. Young professionals with an interest in supporting Israel are encouraged to contact Adrienne Potter Yoe by March 7th at apotteryoe@baltjc.org. The program is sponsored by a grant from The Associated.

Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel (ECYP)



On February 7th, the fellows headed to Annapolis for Advocacy Day. In the morning, the seniors met with Delegates and Senators from their districts while the juniors learned about the legislative process. In the afternoon, both groups heard from Delegate Keith Haynes and Senator Will Smith on their experiences as legislators and the key issues in their districts. They ended their day with a policy debate against JVC's Students Taking Action for Change (STAC) teens.

Over President's Day weekend, the ECYP juniors participated in an overnight retreat at the Pearlstone Center. The fellows enjoyed team building activities, hearing from an alumni panel, and completing workshops on Israeli diversity and Hebrew to prepare for their trip to Israel.