Council Matters
October 2018

Interfaith Day to Serve is Tonight!

With the cold winter fast approaching, we must think of those in our community without a consistent place to call home. Tonight at 5:30, join the Baltimore Jewish Council, Repair the World: Baltimore, Morning Star Baptist Church, and the Baltimore County Interfaith Coalition to help make 300 blessing bags. Last year we were successful in meeting our goal of helping 300 members of the Baltimore Community experiencing homelessness. Help us meet that goal once again. Volunteers who join us for dinner and to pack bags at Morning Star Baptist Church’s Community Outreach Center in Woodlawn will be encouraged to take bags with them and personally give them to people in need. [There is still time to register.]

Baltimore Jewish Organizations win more than $1.7 million in homeland security grants

The Baltimore area has been awarded more than $1.75 million in federal homeland security grants for synagogues and other Jewish institutions. This amount is more than the Baltimore area has ever received—last year was a little more than $600,000. The winning applicants have already been notified, but the federal government requires that the list of individual institutions be kept confidential. It is up to individual institutions to announce their grant if they choose to. This makes a total of $9.8 million to our community since the program began 14 years ago.

We would like to extend a special thanks to our federal delegation, who have fought for our community to get a strong share. Additional thanks to Keith Tiedemann, the BJC’s Director of Security, for all of his work with so many institutions on updating security assessments and walking them through the application process. In addition, Keith and Sarah Mersky, the BJC’s Deputy Director, organized spring informational sessions for schools and Jewish institutions, to walk them through the process prior to the beginning of the application period.

Make the Pledge to Vote in this Upcoming Election

Last week marked National Voter Registration Day. The Baltimore Jewish Council is doing its part to promote civic engagement by helping members of the community make a pledge to vote. Through a partnership with the Jewish Museum of Maryland, “Voter Pledge Cards” are now available at the museum, all future BJC events, and many area synagogues. The card helps you make a plan to vote, and once completed the card will be retained by the BJC and then mailed to you shortly before the election, as a reminder to vote. [If you still need to register to vote, you may do so until October 16.]

Upcoming Opportunities

Imagining Justice in Baltimore, Community Conversations hosted by the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies. [Click here for more information and to register.]

First Time Sold Out, Second Time Added! Private Screening of “Tzeva Adom: Color Red” Thursday, October 4, 8:00 PM. [Click here for more information and to RSVP.]

Kristallnacht 80th Anniversary. Wednesday, November 7, 7:00-8:00 PM. [Click here for more information and to RSVP.]