



On Thursday, January 19, 2012, His Excellency the Ambassador of Israel and Mrs. Oren visited the Banneker-Douglass Museum as part of their visit to Annapolis. I must say that the entire encounter was shockingly comfortable.

I never met a more down-to-earth dignitary before. He and his wife's interests in our offerings, especially Loring Cornish: Selections from 'In Each Other's Shoes' were indeed a pleasure to witness. I was especially engaged by Ambassador Oren's insights about Frederick Douglass and his stories about US political scientist and diplomat, Ralph Bunche. His sharing those keen insights was greatly appreciated.

Ambassador Oren's itinerary included addressing both the House and Senate, meeting with Annapolis mayor, Joshua Cohen, and being interviewed by The Capital. Ambassador Oren concluded his time in Annapolis by participating in many activities at the US Naval Academy.

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, and the Banneker-Douglass Museum, were deeply honored by the visit. We thank the ambassador for including us in what I am sure was an extremely busy but rewarding day. Our gratitude extends to Ms. Miriam Katz and Ms. Galit Baram of the Embassy of Israel for including the BDM in the ambassador's calendar.