

Social Action

What's happening at Temple Israel?

The Social Action Committee strives to keep you posted on what is happening via Temple Topics, weekly e-blasts, email and Facebook. *Please check for updates, upcoming projects and meetings to learn what the Social Action Committee is up to each month.*

This month we have an update from the Interfaith Council for New Americans Westchester (ICNAW) of which Temple Israel is a member along with several other faith-based organizations. Read below about how the ICNAW has successfully supported the Ghafoor family, upcoming needs and the goal to sponsor another family. *To learn more contact Howard Horowitz at howard@horowitzresearch.com or socialactiontinr@gmail.com*

The Religious Action Center (RAC) – NY has also launched a new initiative regarding social justice issues. See below. *Contact Todd Brecher at toddsb@gmail.com to learn more.*

May's Collection is a "Formalwear" drive benefitting teens at The Jewish Board. *See p. 15 for details. ONE WEEK ONLY – 5/1-5/8/2019.*

Next Social Action meeting is on Sunday, April 28, at 9:45 am for a short while. We encourage you to then attend the Brotherhood Breakfast & Discussion. Coffee and donuts served. Join us to learn about all that is happening and bring your ideas!

Last month's Feminine Hygiene Drive brought in so many products that will benefit many local women and teen girls. A big thank you Jill, Marni and Eva Winston. A huge shout out to the Nero Family and the successful Sports Equipment Drive in February. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Any questions?

Contact: Deb Blatt, Amy Ecker or Mia Egelberg at SocialActionTINR@gmail.com

Temple Israel Members Join NYRAC in Albany to Lobby Statehouse on Greenlight Initiative

RAC-NY is a new initiative of the Reform Action Center of the Reform Movement (RAC) to lobby for legislation in line with our values as Reform Jews. RAC-NY decided to prioritize this immigrant friendly issue after careful deliberation. This legislation would authorize the issuing of drivers' licenses, regardless of a person's immigration or document status. Representing Temple Israel's Social Action Committee were Todd Brecher and Howard Horowitz, who traveled to Albany with RAC-NY. Todd and Howard were joined by over 90 participants from over 30 Reform congregations around NY State.

The delegation met with Senator Shelly Mayer and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, co-sponsors of the bill. Currently the many thousands of immigrants who live and work in NY are unable to obtain a driver's license. Given the need to drive to work, take their children to school, activities and doctor's appointments the result is that they drive without a license or insurance.

When deliberating which issue to pursue, RAC considers the religious and social values of the Reform Movement. In addition

to protecting the "stranger," the bill has significant public safety benefits for all. The bill would allow undocumented individuals to be properly licensed and insured road safety for all. This bill would also insure that police can properly handle the policing of these drivers as they do with all other NY drivers (the police chiefs of both Ossining and Port Chester have endorsed the bill). In addition, the bill is estimated to add upward of \$50,000,000 in annual revenue for New York State from the fees it would collect.



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In the meetings, the delegation expressed strong support for the legislators. The delegation explained how support for the bill is a reflection of the core values of reform Judaism and that, we, too, were immigrants, refugees and undocumented leaving Egypt right down to coming to these shores. Shelly Meyers and Amy Paulin responded that RAC-NY coming forward, a non-immigrant group in support of this legislation, is crucial to its future. The legislators asked the delegation to find more non-immigrant groups to join in the coalition to move the bill out of committee and onto the floor for passage.

The Social Action Committee of TINR is excited to be a part of RAC-NY and of this social justice initiative. Keep looking for updates in Temple Topics, TINR's weekly e-blasts and on social media. We will keep the congregation informed of how we are all able to get involved and raise our voices in support of our values.

Contact Todd Brecher at toddsb@gmail.com to learn more.

From the Interfaith Council for New Americans Westchester (ICNAW)

Dear Fellow Congregants and Supporters,

In 1939 Senator Robert Wagner (D-NY) and Congresswoman Edith Rogers (R-Mass.) sponsored a bill that would have allowed 20,000 refugee children (14 and under) to immigrate to the U.S. from Europe (10,000 in 1939 and 10,000 in 1940). It was a reaction to Kristallnacht (Nov. 9-10, 1938) in Germany. It had wide support among religious groups and labor leaders. It was opposed by nationalist groups and it never came to vote as Senator Robert Rice Reynolds (D-NC) blocked it from coming to the Senate floor. Rice was a venomous anti-Semite and Anglophobe who because of his seniority wielded considerable power in the Senate.

History repeats, and the venom today has been directed at immigrants from the Middle East, Africa and Central America.



The Ghafoor Family

The Interfaith Council for New Americans Westchester (ICNAW) and its 150 volunteers, from six Westchester County congregations, continue to work towards a higher goal of attempting to save lives rather than destroy lives. We are very fortunate to be working with HIAS, NY and with their guidance have helped to resettle Fardin, his wife Mahnaz and their three children from Afghanistan, who are all doing very well in their home in White Plains.

We are on the HIAS list for a second family this year and we need, as before, to be prepared to take this family in and give them the same support, love and attention as we did (and continue to do) with Fardin's family. (-As of press time, we will welcome a new family on May 14th. More details to follow-) We are also expanding our outreach in 2019 to working with Catholic Charities and Hearts and Homes for Refugees to assist in refugee resettlement in Westchester County. Visit www.tinyurl.com/TheGhafoorFamily to see how the Ghafoor Family is acclimating.

Thus, we are again asking you to consider making a contribution to the ICNAW.

100% of all funds received go to our refugee/SIV families. We know you get requests for donations from many organizations, but the funds you donate to the ICNAW have an immediate positive impact in the form of rent, food, medical care and education. In addition to your humanitarian action there is also a positive economic benefit as family members quickly enter employment and begin to pay taxes on income, and pay into Medicare and Social Security. Long term the benefits are even greater as the funds contribute to the growth and well being of the country.

We cannot change the world, but we can change our small corner of it, and that is significant.

We are very fortunate to have such strong support from our respective congregations and we hope you will be able to contribute once again.

Please make all checks out to Beth El Synagogue Center. Write "ICNAW" in the memo section.

Mail to: Beth El Synagogue Center 1324 North Ave, New Rochelle 10804

OR visit www.tinyurl.com/SupportLocalRefugees to donate online

ICNAW Executive Committee

Jeff R. Swartz,
Co-Chair, Beth El
Synagogue
Jane Dixon,
Co-Chair, Community
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation (WP)
Judy Gilberg
Temple Israel Center
Gene Tozzi, New Rochelle
Howard Horowitz
Temple Israel of New
Rochelle



FORMALWEAR COLLECTION FOR SPRING PROM

Benefitting the teens of the Sally & Anthony Mann Center of The Jewish Board

WHEN: May 1 - May 8 (One week only)

WHAT: Formalwear for TEENS (ages 12-21)

EXCELLENT CONDITION

Girls:

Party Dresses (all sizes especially L, XL)
Bat mitzvah, Prom, Sweet 16 dresses are great donations

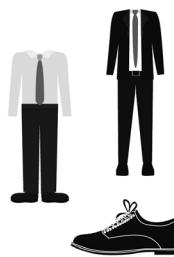
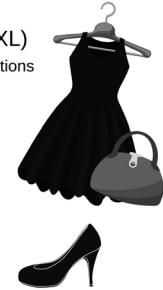
Dress Shoes

Blouses

Slacks

Accessories (Jewelry, Handbags)

New Makeup



Boys:

Suits

Dress Shirts

Blazers

Slacks

Ties

Dress Shoes

Dress Socks



Interested in baking dessert or buying decorations for the Roaring 20's themed prom?
Contact Amy Ecker, amybrose@gmail.com or 917-348-2301 or Marilyn Morris for baking at marilymorris123@gmail.com

The Mann Center is a residential treatment facility for girls and guys ages 12-21 challenged by a range of trauma-related and psychological issues. This program is run by The Jewish Board.



Temple Israel of New Rochelle • 1000 Pinebrook Boulevard, New Rochelle, NY 10804
(914) 235-1800 • www.tirr.org

Mazal Tov Social Action Committee!



Thank you
for making a difference in
the lives of young New Yorkers.

Awarded on April 11, 2019
Temple Israel of New Rochelle



Karen Ecker Greenbarg, LMSW
Manager, Volunteer & Community Relations
Hawthorne Campus



You can celebrate the Social Action committee at Gala 2019.
Visit www.tirr.org/Gala2019 to RSVP until Friday, May 3rd.