



Tikkun Olam Committee



*"One lives not just for one's self but
for one's community."*

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

HIAS Refugee Shabbat

Rabbi Weiss welcomed Melanie Nezer, Senior VP for Public Affairs at HIAS, as the guest speaker for TBA's HIAS Refugee Shabbat on March 11. Melanie's presentation was quite passionate and began with a discussion of the crisis in Ukraine and HIAS's efforts to work with other humanitarian groups to address the many needs of the Ukrainian people.

Melanie shared that HIAS was founded more than 100 years ago and has conducted humanitarian programs across the globe. While initially focused on helping Jewish refugees, about 20 years ago HIAS shifted to using its Jewish heritage, experience, and values to help all refugees, and not only when the Jewish community is threatened. As HIAS likes to say, "We used to help refugees because **they** were Jewish; now we help them because **we** are Jewish."

Melanie expressed appreciation for TBA's efforts on behalf of refugees, including recently welcoming and providing ongoing support to two Afghan families. HIAS served as the refugee resettlement agency for one of these families.



Click above to listen to the March 11 service and Melanie's engaging presentation.



Click above for more information on HIAS and how you can help in their efforts.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?



Gail Kaplan-Wassell, Linda Burgin, and Arlynn Joffe delivered necessities and had a tour of The Upcounty Hub in March. This amazing organization provides food, supplies, and a variety of services to over 1,000 families a week.

COLLECTIONS CORNER

April 1-27



Our collection for April is for **KindWorks** for their "Summer Fun Stuff Project." Donated items will be given to Montgomery County kids without access to summer programs, as well as to refugee children. Drop off new/like new arts and craft supplies (e.g., coloring books, crayons, magic markers, sidewalk chalk, Play-Doh), and toys (e.g., puzzle books, small balls, decks of cards).

Drop off your donations in the TBA lobby through April 27.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Spring Cleaning for a Good Cause

Drop-offs at TBA Parking Lot

Sunday, May 1, 2-4 pm (rain or shine)



Accepting:

- furniture
- linens and household items
- clothing
- books
- sports equipment
- used cellphones/tablets
- usable eyeglasses
- art supplies
- pet supplies
- shelf-stable kosher food
- shelf-stable nutritious food

Click on the flyer for more details

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please review these volunteer opportunities and click on the contact's name to send an email to volunteer or get more information.

PASSOVER BASKETS - SUNDAY, APRIL 10

On Sunday, April 10, we will deliver 25 baskets of Passover necessities and treats to needy individuals and families in our community. While most volunteer slots have been filled, a few more slots may be available. Pick-up time will be between 9:15 and 10:00 at the entrance to TBA. Contact [Monya Cohen](#) or [Tina Levine](#).

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SPRING CLEANING FOR A GOOD CAUSE - SUNDAY, MAY 1

Help needed! Please contact [Jeri Berman](#) if you are available for 1-2 hours on Sunday, May 1, in the TBA Parking Lot.

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REBUILDING TOGETHER

Sunday, April 24 (May 1 and May 15 if needed)

Be a part of our annual home repair project! No prior experience is required, and all materials will be provided. Must be 14+ years to participate. Volunteers may attend any or all of the dates. Contact [Roger Rothman](#).

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JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR GROUP HOMES - MAY

Every other month, we conduct an art project for 12 women residents of Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH) residences. We are looking for a volunteer(s) to conduct an art project in May. Please contact [Gail Kaplan-Wassell](#) if you can help.



REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT RECAP

We welcomed a third family in partnership with NNIA and settled two families in their permanent Rockville apartments. Congregants who have donated sheets, towels, and furniture can be assured that their donations look fabulous in these small but cozy apartments.

We need your help as we search for jobs for the fathers of the newly settled families.

Details and skills: (Resumes provided on request.)

Father #1: Worked for the US Marines for six years at the Marine Base in Kabul, Afghanistan, as the general manager/contractor in charge of maintenance of the buildings. Specialties include painting, plumbing, drywall, and driving. His English is low beginner level but his joyful personality makes up for it!

Father #2: College graduate with a degree in Persian literature, a seasoned journalist, and published poet. He ran for parliament in his town and was a well known radio personality. Any job in journalism, media, or radio, at any level, would be a start for him. His English is mid-beginner level but improving.

Please contact Susan Fox or Sherry Nason if you know of any possible opportunities or are interested in helping the refugee families.

GET TO KNOW SOME OF OUR PARTNERS

Interfaith Works



Interfaith Works opened a new women's shelter in mid-March: the Interfaith Works Women's Shelter at Crabbs Branch, Derwood, MD. A sister shelter to the IW Women's Center at Taft Court in Rockville, this shelter will serve meals to women and will provide case management, medical and behavioral health services, and job assistance through IW's Vocational Services Program. **If you would like to volunteer to provide meals to the women at Crabbs Branch, please contact Samantha Chekalos.**

Jewish Community Resource Council



Jewish Community Resource Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington supports a society based on freedom, justice, and democratic pluralism, through their work in government relations, Israel advocacy, inter-group relations, and social justice.

Gail Kaplan-Wassell represents TBA on JCRC's Maryland Social Action Network and also serves on its steering committee. The network's purpose is to share best practices and work together on issues that further social justice. The committee has helped congregations support such organizations and issues as anti-gun violence advocacy, Afghan refugee support, race relations, and voter education. For more information about specific bill advocacy and other actions, please contact Gail Kaplan-Wassell.

WHAT ELSE?

NEXT TOC MEETING

Tues., May 17 (7:30 p.m.) – via Zoom

All are welcome; log in at 7:15 p.m. to schmooze before the meeting if you'd like.
If you are interested in attending, please contact any member of the Leadership Team (see below).

Zoom Meeting ID: 899-5691-5463 Passcode: 368794

[Zoom Here](#)

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MORE IDEAS?

Would you like to include your family or a group of children in a Tikkun Olam project? We are looking for more family-friendly volunteer opportunities to help children contribute to making a difference in their community. Contact any member of the TOC Leadership Team (see below) with your ideas.

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GET INVOLVED

This monthly newsletter lets you know of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, and highlights programs and projects supported by the Tikkun Olam Committee.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

You do not need to be a member of the TOC to get involved! Give as few or as many hours as you can toward a variety of one-time, occasional, or ongoing volunteer opportunities.

If you have questions and/or want to be added to our email list, feel free to contact any member of the

Tikkun Olam Leadership Team:

[Joanne Brodsky](#)

[Arlynn Joffe](#)

[Gail Kaplan-Wassell](#)

[Amy Weinberg](#)

