

**URJ-SOUTH
SOCIAL
ACTION
COMMITTEE**
SE & SW REGIONS

- **Assisting Those in Need**
- **We are always looking for ideas and suggestions**

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Tirdof Tzedek South

Editor: Ilene King
Publisher: Jay Gellman
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Chairperson: Mark Buchbinder

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SEPT 2009

District Social Action News

A Note from the Regional Social Action Chairpersons.

Welcome to the first edition of the new URJ South District Social Action e-mail newsletter.

As chairpersons for the Southeast and Southwest regions we have decided to combine our resources, not duplicate our activities, and have united our efforts to produce one newsletter for both regions. We hope you like the format and content.

A great deal of thanks goes out to Jay Gellman and Ilene King who serve as the newsletter's publisher and editor. Any and all

suggestions are welcome.

Naomi Abelson, who has worked this year in setting up social action webinars, will continue to be a resource person for URJ congregational social action on the national level. Together with her, we are going to be planning some substantive social action webinars for the south district in the next few months. Please let us know any suggestions as to subjects which are most important to you.

There will be several social action workshops at the URJ Biennial. Sometime during the event we would like to get together

with all the social action folks from our two regions who attend and will let you know the details by e-mail prior to the event.

We thank you for all of your hard work and energy on behalf of making the world a better place for all. We wish you all a very happy, healthy, and peaceful new year.

Mark & Stan

Regional Social Action Chairperson:

Mark Buchbinder (SE Region) – buchbim@gmail.com
Stan Adelman (SW Region) – stan.louise@gmail.com

Social Action Specialist



Naomi Abelson is the Union for Reform Judaism's Social Action Specialist, available to offer consultation and resources to Reform congregations and individuals in the area of social action. She has experience developing social justice programming and infusing social action into the life and spirit of a congregation. Naomi is available to provide one-on-one consultation or group training programs for your social action committees, educators and clergy – including:

Social Action Web Tools 101

Service Learning: The How-To's of Hosting a Service Learning Trip

Advocacy Training: "Speak Truth to Power" or Issue-Specific Sessions

Social Justice Issues-Specific Session (e.g. homelessness, environmental sustainability, *Nothing But Nets*, etc.)

In addition, Naomi coordinates the Reform Movement's *Nothing But Nets* campaign to combat the spread of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa by providing \$10 insecticide-treated bed nets to refugees. She also helps manage the Union's disaster relief and response efforts, including Katrina recovery and California wildfires, and works closely with URJ's Just Congregation project for congregation-based community organizing.

Visit www.urj.org/socialaction

for addition resources or feel free to contact her at 212.650.4162 or nabelson@urj.org.



Kid's Meal Program

Kids' Meals, is a project of Temple Emanu El in Houston, Texas. It is a meals-on-wheels program for pre-school aged children living at or below the poverty level, providing healthy home-delivered lunches to hungry pre-school children living in poverty, 5 days a week year round for children whose older siblings get free lunch in school. During the summer, Kids' Meals provides lunches for all the children in the home. Our Congregation has been involved with Kids' Meals for over fifteen years. While our relationship began as an off-shoot from our annual Mitzvah Day, we now have a dedicated team making sack-lunches monthly at the Temple.

In our third year of this project, our core group of 15-20 volunteers have made over 14,000 lunches, at 600 per month, which this year, we are increasing to 700. The agency provides basic supplies and our team leaders always add something extra that is nutritious; usually raisins. The project is funded from a named Foundation Fund—The Ed Wayne Hunger Fund.



Our help is very much appreciated. Team leaders, Barry and Carol Goodfriend, went on a delivery route with a staff member to a trailer park. The staff member honks the horn at appropriate trailers and a family member comes out to get the meals. The executive of the agency said Emanu El volunteers are "the wind beneath the wings". The Goodfriends said it was "a real eye opener and underscored the importance of what we do".

Contact: Myra Lipper, 713-529-5771 ext. 222, myral@emanuelhouston.org

"A real eye opener and underscored the importance of what we do".

Temple Emanuel,
Houston, TX

Planting for Peace

The Beth Israel Temple Youth Group (BITY) of Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi, joined with dozens of other Temple members and area volunteers from churches and other youth groups for "Planting for Peace." BITY worked for two week-ends, led by Educator Hannah Gershen Orlansky. The project is a multi-religious group in Jackson that does landscaping and beautification for Habitat for Humanity and houses and neighborhoods.

James Bowley
mailto:bowleje@millsaps.edu

Social Action Grows at KKBE

Four years ago, social action at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, Charleston, South Carolina, was barely more than serving dinner at the homeless shelter three times a year. Then, something changed. Without consultation or conversations, several people felt more was needed. First, Mitzvah Day was created and has since become the flagship event of our Social Action Committee (SAC). Feeding the homeless then became feeding the sick and the elderly. We adopted a local school where many at risk children receive help throughout the year. In four years we have grown so much that the original leaders of the SAC have found it necessary to create sub-committees and team leaders for projects.



The question then became how do we involve the children? We have a religious school of around 150 young people. This coming year we will be celebrating about 20 B'nei Mitzvot. In an attempt to create an opportunity for a Mitzvah Project and get young people involved, SAC offered a place on the committee to the 7th level religious school class. Last year one young

woman accepted. She sat in meetings, shared ideas, attended events, and participated in every project. She watched as ideas manifested into action. When she receives Torah in October it will be with a clearer understanding of her responsibility to it.

This year, our next junior SAC member has volunteered even before the first day of religious school. KKBE is excited to be growing future social action leaders!

For more information on our projects contact 843-723-1090 or MHaspel@kkbe.org

*We adopted
a local
school
where
many at
risk
children
receive
help*

Beth Yam Collects for the Needy

A tradition at Congregation Beth Yam, in Hilton Head, South Carolina is the collection and distribution of food stuffs to the food banks in our area. This is the time of year when the food supplies are very low. Each Rosh Hashanah our young members distribute bags to our congregants after services. Our chairs have contacted the food banks and we include a list of needed items in the bags that are distributed. The filled bags are returned to the temple by Yom Kippur and a representative of the food bank picks them up. This year our committee will collect food stuffs for two areas of our community so that even more people may be serviced. We have collected over 150 bags of food in the past and hope to collect even more this year.

Judie Aronson, Social Action Co-Chair
judie23@yahoo.com

TASHI Health Initiative

Last spring, the co-chairs of the Social Action Committee (SAC) at Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor, Florida, organized a panel of healthcare professionals from our synagogue. The TASHI (Temple Ahavat Shalom Health Initiative) panel will have its second meeting on August 27th. At this time, we will narrow our focus and plan our next actions in more detail. We have shared many articles regarding healthcare over the summer and will now decide what our next steps will be.

Our areas of concentration are reining in costs and making healthcare more accessible to all in our local communities.

At our first meeting of the New Year, September 21st, the SAC will finalize our calendar. Our fall activities will include encouraging Temple members to more actively participate in our recycling program, activating our mentoring program with the local schools, providing rides to Friday evening Shabbat services to those who

need them, and a movie and dinner night in October. December through March are already filling up. We look forward to improving our present programs and engaging in new initiatives.

Social Action Committee Chair: Ellen Woll; eswoll@verizon.net; 727-771-7761

Co-chair: Jerry Karp; jkarpl1@knology.net; 727-725-2526

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for our
e-updates!**
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Issue Lists
Advocacy Networks
Weekly Legislative
Update & many more!*
**Social Justice
in your Inbox!**

*“Let us share
our practices
and traditions
with you “*

**Congregation Bet
Chaim
Casselberry, FL**

Luncheon Unites Communities

Nearly 100 members of Temple Emanu-El and St. Martha’s Catholic Church of Sarasota, Florida, gathered on Saturday, November 15, 2008 for the third annual Friendship Luncheon. Hosted by Temple Emanu-El, sponsored by the Temple Emanu-El Social Action Committee, and chaired by Lee Ehrman and Lorraine Glixon, this special afternoon enabled Jews and Catholics to forge and strengthen friendships in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal, time to socialize, and greetings from Temple Emanu-El Rabbi Brenner Glickman and St. Martha’s Catholic Church’s Father Fausto. They also heard a presentation from environmentalist Jodi John, who provided advice on conservation and protecting the environment – and even supplied souvenirs of low-energy light bulbs!

Temple Emanu-El Social Action Committee Chair May Cohen lauded the event. “This is our third luncheon, and the warmth and comfort level confirm a growing sense of friendship,” she noted. Father Fausto concurred, explaining that the luncheon to him “is in the vanguard of better Catholic/Jewish relations.”

Temple Emanu-El looks forward to more events with St. Martha’s Catholic Church, with whom the Temple enjoys a long and affectionate relationship.

For more information about Temple Emanu-El, please call 941-2788.

Interfaith Gathering at Bet Chaim

Neighbors are important. They help one another in times of trouble, share with each other in times of joy, and get to know each other as they share varied aspects of life together. The Casselberry, Florida, Congregation Bet Chaim's closest neighbor is St. Augustine’s Catholic Church. Bet Chaim reached out to their neighbor at a special Havdallah gathering at the Congregation, welcoming some seventy members of St. Augustine’s to a wonderful evening of learning and sharing the traditions of each faith among both memberships.

Rabbi Howard Simon began the evening by describing the ceremonial objects on the Bimah, including the Torah. The guests were invited to join the Rabbi on the pulpit and see the Torah while listening to the Rabbi read from the



scroll. Rabbi Simon was then joined by Father Luis Berrara and Father William Newman. Questions were asked and answers were provided; an important time shared by one and all. The program concluded with a Havdallah service and Oneg shared by all.

By evening’s end people heretofore unknown to each other talked about having more programs together. "You must come to the Church," people

said. "Let us share our practices and traditions with you." This is exactly what our Committee hoped would happen. It was the goal set by Father Berrara and Rabbi Simon. Neighbors coming together. Neighbors getting to know one another. Neighbors who soon, we hope, will become fast friends.

Suzanne Lander, Social Action Co-Chair, 407-756-2017, [selander1@earthlink.net](mailto:selande1@earthlink.net)

Third Annual Mitzvah Day a Huge Success

For the third year in a row, Temple Emanu-El, a 300-family congregation in Sarasota, Florida, came together for an incredible day of community service and camaraderie. Held on Sunday, May 3, 2009, the annual Mitzvah Day brought together over 180 Temple members of all ages – from toddlers to seniors – for many different mitzvah projects.



Mitzvah Day began with a Brotherhood-sponsored pizza lunch and an inspirational rally led by Temple Emanu-El Rabbi Brenner and Mitzvah Day Chair Rabbi Elaine Glickman, featuring the Temple Emanu-El Youth. After the rally, participants prepared lunches for the homeless; landscaped Temple grounds; knit baby booties; hosted a party at the Salvation Army for homeless children; painted tiles for patients in a children's hospital; held a jump-rope-and-hula-hoop-a-thon that raised money for Mothers Helping Mothers and the children of Sederot; decorated over 200 cookies for firefighters; hosted a social hour at Anchin Pavilion; played with homeless animals at a shelter; created cards for soldiers serving overseas and local patients; assisted at All Faiths Food Bank; and collected food, toiletries, children's books, newspapers, stuffed animals, and clothing.



Temple Emanu-El's efforts were gratefully received with effusive thanks from those we helped, but Temple members who participated in Mitzvah Day feel they benefited most of all!

For more information about Temple Emanu-El, please call 941-371-2788.

Story Book Project and More

In Austin, Texas, the Temple Beth Shalom Social Action Committee's year was marked by outstanding and varied service, and wide-ranging congregational participation. In the upcoming year we hope to solidify the base of support for the projects we have started and are adding an activity that supports the needs of our area elder Jewish community.

The Storybook Project allows incarcerated parents to engage in the reading development of their small children and provides an opportunity for meaningful contact between the child and the parent. Austin area women, including well over a dozen TBS members, travel each month to Gatesville Prison and coach incarcerated mothers in the reading of storybooks. A recording is made of the reading and we mail the tape and the storybook to the child.

Approximately 15 TBS drivers participate in Meals on Wheels to deliver nourishing meals to the homebound.

Each year, a growing team of members join together for the Susan B. Komen Foundation breast cancer Race for the Cure. Several TBS members participate in the CROP Walk to combat world hunger.

Over 100 members of all ages help provide meals to the area's homeless and working poor through Mobile Loaves & Fishes. Some members pick up unsold pastries from local businesses. A crew from TBS has bagged over 27,000 donated pastries into individual servings. On the third Sunday of each month members prepare meals, load trucks, and deliver meals. So far we have delivered over 5,000 meals to people in need.

Knitters in the congregation made scarves for the homeless and working poor which were distributed by congregation members on December 25, 2008. A new knitting project featuring hats is underway that will result in even more knitted gifts to be distributed in December, 2009.

We purchased Tzedakah bins so that all TBS members will have the opportunity to conveniently provide financial support to our Social Action efforts. Our High Holy Days Virtual Food Drive for the Capital Area Food Bank was a tremendous success, raising over \$9,000.

Bob Batlan batlan@austin.rr.com

Emanu-El Service Honors Dr. Martin Luther King

*"That was then,
he said with
emphasis.*

This is now!"

**Temple Emanuel
Sarasota, FL**

They joined together like friends who haven't seen each other in a while. Smiles, hugs, and warm feelings were much in evidence at the fourth annual joint service between Sarasota, Florida's Temple Emanu-El and the Westcoast Center for Human Development Church and School honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sponsored by the Temple Emanu-El Social Action Committee, this meaningful and beautiful Shabbat service was held at Temple Emanu-El on Friday evening, January 16, 2009, before an overflow crowd of synagogue and church

members. Rabbi Brenner J. Glickman conducted the traditional service, explaining in detail the meaning of the evening's Torah reading and linking it to the legacy and promise of Dr. King. Bishop Henry Porter of the Westcoast Center also spoke eloquently about Martin Luther King's legacy and urged his listeners to use it as a spur to making their lives and the world around them better. "That was then," he said with emphasis. "This is now!"

Following Rabbi Glickman and Bishop Porter's messages, Bishop Porter accompanied the

acclaimed Westcoast School student choir of 25 disciplined and harmonious students in a number of memorable songs. The evening concluded with a special Oneg Shabbat and Temple Emanu-El's presentation of a gift to the Westcoast School, funds to be used for the purchase of books for their school library.

Temple Emanu-El is grateful to May Cohen, Frank Schaal, and members of the Social Action Committee for this magnificent evening. For more information, please contact Temple Emanu-El at 941-371-2788.

Jewish Funds for Justice Grant

Temple Shalom of Dallas, Texas, is proud to announce that we were one of six Reform Congregations in the country to be awarded an \$1800 grant from Jewish Funds for Justice. This grant is designed to support congregations throughout the country in their pursuit of justice and in their development of new leaders through Congregation-Based Community Organizing. Temple Shalom is very pleased to be partnering with Jewish Funds for Justice, URJ's Just Congregations and Dallas Area Interfaith.



Starting in August, 2009, Temple Shalom will be joining Dallas Area Interfaith in order to build deep relationships among our own members and with other institutions across lines of faith, class and race. Through these relationships, Temple Shalom will identify deeply and broadly held concerns of injustice and then bring our collective power to successful action to transform our community.

As the first step, on Yom Kippur Day, 2009, Temple Shalom will host a "Listening Campaign." This is designed to allow all willing Temple members to engage in meaningful discussions that will lead us to opportunities for education, programming and outreach within Temple Shalom and our greater community.

Rabbi Jeremy Schneider 972-661-1810 ext. 210
jschneider@templeshalomdallas.org

Yom Kippur Food Closet Drive

At Temple Beth Orr in Coral Springs, Florida, we distribute donated Publix shopping bags at our Rosh Hashanah Services with an attached list of requested food items at end of Rosh Hashanah services.

We then collect the filled bags at Yom Kip-

pur services. The following day, sort and shelve food in food closet which is open to the community 3 days a week and serves about 40 to 50 families per month.

The activity involves the entire Congregation in focusing on the economic

needs of the community and in assisting those in need.

Fran Kraft
Co-Chair Social Action Committee
fkraft1@comcast.net
954-752-4769

Bridge Refugee Service & Mizpah Congregation



Five suitcases and abundant hope: those were the sole possessions brought to Chattanooga by the Athafa family when they arrived on March 30, 2009.

A roomy, bright and nicely furnished apartment on a major bus line, toys, books, school uniforms and play clothes for the children, a well-stocked refrigerator, health care and English classes for parents and children, caring friends and, most of all, a daily life far removed from war and its dangers: these are the precious commodities which, today, enrich the lives of Mohammed, Sanaa, Mustafa, Sahara and Fatima Athafa.

Two key factors in the transformation: Bridge Refugee Services and Mizpah Congregation.

For several years, Mohammed Athafa had sought safety for his family in its home country of Iraq, moving from city to city in search of a safe place away from daily violence and danger. When that proved impossible, he found a way to get his family out of the country and into Lebanon, where they lived for two years in a camp, while they sought to establish the legal refugee status that would allow them to enter the United States.

When Chattanooga Bridge Refugee Services Coordinator Marina Peshterianu visited Mizpah's Social Action Committee and invited members to consider sponsoring the Athafa family, slightly more than two weeks remained until their scheduled arrival. Pleased at the opportunity to help a refugee family and at the opportunity to share with others the human kindness extended to so many Jewish refugees in their time of need, committee members mobilized immediately. They furnished an apartment secured by Bridge, stocked their pantry and prepared a welcome meal for the family's first night in a new home. Committee members and several other congregants greeted the Athafas at the airport with flowers, smiles and hugs, and then transported and introduced them to their new home.

Since that emotional arrival, each day's experiences have reinforced Mohammed's conviction that his decision to emigrate was the right one for his family. Ten-year-old Sahara and 13-year old Mustafa, clad in school uniforms furnished by Mizpah's "Dress a Kid for School" social action program, enrolled in schools offering classes in English as a Second Language, and volunteers continue to assist the family with transportation, tutoring, help with accessing WIC and other government benefits and in just-plain-fun activities, including their first-ever baseball game, passes to the Chattanooga Aquarium and a one-year family membership to the Chattanooga Creative Discovery Museum.

Members have invited the family to their homes for dinner, and the Athafas have graciously reciprocated, inviting committee members for meals and celebrations in their home, including Mustafa's recent 13th birthday party. The Athafas were guests of the committee at a dinner in their honor at Temple, and they have met several other resettled Iraqi families with whom they share a common language and culture. Very happy in their new city, Mohammed and Sanaa have expressed repeated thanks to the committee and to Mizpah Congregation for helping them raise their children in a safe, beautiful city.

Henry Stoloff and Monique Klarich - Co-Chairs, Social Action Committee 423.488.6880

Social Action Activity Reports

Title of Activity: Temple Shalom's Listening Campaign

Approximate number of participants: 150

Approximate cost to congregation: Free

Date of activity: Yom Kippur Day, September 28

Congregation: Temple Shalom

City, State: Dallas, Tx

Size of congregation: 500 – 999 members

Congregational Contact Information

Name: Rabbi Jeremy Schneider

E-mail address: jschneider@templeshalomdallas.org

Phone number: 972.661.1810

Description of Activity

Caring for elderly parents? Spending more on health insurance each year? Saving for your children's college education? Challenging the long-term social and emotional effects of the internet on your children? Managing your way through Medicare/Medicaid system? Worrying about paying next month's rent? What keeps YOU up at night? Do your concerns seem isolated to you? They're not. Join us in Temple Shalom's **Listening Campaign**.

A listening campaign crosses all demographics of our community – young and old, married and single. Through our stories, we will build stronger relationships within the Temple. We will listen to the concerns of our Temple Shalom family before stepping together outside our doors to make a difference in the greater community.

Spend Yom Kippur afternoon engaging in meaningful discussions of what is deeply and widely felt with fellow Temple Shalom congregants. Enter into a dialogue for hope and opportunities for healing ourselves.

Impact of Activity:

From these discussions will come a thread that will lead us to opportunities for education, programming and outreach within Temple Shalom and our greater community.

Title of activity: Food drive for Jackson House

Approximate number of participants: 50

Approximate cost to congregation: \$0

Date of activity: High Holy Days

Congregation: House of Israel

City, State: Hot Springs, Arkansas

Size of congregation: Fewer than 100 members

Congregational Contact Information

Name: Millie Baron

E-mail address: Millie487@hotmail.com

Phone number: 501-767-4266

Description of Activity

Bags are passed out during the High Holy day services and people return them to the Temple full of non-perishable food for our local food bank

Impact of Activity

We are able to provide several car loads of food at a time when their donations are down and their needs are great with the start of school.

We also keep the teenagers involved in this project as their introduction to Social Action.

Title of Activity: Seder for non English-speaking immigrants from the Former Soviet Union

Approximate number of participants:

40 guests, 10 Temple volunteer cooks and servers

Approximate cost to congregation:

\$375.00, plus donations from Temple congregants of various foods.

Date of activity: April 5, 2009

Congregation: Temple Beth Israel

City, State: Longboat Key, Florida

Size of congregation: 250 – 499 members

Congregational Contact Information

Name: Kathy Brooks

E-mail address: kbrks@comcast.net

Phone number: 941-383-0975

Description of Activity

The Social Action Committee of Temple Beth Israel planned this Seder in conjunction with the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation to enable area residents from the former Soviet Union who are not formally affiliated with the Jewish community to celebrate a traditional Seder. Temple congregants cooked and served food and wine, much of which was donated. The Seder was led by our Rabbi, Jonathan Katz, and translated into English by a 10 year old Russian boy and his mother. Haggadas written in Russian were provided by the Federation.

Impact of Activity

The Russians arrived in Sarasota around 15-20 years ago from the U.S.S.R. Because of Soviet restrictions on Jewish study and practice, they particularly appreciated the opportunity to have a Seder at our Temple and to have Rabbi Katz take them on a tour of the sanctuary and answer questions concerning Jewish observance, theology and history. The afternoon was such a great success that the Federation has requested that we repeat it next year.

Title of Activity: Food and Monetary Donations to the Jewish Community Services Kosher Food Bank

Approximate number of participants: Congregation-wide

Approximate cost to congregation: N/A

Date of activity: 2008-present

Congregation: Temple Beth Am

City, State: Miami FL 33156

Size of congregation: 1,000 or more members

Congregational Contact Information

Name: L. Mark Dachs, Chair, Temple Beth Am

Tikkun Olam Committee

E-mail address: imdachs@comcast.net

Phone number: 305-665-6288

Description of Activity

In addition to numerous other charitable and service-oriented activities, Temple Beth Am has always sponsored food drives in connection with the High Holidays and Passover. In 2008 we began a more concerted effort to supplement these food drives with monthly food drives benefiting the Jewish Community Services of South Florida Kosher Food Bank. Various sections of the Temple, i.e. Sisterhood, the religious school, etc., sponsor and promote the food drive each month, urging members to donate kosher dry goods or food cards that can be purchased at Publix supermarkets. Our Teen Tzedakah group also raised \$600 towards the purchase of a new freezer for the Kosher Food Bank.

Impact of Activity

The JCS Kosher Food Bank services more than 250 needy families in South Florida. Our efforts have served as the catalyst for the initiation of food drives benefiting the Kosher Food Bank by other South Florida synagogues.

Title of Activity: Monthly Shabbat Services at Emeritus Assisted Living Facility

Approximate number of participants:

5 Jewish residents at facility and usually 6-10 members of congregation participate

Approximate cost to congregation: \$0 – Members donate Challah and grape juice for Motzi and Kiddush – at holidays members prepare food for holiday meals that we share with residents (Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, Passover)

Date of activity: 2nd Saturday of each month

Congregation: Congregation Bet Chaim

City, State: Casselberry, Florida

Size of congregation: 100 – 249 members

Congregational Contact Information

Name: Suzanne Lander

E-mail address: selander1@earthlink.net

Phone number: 407-756-2017

Description of Activity

For the last 2 ½ years our congregation has been providing monthly Shabbat services to Jewish residents at an assisted living facility. We provide a service, including songs and a D'Var, and we bring Challah and grape juice for Motzi and Kiddush. On holidays our members prepare food to bring and share with the residents. At Hanukkah our religious school students provide a program of holiday singing and make small gifts for the residents.

Impact of Activity

The Jewish residents are so happy when we come each month and they love it when we bring food. There are no Jewish nursing homes or assisted living facilities in our area, so this is the only way for them to stay connected with Judaism. Several of them are hard of hearing or are dealing with Alzheimer's/Dementia, but they all participate in one form or another, and they always express their gratitude to us each month. We invite their local families when we celebrate the holidays, and they also thank us for being there and tell us how important our monthly visits are to their relatives. Our members also enjoy participating and find that these monthly services help them feel more connected to Judaism as well. It is a Mitzvah that we all are very honored to be a part of.

Title of Activity: Food Collection Drive

Approximate number of participants: Many Congregants

Approximate cost to congregation: Nothing

Date of activity: Rosh Hashanah through Simchat Torah

Congregation: Temple B'nai Israel

City, State: Amarillo, TX

Size of congregation: Fewer than 100 members

Congregational Contact Information

Name: Stan Adelman

E-mail address: stan.louise@gmail.com

Phone number: 806-681-2787

Description of Activity

For the past several years we have contacted our local food bank to arrange for the delivery and pick-up of a 50 gallon drum during the fall Holy Day season.

Impact of Activity

Each year our small congregation has been able to fill the 50 gallon drum with non-perishable food. It comes at a time when it is really needed by the Food Bank because the larger community tends to give during the December Christian holidays.

Title of Activity: We collect Kosher Food for Jewish soldiers, especially to those in Iraq; but we have chaplain contacts in other parts of the world, including Ft. Bragg, NC, from which there are many deployments to Iraq.

Approximate number of participants: Really not certain just how many people are providing the Kosher food. Whatever we receive, we send in large priority mail boxes that have a special rate to APO or FPO addresses.

Approximate cost to congregation: no cost to congregation, since individuals donate food and/or make donations to Temple Emanuel specifically for the purchase of Kosher food and/or for the postage.

Date of activity: primarily from Rosh Hashanah to Sukkot AND in conjunction with Passover, but food is also donated at other times of the year for Shabbat.

Congregation: Temple Emanuel

City, State: Beaumont, TX

Size of congregation: 100 – 249 members

Congregational Contact Information

Name: Cynthia Wolf

E-mail address: cwolf@gt.rr.com

Phone number: 409-899-4499

Description of Activity

The Kosher food that we provide during the High Holidays and during Passover supplements what is provided by the military to make for even nicer celebrations...in Iraq, for the Jewish soldiers; in NC, for those about to be deployed and their families as well as families whose loved ones are deployed in Iraq! The Kosher food that we provide for Shabbat brings a sweeter Shabbat! We know from having been in contact with Jewish chaplains that Kosher is preferred and that is what we provide...Temple Emanuel along with an amazing network of others across the United States!



Time to Register
REGISTRATION IS OPEN



If you would like more information about our Social Action Committee or have any ideas, please feel free to contact Regional Social Action Chairperson:
Mark Buchbinder (SE Region) – buchbim@gmail.com
Stan Adelman (SW Region) - stan.louise@gmail.com

Commission on Social Action Presents: Social Action Resources Webinar 101

Contact Information:

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212.650.4160

Mark Buchbinder
Regional Social Action Chair,
Union for Reform Judaism Southeast Region
buchbim@gmail.com



ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך
העולם אשר קדשנו
במצותיו וצונו לרדוף צדק.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Elohenu Melech ha'olam asher kdashanu
b'vizvotav v'zavotav l'itzedeq*

Praised are You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the
universe, who hallows us with Your mitzvot
and commands us to pursue justice.

Why Social Action?

“The world is sustained by three things: by the Torah (study), by *avodah* (worship) and by *gimilut chasadim* (acts of righteousness).” – *Pirkei Avot* 1:2

Direct Action Programmatic Resources

*These materials can be found on www.urj.org/csa under “Quick Links.”

- [Social Action Program Bank](#)
- [Social Action Calendar](#)
- Holiday Guides (see below)
[Kehilat Tzedek: Creating a Community of Justice](#)

Educational Programming Materials

- [Social Action Blessing Cards](#)
- [Holiday Guides](#)

Advocacy Tools

*These materials can be found on www.rac.org under “Advocacy Resources” and “Publications.”

- [Issues Pages](#)
- [Issues Packets](#)
- [RAC News](#)

What’s going on at the Commission on Social Action and the Religious Action Center

Websites:

Commission on Social Action
www.urj.org/csa

Religious Action Center
www.rac.org

Advocacy Tools

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- [Issues Pages](#)
- [Issues Packets](#)

[RAC News](#)

What’s going on at the Commission on Social Action and the Religious Action Center

- [Conferences, Seminars and Volunteer Opportunities \(including Consultation on Conscience and L'Taken\)](#)
- Special Projects
- [Nothing But Nets](#)
- [Economic Justice Muslim – Jewish Dialogue](#)