

THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE TOOTS ITS HORN

The BIJC Social Action Committee was restarted in the fall of 2019, a few months before the pandemic started. As the months went by we began meeting on Zoom to organize, plan and implement ideas for social issue projects in our Petaluma neighborhoods and beyond. Below is a list of what we have been involved with. We are proud of our accomplishments!

Interfaith Food Pantry

B'nai Israel is responsible for the pantry every fourth Thursday of the month at Elim Lutheran Church. Barry and Carol Sovel do the warehouse pickup in their trusted truck, Michelle Konrad (not BIJC) does the ordering, Sue Oaks checks people in and Lani Slonim oversees. A number of BIJC members have volunteered, as well as, have donated paper bags.

Abrazos

Through the efforts of filmmaker Andrea Leland, BIJC SAC hosted a screening of "Abrazos," a moving film about undocumented immigrants, for which over 60 people requested the online film link. The filmmaker and several of the Guatemalan family members that were in the film participated in a lively discussion on the issue of immigration; one of the attendees was city council member Dennis Pocekay. Film viewings and discussions will be a great way to familiarize our members with social issues and solutions facing our community.

Winter Warmth Drive

Our BIJC community was very generous in responding to last, and now, this year's Annual Winter Warmth drive organized by Nancy Tealdi.

Because of the pandemic, the drive was done virtually. COTS (Committee on the Shelterless) provided us with a wish list of needed items which were acquired in the three ways. The community donated thousands of dollars worth of the needed clothing, gas cards, haircuts and critical supplies

requested. Through generous donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund \$2,000 worth of requested items from the list were provided as well as 50 \$25 Target gift cards.

In December, these donations were delivered to COTS which was thrilled and moved by the generosity of the BIJC Community.

Food Empowerment Project

BIJC donations helped the Food Empowerment Project, a vegan food justice organization that donated 1,000 backpacks, all with reusable water bottles in 2021. The backpacks were filled with school supplies for children of farm workers. This effort was headed by Abbey Levine.

Petaluma People Services Center – Mentor Me

George Flynn organized contributions of backpacks and school supplies for disadvantaged local students.

Jewish Family & Children's Services

BIJC provided assistance to a family struggling with abuse issues by purchasing \$1,000 of request items from Target for new baby & older children.

Health Care for All & Public Banking

Stan Gold organized informative programs on health care & public banking on Zoom. He also arranged for a bilingual individual to register people to vote at the food pantry prior to the election.

Christmas Cheer

Target gift cards were distributed to families in need for the holidays.

Caring Committee

Rabbi Feldman and Rhonda Goodman of the BIJC Caring Community offer help for medical, financial, spiritual or any other reason.

Braver Angels

The Committee hosted a Braver Angels workshop, Depolarizing Within, in October. Braver Angels, is a non-profit whose goal is to end political polarization. The next workshop, Skills for Bridging the Divide, will take place Jan 16 at BIJC.

Mitzvah Bags

Rhonda Goodman gathered a group of volunteers in December which filled over 100 bags with healthy snacks for distribution to the homeless.

****We meet monthly, usually the second Monday of the month at 10:30. We would like some some new members!** If you have any ideas for actions to be taken or would like to join existing efforts, please attend the next meeting on Monday, January 10, at 10:30 a.m. The Zoom link will appear in the BIJC Newsletter.

Mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you on Monday, Jan. 10th for some social action!