

## Temple B'rith Kodesh – Condensed version Social Action Committee Minutes 10/26/2021

1. **Welcome and Prayer and Social Justice/Racial Justice remarks**
2. **Review our working groups –**
  - a. **Keeping Our Promise (KOP):** There are currently 29 caring circles supporting 20 families and 13 individuals for a total of almost 100 people. In November and December, an additional 50 families are expected to arrive in our area. There are ongoing needs for storage space, volunteers and, decent, adequate and affordable housing. Temple Sinai is interested in joining the efforts of Temple B'rith Kodesh.
  - b. **Rochester Educational Opportunity Program (TBK-REOC):** An overview of the program in development was given. Conversations began in June of 2020 about finding affordable housing and connecting with REOC and SUNY Brockport to help underserved students get out of rental into home ownership. The goal of this initiative is to utilize TBK volunteers with expertise in specific topics to provide guidance to students. The application process to select participating students is underway. This is not the creation of a new program, it is a project to help students navigate through existing programs available to assist them in becoming home owners in the city of Rochester. The TBK team consists of the coordinator, and people assisting in Financial and mortgage guidance, Real estate sales, Closing attorney and Property repairs and renovation. Additional information is available at REOC.Brockport.edu
  - c. **TEMple PROJECT to help the homeless (TEMPRO) –** information was provided and distributed with the agenda for this meeting. There is a need for assistance with the welcome baskets that could be considered an action item. Presently there are 37 children in TEMPRO, all houses are full today. Contributions are always welcomed. Conversation re: religious school involvement and others, in collection.
  - d. **Family Promise of Greater Rochester // Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) –** information was provided and distributed with the agenda for this meeting.
  - e. **Thanksgiving baskets –** information was provided and distributed with the agenda.
  - f. **Blessed Sacrament –** program currently on hold
3. **RAC-NY and RAC including Civic Engagement/Voter Rights/Racial Justice update:** The current emphasis for RAC is to show support for the upcoming voting rights bills. Call in days have been established for citizens to inform their representatives of their position. Links are provided on the TBK Social Action website. It's important to show support to increase the influence of this organization. Members of the Social Action committee are encouraged to participate in the call in days and, if possible, recruit others to participate. RAC-NY is in the process of selecting one item pending in the legislature. More information will be coming in November
4. **Rabbi Stein community involvement update**
  - a. Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society, Inc. (ROC-Acts), an organization that addresses racial justice, is coordinating an event on November 20 in honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance. It will be held at the Martin Luther King Park downtown, at 4:00 pm. Rabbi Stein will be participating in the program and invited all to attend
  - b. Baden Street Settlement is planning a free special event on December 4, 2021. Rabbi Stein and our Sisterhood are part of the planning committee. The program is free, registration is required. It will include speakers of history, chance to tour the campus and a musical event presented by Dan Nichols
5. **Discussion of ideas for engagement in Climate Change and Social Justice Learning**

Climate change may be an issue selected by RAC-NY.

Discussed: "Dayenu" (A Jewish Call to Climate Action) group at TBK that was initiated in the past; Are there any local issues we can address; Mention of Green Brighton – efforts to become resilient; Suggestion of getting individuals involved in reducing plastic waste
6. **Social Action events communication:**

There is a Social Action calendar in weekly blast directly to the website; suggestion that all Social Action committee members should join RAC to get updates via email