

## Seeking Feedback on Tzedek Programming and Newsletter

Thank you to those who have filled out our short survey. For those who haven't yet, please share your thoughts about Tzedek programming and the monthly newsletter, *In Pursuit*. Help us focus on topics of interest to you and the community. Your comments are important to us and it will only take a minute or two. Please take the survey here: [Tzedek Survey](#) Thank You!

## TBA and Nashua Pride

TBA's Tzedek committee will sponsor the Nashua Pride event on **June 25th**. Along with other organizations, we will have a table to distribute literature, engage with community members and represent our diverse and welcoming TBA community. If you are interested in supporting our fundraising efforts to sponsor Nashua Pride, please make a donation here [Support TBA and Nashua Pride](#). If you have any suggestions for what we should have at our table, or if you'd like to assist in staffing the table on June 25th, please email [tzedek@tbanashua.org](mailto:tzedek@tbanashua.org). More information to come in the June issue of *In Pursuit*.

## *In Pursuit*

צדק צדק תרדוף

Justice, justice shall you pursue, Deuteronomy 16:20

The TBA Tzedek Committee provides opportunities for social justice learning, dialogue, and action to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Our commitment to *tzedek* (justice) is covenantal and rooted in a Torah of *b'tzelem elohim* (we are all made in the image of God), and *chesed* (compassion for each other).

Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua, NH

Children's Issue

May 2022

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## Six Videos to Teach Jewish Values to Kids

Stephanie Fink, MAJCS, RJE (she/her)

Associate Director for Family Engagement, Union for Reform Judaism

Even under the best of circumstances, the most tight-knit of families can feel stress being together 24/7 – and these are anything but the best of circumstances. Let Jewish values guide you. Whatever feels difficult at home, there is a *Shaboom! Video* that can help you name it and have a conversation about it. Talk about how your family can bring more love and caring to each other and to the world when we need it most. Here are a few *Shaboom! Videos*, for kids and parents. Find links to these videos and more information here: [Videos and More](#)

1. *"We Are Family: A Jewish Folk Tale for Kids"*
2. *"Hachnasat Orchim: How to Make People Feel Welcome"*
3. *"The Best Medicine: Bikur Cholim (Visiting the Sick)"*
4. *"Get Along, Gang: Peace in the Home (Shalom Bayit)"*
5. *For Parents: "What's Jewish about Welcoming Guests? An Intro to Hachnasat Orchim"*

## 6. For Parents: “Visiting the Sick: A Jewish Value to Teach Your Kids”

### **American Indians in Children’s Literature (AICL)**


Established in 2006 by Dr. Debbie Reese of Nambé Pueblo (New Mexico), American Indians in Children's Literature (AICL) provides critical analysis of Indigenous peoples in children's and young adult books. Learn more here: [American Indians in Children's Literature](#). See the AICL Best Books List of 2021 here: [Best Books of 2021 List](#)

### **Thinking about Social Justice through Crafts and Conversation**

Anti-Defamation League Education Resources

The projects below provide fun activities and opportunities to talk with children (ages 3–12) about respect, inclusion, diversity, bias and social justice. Each activity is followed by discussion prompts for talking with children about what they learned, their feelings and any questions they might have. Find more activities here: [ADL Crafts and Conversation](#)

#### **1. Symbols of Respect and Inclusion**

We see symbols every day – on buildings, in the street, on schoolyards, on our phones and in digital spaces. Symbols convey ideas, qualities, feelings, objects, opinions and beliefs. Unfortunately, symbols are also used to spread bias and hate. Explore the idea that symbols can be positive ([blow kiss emoji](#)), neutral (Instagram logo ) or negative (swastika). Brainstorm symbols that express positive values and concepts such as respect, diversity, inclusion, love, acceptance and friendship. Then use art materials or go online to create symbols that represent these qualities. Finish your project by identifying ways to share the symbols you created with your community and the world in digital and physical spaces. *Discussion prompts:* Why are symbols important? What symbols have you noticed, and are they positive, negative or neutral? How can symbols of respect and inclusion make a difference in your community and the larger society?

#### **2. Visit Virtual Art Galleries**

Go with children on a virtual field trip to an art gallery and use artwork to explore important social justice themes. Together, identify pieces of art that express some aspect of identity, culture, human rights or social justice. Use some of the social justice art in [this ADL high school lesson plan](#) to begin the process. Then venture out to virtual art galleries like one of [10 of the world’s best virtual museum and art gallery tours](#) or [12 World-Class Museums You Can Visit Online](#). These virtual tours can inspire and encourage children to create a piece of art of their own that says something about social justice. *Discussion Prompts:* What thoughts and feelings come up as you look at a particular work of art? How can art have an impact on our community and world? How did you decide to come up your own idea for a piece of social justice art?

### **How to Talk to Your Children about the War in Ukraine**

Leah Persky, PhD & CFLE, Family Life Education Manager,  
Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minneapolis

The news out of Ukraine is tragic. The images we see of families and children and elderly people fleeing with their pets and luggage is heartbreaking. It is hard to make sense of this – and hard to talk to children about it all. Parents are in a powerful position to help their children understand and navigate this important world event. It is hard and necessary work!

*While our instinct may be to try to shelter our children from these horrible events, we know that in our information-laden world, this is not possible.*

I firmly believe that the right thing to do when navigating important world events is to talk to our children about them. We know that school-aged children have heard about the event, whether at school or from friends or family. While our instinct may be to try to shelter our children from these events, we know that in our information-laden world, this is not possible. Exploring important world events will certainly shape the way your child understands and interacts with the world around them.

*A great way to start a conversation with a child of any age is to ask them what they already know.*

It is important to have these discussions and guide your child to think critically about the world, to be an empathetic global citizen, and to explore why democracy is so crucial to the well-being of our families and communities. Learn more here: [How to Talk](#)

### **Youth-Led Lawsuits Spark Action on Climate**

As young people grow increasingly concerned about the climate crisis, they are taking legal action in at least six states. Watch a recent short clip from Weather.com here: [Youth Led Lawsuits](#). These legal actions are spearheaded by Our Children's Trust ([OCT site](#)), a non-profit public interest law firm dedicated to securing the legal rights of youth to a healthy atmosphere and safe climate, based on the best available science, at no cost to them or their families.

*A Constitutional violation by any standard....*

Julia Olson, ED & Chief Legal Counsel, OCT

*YOUTH V GOV* is the story of America's youth taking on the world's most powerful government. In 2015, twenty-one young plaintiffs, ages 14 to 25, filed the lawsuit *Juliana vs. United States*, asserting a willful violation of their constitutional rights in creating our climate crisis. Learn more here: [Youth v Gov Website](#) See the trailer here: [Youth v Gov trailer](#). Watch the film here: [Youth v Gov Film](#)

### **Book Suggestions**

Check out multicultural and social justice books for children, young adults, and educators at: <https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/jewish-identity/>

## Resources for Talking with Kids about Racism

PJLibrary.org

Repairing the world, *tikkun olam*, starts at home. Right now, even if it feels uncomfortable, it's important for families to talk about race and racism together. The following resources offer starting points for parents, educators, and caregivers about how to handle conversations about race, racism, diversity and inclusion, even with very young children. Since there is such a wealth of information available online, the PJ Library team has curated a selection for parents to get started with these discussions at home. This is by no means an exhaustive list, and we will continue to update it as well as share pertinent posts, videos, and book lists on our [Facebook page](#). Learn more here: [Talking with Kids about Racism](#)

## Upcoming Event

### Black Heritage Trail Tour - A TBA Tzedek Event

**Sunday, May 29, 2022, 11:00 am, in person in Portsmouth, NH**

Please join the Tzedek committee for a 90 minute guided walking tour of the Black Heritage Trail in Portsmouth, NH. We will hear some fascinating stories of the history of Portsmouth and learn about enslaved and free African Americans of NH's past. Learn more here: [Black Heritage Trail NH](#). Event is limited to 20 participants, and is \$20 per person. For questions or more information email us at [tzedek@tbanashua.org](mailto:tzedek@tbanashua.org). Register for the event here: [Walking Tour](#)

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To learn more about the work of the TBA Tzedek Committee, contact us at [tzedek@tbanashua.org](mailto:tzedek@tbanashua.org). Committee co-chairs are Marsha Feder and Liz Macedo. Send newsletter comments or suggestions to editor Fern Greenberg Blood at [feblood@comcast.net](mailto:feblood@comcast.net).

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