

SAJ SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION COMMITTEE (SoJAC)

Formerly SAJ Social Action Committee

THE MITZVAH SHEET

"In these turbulent times, it is more important than ever that we be involved in tikkun olam. Here are local and Jewish organizations that do good work in bringing both practical help and hope into the world."—Anne Meyer, z"l, Former Chair, SAJ Social Concerns Committee. Please contact Judy Bass at jbb@jbbasslaw.com or Myra Zuckerbraun at myramiller@yahoo.com for more information.

1. **WEST SIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER** is a supermarket-style emergency food pantry providing food and social services to low-income families whose monthly food stamp allocation has run out. SAJ volunteers are at the pantry Wednesdays and Thursdays. **The Thousand Turkey Challenge**, started by SoJAC and now an annual event, provides Thanksgiving turkeys for WSCAH's clients. To volunteer, contact SAJ-member **Susan Savel** at shsavel@hotmail.com. The pantry is located at 263 West 86th Street in the basement of the Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew. To make a donation, log on to www.wscah.org or contact Stewart Desmond at 212-362-3662 (x 112).
2. **FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY**. Provides meals to 300,000 New Yorkers daily. The Food Bank is the recipient of the SAJ's Yom Kippur canned food drive. You can volunteer at the Food Bank's warehouse or Community Kitchen of West Harlem or through other programs citywide. Older children are welcome. Donations are also appreciated. www.foodbanknyc.org.
3. **JCC LITERACY AND MATH PROGRAM**: The JCC in Manhattan will pair you with a child in one of our Upper West Side public schools. Give the gift of literacy or numeracy to one of these children. Call the JCC Volunteer Coordinator, Judy Gross at 646-505-4450 or e-mail jgross@jccmanhattan.org.
4. **MAZON** is the Jewish response to hunger. We are asked to give 3% of the cost of our *simchas* (weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, etc.). Send your check to MAZON, East Coast Office, 10495 Santa Monica Blvd. #100, Los Angeles, CA 90025, 800-813-0557, www.mazon.org.
5. **PROJECT EZRA** is a grassroots, hands-on organization that touches the lives of many Jewish elders in need on the Lower East Side, including crisis intervention and advocacy, group activities and direct relief. This year in conjunction with the Jewish Journey Project children and supported by a grant from UJA, we provided emergency kits to the elders there affected by Hurricane Sandy. To volunteer or donate, go to www.projectezra.org, call 212-982-4124 or write to Project Ezra, 465 Grand Street, New York, NY 10002.
6. **DOROT** serves the homebound, fragile, elderly and lonely population on the Upper West Side. There are holiday food deliveries, often by young volunteers, who form adopted-grandparent relationships. SAJ members and families participate in these food deliveries. DOROT is at 171 West 85th Street, New York, NY 10024; telephone (212) 769-2850, www.dorotusa.org.
7. **THE AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE** is headed by our own Ruth Messinger. AJWS is the leading Jewish human rights organization that works to realize rights and end poverty in the developing world, targeting sexual and reproductive rights; access to land, food and water; building of civil society; and works on US advocacy to improve conditions across the globe. For information or to donate, go to www.ajws.org, call (212) 792-2900 or write to 45 West 36th Street, New York, NY 10018.
8. **BEND THE ARC** (formerly **THE JEWISH FUNDS FOR JUSTICE**) fights for justice wherever poverty and injustice exist in America. In 2006-2007, the SAJ Social Concerns Committee, following up on a series of programs on microcredit, raised over \$13,000 for a loan to Bend the Arc's Tzedec Fund. The funds are loaned to credit unions and other institutions in the New Orleans Katrina region. The SAJ was the first synagogue to participate in this Bend the Arc fund. The loan was recently renewed. Bend the Arc can be contacted at (212) 213-2113; 330 7th Avenue, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10001, <http://bendthearc.us/>.
9. **ONE STOP SENIOR SERVICES** needs volunteers to work in their office; contributions are also welcome. ONE STOP helps older adults with legal, housing, Medicare, and other problems. Interested congregants should contact Carmen Escobar at (212) 864-7900. ONE STOP is located at 747 Amsterdam Avenue, 3rd Floor (near 96th Street), New York, NY 10025, www.onestopseniorservices.org.

10. **CITY HARVEST.** City Harvest is a food rescue organization serving New York City for over 25 years. They collect excess food from the food industry, restaurants, grocers, farms, etc. and deliver it free of charge to community food programs throughout the city. They even have a kosher food delivery program. They will also pick up excess food or leftovers from individuals. There are opportunities to donate food or volunteer your time. Call 917-351-8700. www.cityharvest.org. If you know someone who needs food, refer them to the **NYC Hunger Hotline, 866-888-8777**.
11. **HEBREW IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY:** For generations, HIAS has provided lifesaving services to world Jewry through rescue and resettlement. It also provides information, training and advice on immigration law and advocates for refugee and immigrant protection for both Jewish and the broader immigrant and refugee community. HIAS, 333 Seventh Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001-5019. www.hias.org.
12. The **NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIAN JEWS (NACOEJ)**, founded by Barbara Ribakove-Gordon, is the life-line to the Ethiopian Jews both in Ethiopia and Israel. Barbara and her staff have traveled many times to both countries, bringing food and clothing. For information, contact NACOEJ at 255 West 36th Street, Suite 701, New York, NY 10018; (212) 233-5200, www.nacoej.org.
13. The **NEW ISRAEL FUND** works for peace, pluralism and tolerance, democracy and social justice in Israel, including the civil and human rights of all citizens. Contact them at (212) 613-4400, 330 Seventh Avenue, 11th floor, New York, NY 10001, www.nif.org.
14. **THE ABRAHAM FUND INITIATIVES** works for co-existence and equality between Israeli and Arab citizens in Israel. The slogan is "Co-Existence Is the Only Alternative." They advance a cohesive, secure and just Israeli society by promoting policies based on innovative social models and by conducting largescale social change initiatives, advocacy and public education. (212) 661-7770, www.abrahamfund.org.
15. **MANHATTAN TOGETHER** is involved in maintaining and building affordable housing, improving public school education, and promoting gun safety through its **Do Not Stand Idly By** campaign, on the web at www.donotstandidlyby.org. Manhattan Together's website: <http://mt-iaf.org/> For more information, contact SAJ member Karen Greenberg-Perkus at kg.perkus@gmail.com.
16. **INTERFAITH ASSEMBLY ON HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING.** SAJ is an institutional supporter of this coalition of religious organizations that works on public policy advocacy and sponsors empowerment programs and life skills training for homeless adults in NYC. Mentoring opportunities are available. IAHH, 165 West 105th St, NY, NY 10025, 212-316-3171, www.iahh.org. Marc Greenberg, Executive Director.
17. **PARTNERSHIP FOR THE HOMELESS** (an interfaith organization serving the homeless) 305 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001-6008; (212) 645-3444; www.partnershipforthehomeless.org
18. **COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS** (advocacy and direct service for homeless individuals and families in NYC), 129 Fulton Street, New York, NY 10038; (212) 776-2000, www.coalitionforthehomeless.org
19. **SYNAGOGUE HOMELESS SHELTERS.** Please help by volunteering in synagogue homeless shelters on the Upper West Side. Eight to ten guests arrive around 7:50 PM and are picked up by 6:45 AM. All guests have been screened. Men and women stay in separate rooms.
 - a. **B'nai Jeshurun** has 2 shelters, each with two shifts: 7:00-9:00 PM set up, 9:00 PM – 7:00 AM sleep-over. Church of St. Paul and St. Andrews at 86th Street at West End Avenue, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Synagogue West 88th Street between Broadway and West End Avenue, Mondays and Tuesdays. Coordinators: Jim Melchiorre, and Dava Schub- (212) 787-7600 X272 (voice mail)
 - b. **Ansche Chesed** at 100th Street & West End Avenue, (212) 865-0600, ext. 212. ac_shelter@yahoo.com. Open every night. 7:00 - 9:00 PM (set-up) and 9:00 PM - 6:30 AM.
 - c. **Rodeph Sholom**, 7 West 83rd Street. Coordinator: Jay Kranis, jkranis@verizon.net (212) 3629341. This shelter is open Monday – Friday, 7:30 PM - 6:30 AM.
 - d. **The Emergency Shelter Network (ESN)** supports shelters serving homeless adult individuals throughout the five boroughs. Many skills are welcome, including on-site shelter set-up and sleepover. Please contact ESN to obtain a referral to one or more shelter sites, or for more information on how you might help. Volunteering, frequent or sporadic, is invaluable. info@emergencyshelternetwork.org