

Newsletter

February 16, 2024 • 7 Adar, 5784

TASTE OF HONEY

"We can find each other in our most vulnerable moments and wrap each other up in a circle of care. We can humbly promise each other, 'I can't take your pain away, but I can promise you won't have to hold it alone.'

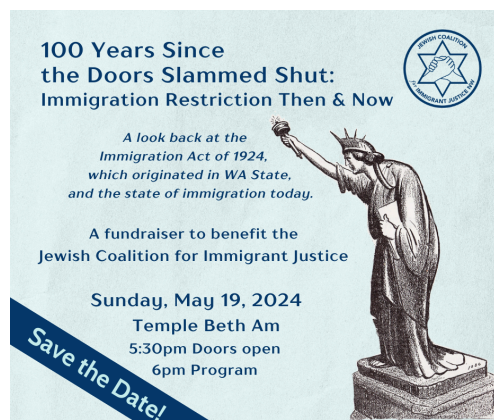
Showing up for one another doesn't require heroic gestures. It means training ourselves to approach, even when our instinct tells us to withdraw. It means picking up the phone and calling our friend or colleague who is suffering. It means going to the funeral and to the house of mourning. It also means going to the wedding and to the birthday dinner. Reach out in your strength, step forward in your vulnerability. Err on the side of presence."

—Rabbi Sharon Brous in a NYTimes op-ed entitled ["Train Yourself to Always Show Up."](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Annual Community Dinner on May 19, 2024 at 5:30pm

Tickets on sale soon! Dinner by Project Feast.



TAKE ACTION

JCIJ joins [Tsuru for Solidarity](#) Tuesday, February 20 at 10:00 am for a Press Conference and Rally to protest ICE Deportation Flights

This action at King County Airport commemorates the [Week of Remembrance](#) of Japanese American Incarceration During World War II.

February 19, 1942, is the date that FDR signed Executive Order 9066 that authorized the military to remove and incarcerate all Japanese Americans from the West Coast.

Meet in front of the King County International Airport Terminal [7277 Perimeter Rd. S. Seattle](#), then march over to the [Signature Aviation](#) building next door to demand that they stop servicing ICE deportation flights. Tsuru for Solidarity and JCIJ have joined with La Resistencia to send volunteers to observe ICE flights out of King County Airport every Tuesday and to advocate to end the use of our County Airport for this terrible purpose.

FEDERAL

In the past month, we have had to watch Congress propose to add immigration and border policy language to bills originally meant for support of the Ukrainian war. We think you will find some insight in [this article from Vox](#), entitled "7 Questions About Migration and the US-Mexico Border, Answered."

Tell your members of Congress to reject extreme anti-asylum and anti-immigrant measures and work toward humane and effective solutions to fix our immigration system.

[Write your members of Congress today!](#)

STATE

Send a letter to your legislators urging them to support JCIJ's top legislative priorities this session, which include unemployment insurance for undocumented workers, health equity for immigrants, and support of newly arrived migrants: tinyurl.com/jcijactionletter24.

[Write your State Legislators!](#)

JCIJ taking action during the WA Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN)'s Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day!



JCIJ featured in *The Seattle Times*



Read the full article [here](#).

OLYMPIA — Three immigrant justice campaigns for unemployment benefits and health care for undocumented immigrants and greater support for asylum-seekers brought hundreds of people together at a rally Wednesday in Olympia. [...]

The march and rally were led by the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, the largest immigrant-led organization in the state, with a coalition of more than 400 immigrant and refugee rights organizations. They called attention to bills and other legislative actions to increase support for undocumented immigrants and asylum-seekers. [...]

Advocates at the rally urged lawmakers to create a separate unemployment benefits system for undocumented workers, provide health care for all low-income residents regardless of their immigration status, and support the increasing numbers of asylum-seekers.

“They’re not just luxuries,” said Adrianna Suluai, policy director of LGBTQ+ rights organization Utopia Washington. “These are the care and safety nets that our communities need to thrive.” [...]

Currently, community groups and nonprofit organizations are doing the work of government to support undocumented and newly arrived migrants, said Andrea Soroko Naar, co-founder of the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northwest.

EVENTS

JCIJ Event - Welcoming the Stranger: Past and Present

Wednesday, April 3 at 7PM

Join us for an event to benefit the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice to build our efforts to support newly arrived migrants! The event features local graphic novelist Josh Tuininga, author of *We Are Not Strangers*. This book uncovers his family’s story set in Seattle of Sephardic Jewish solidarity with Japanese Americans during their incarceration. The event is hosted by Congregation Beth Shalom, and the Program is followed by a Dessert Reception.

Join us to examine how ideas of community and solidarity bridge to immigrant communities today. JCIJ will share about efforts to support newly arrived migrants and how we can come together to make an even bigger impact.

[Register](#)

Welcoming the Stranger Past and Present

Join us for a powerful fundraiser for the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice's efforts to support newly arrived migrants.

Event features graphic novelist Josh Tuininga uncovering his family's story of Sephardic Jewish solidarity with Japanese Americans during incarceration. Then, take action with JCIJ for immigrant justice today.

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 7-8:30pm
Tickets \$36

Hosted by Congregation Beth Shalom
Followed by Dessert Reception

Register: tinyurl.com/jcijstrangers
Order the book: tinyurl.com/bookstrangers



**JEWISH COALITION for
IMMIGRANT JUSTICE NW**

**CONGREGATION
BETH SHALOM**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Seeking Volunteers to Help Produce our Newsletter

Seeking Volunteers to Do In-person Accompaniment

We are looking for a few more volunteers to do in-person accompaniment for legal clients of Colectiva Legal to medical and immigration appointments and for people referred by WAISN for immigration appointments. Orientation and training provided.

Seeking Volunteers at Riverton Park United Methodist Church

We are looking for volunteers to translate written documents from French, Spanish, or Portuguese into English, or help with legal clinics.

Seeking Volunteers to Observe ICE Flights

Volunteers observe the flights every Tuesday morning on a screen in the airport terminal, and send statistics to [La Resistencia](#) and the UW Center for Human Rights. Language fluency other than English is not needed.

If you are interested in participating in any of these volunteer opportunities, please fill out and submit the [JCIJ Volunteer Interest Form](#). We will contact you with more information.

RIVERTON UPDATE - Newly arrived migrants seeking shelter



[WA advocates press for state funding to help migrants camped at Tukwila church](#)

The Washington State Standard journalist Grace Deng reports that Washington immigrant rights advocates want the state to spend \$25 million on housing, food and other services for asylum seekers, including hundreds living outside a church in Tukwila. King County has allocated \$3 million to house migrants camped at Riverton Park United Methodist Church. But Martha Lucas, program coordinator at Riverton, said cities and counties won't be able to provide the kind of funding they need to support asylum seekers. "We need the big dollars," said Lucas.

CURRENT ASKS FROM RIVERTON CHURCH:

1. **Please send us names of any landlords** that you think might be willing to provide their group/adult family homes as transitional /temporary housing for groups of residents. Please reach out to martha@wscacl.org.
2. **Interested/or know someone that may be interested in being a host family?** Please contact martha@wscacl.org for more details about our program for hosting community members in your home.
3. **Here is the latest list of items needed at Riverton:** Rice, Peanut butter, Top Ramen, Paper plates, Diapers Size 5&6, Women's pads, Deodorant, Umbrellas, Shampoo, Men's Belts, Flip flops, Razors. Contact us at team@jewishcoalition.org for delivery information.

Thank you for your support!!

SYNAGOGUE SPOTLIGHT



A big shout out, Kol Hakavod, Yasher Koach, Hazak u'Baruch to Congregation Beth Shalom for a powerful HIAS Refugee Shabbat "Amplifying Refugee Voices to Inspire Action!"

The event elevated voices, stories and talents of newcomers and demonstrated the importance of walking with immigrants and refugees as they navigate their new lives. Community members enjoyed a musical performance, poetry, stories from refugees, and delicious snacks from Project Feast, who prepare immigrants for careers in the food industry. The day concluded with the chance to connect with 10 community partner organizations committed to supporting refugees and immigrants. Thank you for a powerful and inspiring event!

COMMITTEES

Accompaniment

We invite you to fill out the [JCIJ Volunteer Interest Form](#) to learn more about volunteering with JCIJ at Colectiva Legal del Pueblo, Riverton United Methodist Church, Accompanying Community Members to Immigration Appointments and Immigration Court, and Observing ICE Flights.

Please join us at the next Accompaniment Committee meeting! We meet virtually, the third Wednesday of the month, 7-8pm. Click [here](#) and we'll send you sign-in information. All are welcome!

Advocacy

JCIJ was a part of an inspiring WAISN Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day on February 7. [Here](#) is what *The Seattle Times* reported. JCIJ also led a training on advocacy for immigrants and refugees at Faith Action Network's Interfaith Advocacy Day.

We are working to keep our main legislative priorities - unemployment insurance for undocumented workers, health equity for immigrants, and support of newly arrived migrants - alive through the February 13 cutoff. [Please contact your legislators today!](#)

Our next Advocacy Committee meeting is Sunday, February 18th from 4-5:30pm. Sign up [here](#).

Community Engagement

All are welcome at our next meeting on February 21 from 10-11:30am. Please [sign up here](#) for details and zoom link.

Book Club

The next Book Club is March 12 at 7pm. We are reading ***Here We Are***, a heart-wrenching memoir about an immigrant family's American Dream, the justice system that took it away, and the daughter who fought to get it back, from NPR correspondent Aarti Namdev Shahani.

The next book will be scheduled for April or May. It is called ***Behind You Is the Sea* by Susan Muaddi Darraj**. This is an exciting debut novel that gives voice to the diverse residents of a Palestinian American community in Baltimore whose lives intersect across divides of class, generation and religion.

If you would like to receive Book Club meeting details, [please sign up here](#). All are welcome!

SONGS IN THE KEY OF JCIJ

Curated by Dina Burstein

[Coney Island](#) the Barry Sisters

For the many readers who did not grow up, as I did, in a Yiddish-tinged household not too far from Coney Island, you need to meet the glorious Barry Sisters. Born Minnie and Clara Bagelman, they were Yiddish superstars beginning in the 1940's.

[Laura Elkeslassy](#) | [L'Orientale](#) | [After Line Monty](#)

Laura Elkeslassy is a singer, actor and educator based in Brooklyn. Born in France, with Moroccan and Israeli roots, Laura blends Judeo-Arab, Middle Eastern and Andalusian repertoires in her music. In her take on L'Orientale, she laughs at the designation of Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews as "Oriental," or "Easterners." As she explains, her origins are literally in the Magreb of Western Africa.

[Shakira - Acróstico \(Official Video\)](#)

World famous Colombian singer Shakira is joined by her sons Milan and Sasha in Acrostico, released in 2023. Many asylum seekers from Colombia have lived or received services at Riverton Park United Methodist Church.

[Arvoles Yoran — Aviva Chernick & La Serena Trio with Maryem Tollar live at Bela Farm](#)

Beautiful Sephardic folk song, recorded (ironically) at the Canadian festival “Ashenaz.” The song begins: The trees cry for the rain, and the mountains cry for the wind, this is why my eyes cry; they cry for you dear beloved.



Be in touch with the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW at team@jewishcoalition.org and follow by liking us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

[Donate](#) to build Jewish Coalition’s advocacy, accompaniment and community engagement.

[Volunteer](#) for or learn more about accompaniment, legal support, observing ICE flights, tutoring, interpreting, crafting JCIJ’s newsletter, and supporting immigrant-led partners.

Invite others to [subscribe](#) to JCIJ mailings.