**TIKKUN OLAM**

A key component of Judaism is striving for social justice for all. In the words of Rabbi Hillel, “If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?” And we are enjoined to of course aid our fellow Jews but also the needy and justice-starved people in our local communities. Our members and clergy work together to discover the issues of most concern to our community. Over a period of several months, educational programs are presented on issues of concern. Members are polled on their opinions and resolutions passed by our Board of Directors to implement policy changes and initiatives.

Members of CJC’S Tikkun Olam Committee participate in two main efforts in healing our world: 1) service projects providing direct aid and 2) social justice/advocacy efforts aiming to reform harmful policies in our community. Join us in helping to repair the world one step at a time by joining an existing initiative or suggesting your own, no matter how small or large.

Contact [Robin@columbiajewish.org](mailto:Robin@columbiajewish.org) for how to participate in our many activities and watch for notices in our weekly email updates and our website. Current opportunities within the Tikkun Olam Committee include:

**Service Projects/Gemilut Chasidim** (can this be clickable as can the following programs for a cleaner look?)

**Caring Committee** – This program provides support, solace, and hope to congregants during times of illness, suffering, loss and grief. The Caring Committee extends a hand and offers support when our members need it most. CJC’s Caring Committee recognizes our responsibility to care for one another as we fulfill the mitzvot of G’milut Hasasdim – acts of loving kindness. These acts build and nourish a network of relationships that can sustain us throughout the journey of our lives. Our members call and visit congregants who are temporarily or permanently home-bound; provide rides to CJC events and services and provide meals for shiva and recuperation in addition to offering assistance for members who need help with grocery shopping. There are no meetings to attend. Let us know if you or another CJC member need help.

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**Grassroots Homeless Shelter** - We provide 51 meals (an entree and 2 sides) on the 4th Sunday of each month to Grassroots. Committee volunteers purchase, cook and deliver the meals each month. We are always looking for volunteers. No cooking experience needed! If you have any questions, please contact Marlene Trossman, [trossmans@verizon.net](mailto:trossmans@verizon.net). This activity has continued during the pandemic.

**Shepherd’s Table** -  CJC has been volunteering at Shepherd’s Table in Silver Spring for approximately 15 years. We go there on the fourth Sunday of every month. CJC provides paper products and juices. We also set up the dining area, serve the meal, bus tables, wash dishes and clean up. Our time commitment on those Sundays is from 4:30p.m. to 8:00p.m. We welcome all willing participants but ask that you call Lois Savar-Rock at 410-715-2151 about 2 weeks before so we don’t have too many volunteers on a given Sunday. Any questions can be directed to Ronee Rothman at 410-730-8162. Postponed during COVID. We are trying to determine if we can join CBF in helping to feed Thunderhill residents and a food drop off before RH

Local families have to sign up for once-a-month boxes of food. CBF is partners with Roving Radish, a company that sells veggies and meat. There are 3 different levels to pay. CBF pays something for food and people have to register with CBF. The program can accept donations of $10 gift cards to the LA Mart or Aldee made out to CJC which will be given to CBF.

Sept 13 – Food drive –when there’ll be a shofar blower and giving out prayer books.

**NAMI** – [**National Alliance on Mental Illness**](http://www.namimd.org/): CJC works hard to increase knowledge around mental illness, the many signs of and the opportunities for coping mechanisms and professional help. Annually, we host a dinner for the mentally ill to come together for company and sustenance. Marlene Trossman is the contact…I also think this did not happen because of COVID

**Rebuilding Together** – Participate with others in local religious organizations with helping to repair the home of a selected needy individual family every spring. You can have great skills or no skills, just a willingness to help out. Contact Sharon Walsh .… Postponed

**Initiative to End Homelessness in Howard County** – There are more than 200 people in our community living in shelters, cars or in the woods. It doesn’t have to be this way. The mission of this sub-committee is to carry out CJC’s commitment to our neighbors in need by supporting a variety of organizations that provide services to homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless. Each year, CJC works with [Bridges to Housing Stability](https://bridges2hs.org/) by fundraising and participating in their annual Chili Cook-Off to raise funds to keep this important organization on solid ground. Activities include advocacy efforts including CJC support for the Plan to End Homelessness and in-kind support for local organizations providing services to those in need.

(Contact - Sandy Saperstein

**Help for Trauma Survivors:** CJC has teamed up with the Shofar Coalition of Baltimore to provide information for trauma survivors of all ages. The mission of Shofar Coalition is to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect of children and to aid adults, adolescents and children who are suffering from the impact of traumatic experiences. The Shofar Coalition strives to create a healing community in a safe and confidential environment responding to abuse with action rather than silence, shame and denial.

In 2017, CJC adopted a JSafe Policy which strives for best practice to protect the children in their programs. Please review our JSafe Policy by [clicking here](https://www.columbiajewish.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/JSafe-Policy.pdf).

**Red Cross Blood Drives** – Give the gift of life. Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. This need can only be met through the willingness of donors, such as yourself. Blood Drives are held every few months at CJCS. Schedule your donation with us or visit [www.redcrossblood.org/](http://www.redcrossblood.org/) to learn more about blood donation opportunities. Postponed.

**Social Justice/Advocacy Work**

**Next Steps in Social Justice 2020**– In this new group members are studying and dialoguing with each other to identify a major social justice project to implement through CJC. Get in on the ground work and share your concerns around such issues as racial justice, police abuse and the school-to-prison pipeline.

**Immigration Justice**– CJC is part of the Howard County Coalition for Immigrant Justice ([HCCIJ](https://www.facebook.com/HCCIJ/)), one of 15 religious and secular groups focused on a variety of pressing issues for our immigrant neighbors. One of these is a campaign to end Howard County’s agreement with ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) to house immigrant detainees in our county jail, a program which is out of step with most other counties in the state and has been found to violate many immigrant rights.

In 2019 and 2020 CJC joined with HCCIJ to sponsor a demonstration at the county prison on Tisha B’Av to protest the county’s agreement with ICE. We have demonstrated with our partners at the Howard County Municipal Building, the National Mall and on I-95 overpasses to protest the separation of families at the southern border. We have listened to the stories of our immigrant neighbors who have suffered in the broken system of immigration. Since 2016 CJC has sponsored many public informational programs on immigration, a legal clinic for asylee applicants, and showcased the work of several immigrant advocacy groups in our region. We are currently lobbying our county executive and county council memebers to end the contract with ICE. Contact Anna Rubin (410-322-5513) for more information.

**Transgender and Gender Identity Learning Series** – In 2019-2020, CJC conducted an important learning series which was initiated by members of our congregation and resulted in a resolution supporting and welcoming transgender persons to CJC and providing a gender-neutral restroom in our facility.

Green Team – inactive because of a lack of leadership.