

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE – DECEMBER 6, 2017

JUST LAUNCHED: RSNS FUNDRAISER TO RESCUE AND RESETTLE A SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY!

Thanks to the great work of congregant Adam Haber, and to the generosity of our amazing synagogue community, **we are going to rescue a Syrian refugee family** and resettle them in Canada, via Canadian non-profit Najda Now! Please help if you can!!!

Najda Now Canada is a community organization that was founded in response to the growing humanitarian and refugee crisis in Syria. Starting 2014, with Canada becoming more open to receiving Syrian refugees (unlike the U.S.), Najda Now engaged in refugee sponsorship activities. So far they have assisted over 40 refugee families with arriving in Canada and successfully integrating into the community.

Sponsoring a refugee means applying for their resettlement, providing them with temporary and/or permanent housing, assuming all necessary resettlement costs for at least one year and most importantly assisting the refugee with integrating into the Canadian society by helping them resume studies, benefit from professional training and find a decent job. **All this will be possible with the help of YOUR donation!** [Click here to support Rescue Refugees](#)

• **HUMAN RIGHTS SHABBAT AT RSNS** in conjunction with [Tru'ah](#): The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, to mark the anniversary of the U.N.'s Universal Declaration, join us for conversations about human rights at our congregational **Shabbat Dinner, Friday, Dec 8 at 6:30pm**, and for social-justice-themed music at **Shabbat Unplugged at 8pm**. All are welcome!! (RSVP's needed for dinner).

• **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 Human Rights Interfaith Supper** At a time when ICE has been empowered to detain and deport in mass numbers, reflecting on the spirit and purpose of the Declaration will help ground us in our commitment to justice. Long Island Jobs With Justice invites you to attend this interfaith event at St. Hugh of Lincoln Church in Huntington Station from 4-6pm. REGISTER ONLINE: <http://bit.ly/2hjDLI8>

• **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 Interfaith Musical Celebration** on the theme of "Welcoming the Stranger" will be held from **7-8:30pm at The Dolphin Bookshop**. The event will feature local musicians from different faith and spiritual traditions celebrating the common wish that "strangers" among us be welcomed with open hearts. The event also will serve as a **fundraiser for Hofstra Law School's Deportation Defense Clinic**. The clinic represents Long Island immigrants facing deportation with a full range of free services and spearheads education and advocacy programs for immigrant rights. The suggested donation at the event will be \$20, but support at any level is welcome.

• **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16** For those interested in **knitting hats for the preemies and infants at Cohens Children's Medical Center**, our **first instructional session for adults and children will be from 11-12:30pm at RSNS**. All you will need is a [knitting loom kit](#). They can be purchased at Michaels (they have them at the one on Northern Blvd.) Don't forget to use a 50% off coupon! If you can't make it over there to get one, we will have some on hand that you can use. We will supply the yarn. Any questions? Please let me know if you have any questions!! Contact Maggie at 516-782-9997 or mbhymowitz@gmail.com.

• **MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 Together to End Solitary Confinement, 6:30 pm, UUCSR** (48 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset). Advocates for ending prolonged solitary confinement gather every month, remembering those who are in segregated confinement 23 hours a day. After a **vigil in the worship room** to remember those in solitary, we will go to the art gallery for a **screening and discussion of White Privilege**, a video presentation by Robin DiAngelo, PhD, Former Professor of Education and Author of What Does It Mean to be White? This program is free and open to the public. For more

information, contact Social Justice Coordinator Claire Deroche at cderoche@uucsr.org or 516-472-2977. For directions go to: <http://tinyurl.com/n5qsygs>

• **SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 2-4**

Keshet Teen LGBTQ/Ally Shabbaton Registration is now open! [The LGBTQ and Ally Teen Shabbaton](#) is a peer-led weekend of learning, Jewish ritual, and community building and is open to LGBTQ and ally Jewish teens in grades 8-12. Event is in Waynesboro, PA. Spaces fill quickly. Register here. Questions? Contact Justin Rosen Smolen (justin@keshetonline.org) for more information.

• **SAVE THE DATE: MONDAY JANUARY 15** Port Washington's Community-Wide Mitzvah Day is on Martin Luther King Day!

• **HOLIDAY COAT DRIVE FOR THE RIVERFUND FOOD PANTRY** - We'll be collecting coats here at RSNS through the end of Chanukkah. Questions? Contact Bhavani Jaroff: 516-238-3616, Bhavani@iEatGreen.com

• **GAN SHALOM TOY DRIVE:** Bring **new, unwrapped toys** now through December 15th. Most needed: basketballs, footballs, stuffed animals, building toys, Legos, Minecraft, baby dolls. Toy donations benefit **children visiting parents at the Nassau County Jail**. In collaboration with **Prison Families Anonymous** and **New Hour for Women and Children LI**. If you would like to sign up to distribute gifts at the jail or have questions please contact Lauren or Rachel at gold.lauren@gmail.com, or rfigurasmith@gmail.com

• **TELL CONGRESS TO LET THEM IN!** The courts have repeatedly blocked the Muslim and refugee bans, but the current Administration continues to do everything it can to stop (heavily-vetted) refugees from finding safety in this country. As the Administration tries to implement harsh policies that slam the door on refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers, we must continue to show our support and do what we can to protect and welcome them. **Congress has the authority to maintain the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program** at a level proportionate to the global crisis and in line with our capacity, history and values. Please [take action today](#) and tell your representatives to **protect the refugee resettlement program**.

• **STOP THE HORRIFIC PERSECUTION OF THE ROHINGYA** Since the intensification of the ethnic cleansing in August, the American Jewish World Service has been providing humanitarian assistance for the Rohingya who are fleeing violent persecution. The Senate [introduced a bill](#) to provide humanitarian aid and re-establish sanctions against the Burmese military. We now need all Senators to come out in support of human rights and humanitarian assistance for the Rohingya people. You can [use this link](#) to **urge your Senators to support the Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act of 2017**. And if you have a moment, calling your Senator's office can be even more impactful. The passage of this bill will only strengthen AJWS's efforts to combat the suffering of the Rohingya.

• **PUERTO RICO STILL NEEDS OUR HELP!** An easy, effective way to help those devastated by Hurricane Maria is to donate via the [Greater Miami Jewish Federation Disaster Relief Portal](#). You can also donate to El Puente a widely-regarded state-side organization with strong ties to the local population, who are providing desperately-needed electricity via emergency solar power. Also, [use this link](#) to call on your members of Congress to **pass a comprehensive emergency relief package NOW!**