

Social Action updates are posted every week on the [Social Action page](#) of our website and on the [website calendar](#).

- **COME TO OUR NEXT SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING! Wednesday, 1/10 at 8pm, or Wednesday, 1/17 at 1:30pm.** RSVP via [doodle poll](#) and we'll pick the time that the most people can come!

- **MONDAY, JANUARY 8 Bend the Arc Chapter meeting, 7-8:30 PM** on Long Island. **Plainview Library** (999 Old Country Rd, Plainview, NY 11803) [RSVP here](#). We'll spend time strategizing about our work in 2018, sharing updates on DREAM act campaign work, and building community together!

- **THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 Observance in awareness of Guantanamo, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, UU Congregation at Shelter Rock**, (48 Shelter Rock Rd). January 11, 2018 marks the 16th anniversary of the opening of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. According to the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), dozens of people remain imprisoned there – most without charge or trial - well over a decade after they were first sent to Guantanamo. **We will gather to reject this symbol of torture and petition our government for its closure.** Co-sponsored by the Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore, the Islamic Center of Long Island, The Interfaith Institute of the Islamic Center of Long Island, and the Social Justice Committee of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. For further information, please contact UUCSR Social Justice Coordinator Claire Deroche at (516) 472-2977 or cderoche@uucsr.org

- **SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 “Photo Requests from Solitary” Art Exhibit Reception: 1:00 – 3:00 PM, UUCSR Art Gallery, 48 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset.** “Photo Requests from Solitary” is a unique collaboration between individuals living in isolated confinement who request a photo of anything, real or imagined, and the artists on the outside who fulfill those requests. Join us on January 14 to view these remarkable photos and meet individuals and family members directly affected by prolonged solitary confinement. Learn what you can do to end the torture of prolonged solitary confinement. “Photo Requests from Solitary” will be on exhibit until February 13, 2018. Directions at <https://uucsr.org/im-interested/directions/> For further information, please contact social justice coordinator Claire Deroche at (516) 472-2977 or cderoche@uucsr.org.

- **JANUARY 16-18** Come to Washington, D.C. for a three day effort (training, action, and debrief) as Bend the Arc leads the Jewish community in a bold, escalated action in support of a Clean Dream Act in solidarity with the immigrant community. [Click here](#) for more info, and to register.

- **THURSDAY, JANUARY 25** Come join us at **RSNS at 7pm** for a **discussion of the book Becoming Nicole - The Transformation of an American Family**. Our congregant, Michele Lipson, Director at Plainedge Public Library, will lead us in a discussion of this book about one family's acceptance of a transgender child. RSVP to Carol Blumenthal at carollblumenthal@gmail.com or Debbie

Kesselman at dkesselman@gmail.com. Please read the book in advance. There are many copies available at local libraries or you can purchase a copy online for under \$15.

- **SUNDAY, JANUARY 28** Get to know Bend the Arc, Nassau County House Party! When: 2 pm Where: A volunteer's home in Syosset, NY — address provided upon RSVP. [RSVP here](#)

- **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7** Beyond the Headlines: An Introduction to the Global Refugee Crisis through a Jewish Lens, 7:30pm, TBI in Port Washington. Over the last year, the number of refugees and displaced people across the world has grown to more than 65 million – more than any time in history. Because of our history and our values, the Jewish people have a unique connection to these most vulnerable people, made all the more critical by the recent Executive Orders barring refugees from the United States and the administration's reduction of the number of refugees admitted to the United States in 2018 to an unconscionably low number. In this interactive workshop, led by an expert from HIAS, and co-sponsored by TBI RSNS, Port Jewish and Community Synagogue, we'll ground ourselves in a shared understanding of this crisis, explore the Jewish values that command us to welcome the stranger, and learn how to take action in support of refugees worldwide.

- **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.

- **TOILETRY DRIVE FOR THE INN:** The Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom is collecting travel-sized toiletries to assemble into toiletry kits for the INN. If you have toiletries to donate, please leave them in the collection box in our lobby.

- **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!**