**Volume 4: May 31, 2021**

General information and News: Mark your calendars for a joint Oseh Shalom Social Justice meeting on **Wednesday June 2, 2021 at 7 PM.**  The three Working Group will share their efforts to date and identify opportunities for working together and with partners going forward. You can access the Zoom meeting [here](https://zoom.us/j/99959494302).

Are you looking for ideas on how to actively pursue Tzedek and Tikkun Olam? Consider [subscribing](https://americansofconscience.com/subscribe/) to the Americans of Conscience Checklist to help direct your efforts to advocate for equality for all, voting access for all, and decency toward aspiring Americans.

Bend the ARC has selected Prince George’s County as one of the geographic areas of focus for the 2021 Jeremiah Fellowship program. The Jeremiah Fellowship is for the next generation of Jewish leaders aged 20 to 32 who are ready to meet this moment and mobilize their communities to win progressive change. If you're interested in learning more, please reach out to [Matt Kolbert](mailto:mkolbert@bendthearc.us), Jeremiah Program Manager.

**Racial Justice**: On **Sunday June 13 at 1 PM**, the Racial Justice Working Group will hold a discussion on the film, Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom. The meeting will take place outside at Oseh Shalom so bring a chair!

* **RACE—The Power of an Illusion** was first broadcast and released back in 2003. The three-part documentary series asks a question so basic it’s rarely raised: What is this thing called ‘race’? You can watch Episode 3 at **12 PM on Thursday June 3** for free by registering [here](https://iaphs.org/race-the-power-of-an-illusion/).
* **NEW Join for Justice** is sponsoring a webinar on **Thursday June 3 at 7 PM** featuring leaders from the **New Georgia Project,** who will discuss What it Takes: Building Electoral Power in Georgia. Register [here](https://www.joinforjustice.org/whatittakes/#.YLWDwqhKjIU).
* **NEW** On **Sunday June 13, 2021 at 2 PM, Standing Up for Racial Justice** will sponsor a webinar entitled From Anti-Semitism to Anti-Racism: Jewish Perspectives on Defunding the Police**.** You can register for the event [here](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/mRNLFKyANPYkYXuUTzk_S5RIzHhwhCb_fCJh6ZtzR75M6FDFntOv0QjSZ284mjzv_5W08bORZ-lzKMKiMX_DtlhYw_wwkQURIJKzPsxk1lYFB0FHcsyOImTzcExbQqE0YN3Jr0-NZeR26K2MUXCFYauNZF8cgDZk1YELpz0gMh0ftLG2XyF2l-J4FqjXnu1VSQjnjvjO7Sd-pdBcK7TMZ5VKo_). SURJ has also developed an extensive [resource list](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_rNTIvY0w9InCgND2uWO131L_f71YqoIet4G7ZEDeAQ/edit?link_id=4&can_id=6aab24cfe0110739a192b62183e41ec3&source=email-urgent-action-alerts-and-updates-from-surj-faith&email_referrer=email_1182103&email_subject=urgent-action-al) related to countering anti-Semitism.
* NEW **Maryland Poor People’s Campaign Montgomery County Call to Action**: People of color have experienced great harm during the COVID-19 public health crisis, due in part to the country's lack of a universal health care system. The effects of the pandemic have been felt disproportionately by the county's BIPOC residents.   Please let the County Council know that you support Medicare for All by [signing this petition](https://secure.everyaction.com/coteAj6iNEaluzGbkf3r2A2?link_id=0&can_id=6aab24cfe0110739a192b62183e41ec3&source=email-md-ppc-montgomery-county-organizing-meeting-reminder&email_referrer=email_1181730&email_subject=md-ppc-montgomery-county-organizing-meetin).
* **NEW** If you missed the May 17 webinar entitled “Crisis Intervention in Montgomery County: Is Calling the Police Always the Best Plan?”, you may watch a recording on **The League of Women Voters in Montgomery County** [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVMOCOMD/videos) page.
* The **Montgomery County Reimaging Safety Task Force Recommendations Report** is now available for download [here.](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zJA9IDmrCmIuHj-8wnmlUjptAkW-pDBe/view)
* Please check out **Sapir: A Journal of Jewish Conversation**. Volume One was just released in April 2021 and is dedicated to Social Justice and is chock full of excellent articles. You can access a PDF of the entire issue [here](https://sapirjournal.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Sapir_VolumeOne.pdf).
* The **Courageous Conversations Academy** schedule for June programs is available [here](https://courageousconversation.regfox.com/courageous-conversation-academy-may-june-2021#speaker).
* **JUFJ Call to Action** - JUFJ is asking Montgomery County residents to take action against the new Community Resource Officer (CRO) program. Even if you have spoken out against School Resource Officers (SROs) before — the action alert has been updated to contact County Executive Elrich as well as the County Council to tell them to prioritize real student safety. Click [here](https://jufj.org/police-free-mcps/?emci=65868210-ebac-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&emdi=6bc0407e-10ad-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&ceid=2839043) to take action.

**Immigrant Justice:** Many thanks to Bill Frelick for speaking with us last Thursday (May 27) at our Refugee and Immigration Advocacy Town Hall. Bill presented his work for Human Rights Watch to propose a revised definition of who is entitled to protection as an asylum seeker. A recording link is hopefully coming soon. In the meantime, here is his [opinion piece from *The Hill*](https://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/554341-how-to-make-the-us-asylum-system-efficient-and-fair?rl=1) that summarizes his presentation. And for those looking for advocacy opportunities, see [Amnesty International USA](https://rightsnow.amnestyusa.org/free-people-from-ice-detention/) (below).

* **NEW Amnesty International Call to Action** – Amnesty International is asking for your help to free people from ICE detention. More information on specific actions you can take is available [here](https://rightsnow.amnestyusa.org/free-people-from-ice-detention/).
* **NEW** **Bend the Arc** has partnered with *Be’chol Lashon* to bring us LUNAR: The Jewish-Asian Film Project. LUNAR just released a video series on Jewish-Asian identity. You can watch LUNAR’s entire first season — and subscribe for future content — on YouTube [now](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU7Iim5-qnUzkFzTt0lL1VA).
* **SURJ Call to Action** – SURJ is part of a [national effort](https://defundhatenow.org/take-action/?link_id=8&can_id=6aab24cfe0110739a192b62183e41ec3&source=email-thanks-for-your-support-take-action-to-end-ice-detention-now-8&email_referrer=email_1179065&email_subject=take-action-to-end-ice-mass-detention-now) to repurpose funding for Customs and Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to support reinvestment in local communities.
* **HIAS Call to Action** - HIAS is leading the Jewish response to the refugee crisis, and is asking for support by responding to [this request](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDCxDIu4OO3SBv2TLoLPFt2dpUNMplQbGK_2EG7ayatr7T041dtJOw1nEk1AG4LSOiSCEfsbOjY4XC2tKzMjL1UI1D3JoisSvPLjyFhdabAvU6k0AxOH06939aPZcRvgx7YEEHnmaJ1d75rrJIi_F4ByHXXvM297TNHwPJ_7Wd57O1ZaZik972VtsJpZgA9l1t-JmSA) on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers. As displaced individuals struggle to navigate a challenging refugee and asylum system — compounded by the difficulties of the pandemic — displaced communities need our support. The responsibility to welcome the stranger has never been more important.

**Environmental Justice**: The **EJ Working Group** will meet on **June 9 at 7 PM** to continue planning our August and October panel presentations. Click [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84630701150) to join the webinar.

* **NEW** On **Thursday June 3, 2021 at 7 PM**, the **Montgomery County Chapter of Sierra Club** is holding a Volunteer Orientation Session. Register [here](https://click.emails.sierraclub.org/?qs=9638c03a7ad60deb64f2a2740065c5e02001e9283f6bdc74c4d054fe18fb24a1c618b2c78d5534ddc5596fa38d8d8713da6644389776801dba7d140361af52ee).
* **NEW** **The Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, & Health (CEEJH)** and 17 for Peace and Justice are pleased to announce the call for panelists and posters for the 7th Annual University of Maryland Environmental Justice and Health Disparities Symposium, to be held **August 19 - 20, 2021**. Submissions for poster and panel presentations will be open until midnight on **June 4th, 2021**. The Attendance Registration Form may be accessed at: <https://go.umd.edu/2021ejsymposium> and the Presentations Submissions Form may be accessed at: <https://go.umd.edu/EJsymposium7Submissions>
* On **Thursday June 10, 2021 at 12 PM**, the EPA’s Environmental Justice (EJ) and Systemic Racism Speaker Series will focus on California EPA’s (CalEPA) Pollution and Prejudice project. Understand how environmental conditions are informed by legacy land use practices and the role of government in perpetuating structural racism. Register for the webinar [here](https://clicks.eventbrite.com/f/a/e8nGOiixmZDBt39giC5axQ~~/AAQxAQA~/RgRig8RsP0RhaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZXZlbnRicml0ZS5jb20vZS9jYWxpZm9ybmlhLWVwYXMtcG9sbHV0aW9uLWFuZC1wcmVqdWRpY2UtcHJvamVjdC10aWNrZXRzLTE1MzE5MDIxNzA2M1cDc3BjQgpgnOyQomARvkmpUhZqcmdhbEB0ZXJwbWFpbC51).
* **Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake** is offering the next Faithful Green Leaders Training beginning **Thursday June 10, 2021 at 7 PM**. Training takes place over three consecutive weeks. RSVP [here](https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/june_2021_fglt_online_training).
* NEW On **Saturday June 12, 2021 at 1 PM**, the **Citizens Climate Lobby** is holding a virtual conference that will train volunteers on how to lobby for carbon pricing. You can register for the conference [here](https://www2.citizensclimatelobby.org/acton/ct/17897/s-104b-2105/Bct/q-0075/l-sf-contact-0052:53913/ct2_1/1/lu?sid=TV2%3AMk1LO44nH).
* NEW On **Wednesday June 16, 2021 at 7:30 PM**, the **Jewish Climate Action Network (JCAN**) will be sponsoring a workshop on divestment from fossil fuels in our retirement funds and other savings investments.  Register for the session [here](https://jewishclimate.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b6021795e0317de4433dfa0a0&id=5db8b8204e&e=a58eab10c9). You can also access archived JCAN webinars on its [website](https://www.jewishclimate.org/webinars.html).
* NEW The **Prince George’s County Climate Action Commission** will hold a public meeting on **Thursday June 21 at 6:30 PM**. The Commission wants members of the public to provide suggestions and feedback on what climate actions the County should prioritize. You can find information about how to participate in the meeting at <https://pgccouncil.us/810/Climate-Action-Commission>.
* **NEW** Although the official public comment period for the SCMagLev Train has ended, you can still [sign a petition](http://bit.ly/MagLevPetition) opposing this project.
* **NEW** For those of you who could not participate in the recent webinar **Confronting Climate Change: A Jewish Perspective on Community Responsibilities**, the recording is available on the Haberman Institute [website](https://api.neonemails.com/emails/tracking/click-link/KE8ITrNtfR1dXWype4Liy8nT0UgDD6sFcz9whF9ZUeA=/entSNttfmvDXkeqo7ON4D5seelIeZe3kuOR4wZIbXLE=).
* **NEW Maryland League of Conservation Voters Call to Action** – MD LCV is asking you to join them in calling on Maryland's congressional delegation to “Build Back Better” and vote for the American Jobs Plan. Sign the petition [here](https://www.mdlcv.org/action-alert/american-jobs-plan-petition?contactdata=bPdc4lvG%2b%2bQDtDZo1apu9J58mJkGu553eEN6AvzR97kOfBv8Ka3Tsjlmb2KvLTiowXOUvWbN0Rtx1pokr7ylmhrPHh9DP8issXxXUM27rxnGHiIn7G0M55gDfeGSiDFj9Gg74JkfrZLni7RzHtLtgC8R0xEds045dhG5gePLFiQ%3d&em).
* **NEW** Think you are a climate change expert? Test your knowledge about the ways the climate is changing — and what we can do about it in this Washington Post [quiz](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2021/05/30/quiz-climate-change/?itid=hp_dontmiss#quiz-start).