

Oseh Shalom Social Justice Digest

Volume 2, Issue # 2: January 18, 2022



Join us! Upcoming Social Justice Meetings Sponsored by Oseh and its Partners

- **Justice at Our Border: Addressing the Hazards of Living as Undocumented Women:** As part of its Comprehensive Immigration Reform discussion series, the National Organization for Women, lawmakers, and leading activist organizations Justice for Migrant Women and Esperanza United will come together for a deep dive into how the misogynistic policies and procedures of the U.S. immigration system are harming undocumented women and their families. Join the discussion on **Tuesday January 18 at 7 PM** to learn how we can urge our leaders to take concrete actions to keep families safe. RSVP in advance [here](#).
- **Interfaith Power & Light Policy Briefing on Climate Progress in 2022:** On **Tuesday January 25 at 2 PM**, IP&L Federal Policy Associate Jonathan Lacock-Nisly and Organizing Director Bill Bradlee will provide a 2021 climate action analysis and an update on IP&L policy priorities going into 2022. Register [here](#).
- **Hope & Healing Film Series Continues:** The series continues on **Tuesday January 25 at 7 PM** with a showing of [“My Octopus Teacher”](#), a beautifully photographed story of how one person finds purpose and meaning through exploration of his natural environment. Rabbi Daria will lead a discussion after the showing. Join the meeting [here](#) using the standard Oseh password. And thanks to everyone for their contributions to a rich discussion on “The Social Dilemma”. For more information on resources and actions we can take, visit the Center for Humane Technology [website](#).
- **Stories from the Border:** As U.S. asylum policy continues to evolve rapidly, so too does the situation for the thousands of individuals and families seeking safety along the U.S.-Mexico border. The ongoing challenges these policies cause continue to create barriers for people trying to access their basic right to seek protection from persecution and violence. In this program on **Thursday January 27 at 4 PM**, [HIAS](#) will discuss the state of play at the border right now; learn what HIAS Border Fellows are seeing and hearing firsthand; gain an understanding of the asylum policies currently in place; and explore how we can take action for justice. Advance registration is required. Please click [here](#) to RSVP.



Food for Thought: Get informed on Trending Social Justice Topics

- **Campaign against disinformation:** Are you trying to counteract the impact of disinformation at work, school or in your community? Check out training and resources available through the DDAD — Defending Democracy Against Disinformation — [website](#).

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- **Sounds Like Hate podcast from Southern Poverty Law Center:** One year after the assault on our Capitol, the SPLC has dedicated the first episode of this season of the [Sounds Like Hate](#) podcast to investigating the warning signs that culminated with an attempt to destroy our democracy. Listen [here](#). You can also read a companion issue brief from SPLC entitled [Democracy Under Siege](#) to better understand how the insurrection on 1/6/21 is still playing out in communities across the country.
- **Strategies for counteracting political divisiveness:** There is ample evidence that political polarization continues unabated. Learn more about how [Braver Angels](#) and its allies are tackling this issue by watching this [January 10 episode](#) of PBS Newshour.
- **In case you missed it:** The [Maryland Commission on Climate Change](#) sponsored a webinar on January 6 to share its recommendations for Climate Change Action. You can view the recording [here](#).
- **Maryland state parks are a treasure!** During the pandemic, visitation to our state parks increased substantially. Coupled with years of under-investment and deferred maintenance, our parks are now in disrepair. [Read an opinion piece](#) from members of the newly created [State Parks Investment Council](#) with their recommendations for preserving our natural spaces for generations to come. Read the 2021 SPIC report [here](#).



Calls to Action: Please Support the Work of our Social Justice Partners

- **Help With the Resettlement of a New Afghan Family (Oseh Shalom and Lutheran Social Services):** Oseh Shalom is once again partnering with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) to assist with the resettlement of a newly arriving refugee family. Please click on this [Sign-Up Genius link](#) to see the updated list of items that are still needed. (Please note that the date on the sign-up is not a confirmed date.) Thank you for helping our congregation live up to the Jewish value of "welcoming the stranger."
- **February Winter Shelter Donation Drive (Oseh Shalom):** As you may already know, this winter, due to COVID, we are participating in the Laurel Winter Shelter differently than in past years. Instead of housing men and women at the synagogue, we are collecting food and supplies, which will then be distributed to shelter participants at a local hotel. Watch your Oseh e-news: **A Signup Genius will be coming soon to sign up to donate. Drop off your donation at Oseh Shalom on the morning of your assigned day (Feb. 6 or Feb. 13).** Questions? Contact Eileen Hollander (ceholl5@comcast.net), Judy Swanner (swannerjudy@gmail.com), or Rebecca Goldfinger (rlkemp@gmail.com). Many thanks!

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- **Protect Federal Land from Development (Prince George’s County Environmental Forum):** The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland no longer needs a 105-acre tract of forested land known as NASA Area 400, located at the corner of Springfield and Good Luck Roads. The Public Buildings Reform Board has recommended to the Office of Management and Budget that this parcel be put up for public sale. Under Federal law, OMB must act by January 26, 2022. If sold on the open market, the area most likely will be developed. Please contact your Congressional Representative and Senators [Ben Cardin](#) and [Chris Van Hollen](#) and ask them to support a no-cost transfer of this land to the adjacent Patuxent Research Refuge, which is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As part of the Refuge, this forested tract could support regional air quality, clean water, wildlife habitat, and human recreation, in alignment with President Biden’s “America the Beautiful” initiative.
- **Make Your Voice Heard on Voting Rights Legislation (Bend the Arc Jewish Action):** The U.S. Senate is poised to debate two critical pieces of voting rights legislation. Amidst the most coordinated effort to disenfranchise voters since Jim Crow, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s family is calling for Americans to rise up and demand Congress deliver for voting rights. Join with Jews and allies all across the country in answering their call to honor Dr. King’s legacy and protect the promise of democracy. [Add your name to our national Jewish petition.](#)
- **Allow the Purchase of Diapers under Federal Programs (Poor People’s Campaign):** Join the PPC [Letter Campaign](#) writing your Congressional Representatives asking them to support allowing diapers to be purchased with WIC, SNAP, or TANF benefits¹. Many childcare facilities will not allow parents to drop their children off for care if they cannot provide an adequate supply of diapers. This places additional burdens on working families who are already struggling to pay the high cost of childcare.
- **Strengthen Police Accountability (Silver Spring Justice Coalition):** If you are a Montgomery County resident, please fill out this [action alert](#) to tell our local elected officials that we need a stronger Police Disciplinary Boards bill! This is an important opportunity for anyone who is not testifying to support the call for a dramatically amended bill in order to try to achieve meaningful civilian participation in police discipline.
- **Criminal justice reform that will help kids (JUFJ and SSJC):** Take action now on two bills that will come before the Maryland General Assembly this session: here's an [action alert](#) in support of a bill to require the presence of an attorney before the police can interrogate a juvenile, and here's an [action alert](#) in support of allowing the Safe Schools Fund to be used to pay for mental health supports, wrap-around services, and restorative justice instead of just law enforcement and security measures.

¹ WIC: Women, Infants & Children Nutrition Program, SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, TANF: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families