



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

- **What's At Stake – Local Primary Elections in Our Local Counties and the State:** When we participate in local elections, we take responsibility for ensuring that our leaders represent our values and we strengthen our connection to the larger community. Join Jews United for Justice and Oseh Shalom on **Tuesday March 29 at 7:30 PM** for a virtual non-partisan conversation on what's at stake in the upcoming local primary elections. We'll walk through which elected offices are on the ballot, who is running, why these offices matter, when the elections are happening, where your new districts are (for now), and how you can be part of making concrete improvements in the lives of everyone in Montgomery County and surrounding counties. Register [here](#).
- **Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake Strategic Plan Kickoff:** Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake just launched its next strategic plan and decided to have a little fun and games before getting to the hard work ahead. Join IPC and its sponsors at a Trivia Night event on **Wednesday March 30 at 7 PM** for a chance to win \$50 in IPC swag! There is a modest cost (\$15) to participate; please identify yourself as a member of Oseh's Green Team when you [register](#).
- **Using Native Plants to Care for Earth at Home - Creating Joy and Beauty with Wildlife Habitat & Rain Gardens:** Join the Oseh Sacred Grounds team virtually on **Thursday March 31 at 7:30 PM** to learn from experts about how you can create wildlife habitats and protect our local streams by planting native plants. You'll also learn how you can create and design a rain garden that is eligible for municipal funding worth hundreds or even thousands of dollars - from the Prince George's Department of Environment. [Register for the event here](#).
- **Winter Shelter 2022 Donation Drive:** Laurel Winter Shelter is continuing to operate out of a local hotel due to COVID. Oseh is again collecting bag lunches and other food and supplies to support the homeless adults in our area who are staying with the Winter Shelter program. Please let us know how you can help by **March 31** via the [Signup Genius](#). Drop off of donations will take place at Oseh on **Saturday April 2** and **Sunday April 3** from **9:30 AM to 10:30 AM**. Questions? Please contact [Judy Swanner](#) or [Rebecca Goldfinger](#).
- **Good Deeds Day 2022:** After you have dropped off your Winter Shelter donations on **April 3**, please stay around to join in this international event to engage in other mitzvot in our community. We will have 2 to 3 rotations between **10 AM and Noon** so Oseh members will have a chance to participate in several activities. Some of the activities will include: collecting and sorting items for Elizabeth House and LARS; planting seeds of native plants and learning about the Sacred Grounds project; preparing food for families

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residing at the [Grassroots](#) shelter program (Please contact [Kelly Benton-Klein](#) for more detail on the Grassroots activity). Please look for the Sign-Up Genius this week.

- **Ceremony to Observe Yahrzeit for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:** Join the [Poor People's Campaign](#) at Freedom Plaza (13th and Pennsylvania Avenue NW) in Washington, DC on **Monday April 4 at 11:15 AM**. PPC and other racial justice advocates will observe yahrzeit for Dr. King, and then march toward the West Front of the Capitol for a rally. Freedom Plaza will be the kick-off point for the Moral March on Washington and to the Polls, which will take place on June 18.
- **Rally to Pass Social Justice Legislation:** Join [the Maryland Poor People's Campaign](#), [Jews United for Justice](#), [CASA](#), and others as we rally at Lawyer's Mall in Annapolis on **Tuesday April 5 beginning at 9 AM** to urge the Maryland General Assembly to pass critical social justice legislation. The rally is during the last week of the Maryland General Assembly 2022 session, so this is our last chance to get bills passed this year! Bring supplies to make a poster if you'd like, an umbrella in case of rain, and a mask! You can also check out the latest MD PPC Policy Report [here](#).
- **April Braver Angels Book Club:** The next [Braver Angels](#) Book Club will meet on **Wednesday April 6 at 8 PM** to discuss "The Forgotten Americans", by economist Isabel Sawhill. Following BA's We the People's forum that evening on the topic of the class divide, participants will participate in a moderated discussion about Sawhill's ideas for improving access to economic opportunity among all working-class Americans. [Register for the discussion here](#).
- **Guided Nature Hike Through the Howard County Conservancy:** [The Men's Club](#) and [Sacred Grounds team](#) invite you to a guided hike on Sunday April 10 from 10 AM to 1 PM. The hike will be led by local author and naturalist Ned Tilman, who will take our group through the [Howard County Conservancy](#), visiting a half a dozen ecosystems. The hike will be followed by a BYOB lunch presentation and discussion on [things we can do to have a positive impact on climate change](#). The cost is \$7 per person or \$25 per family. This program is great for ages 6 and up and will go on rain or shine since the lunch area is covered. Please sign up using this [ShulCloud form](#).



Food for Thought: Get informed on Trending Social Justice Topics

- **In case you missed it:** The [Taking Nature Black/U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Faith-Based Roundtable](#) was held on February 11. You can view a recording and download the resource guide [here](#).
- **Explore the role of the fossil fuel industry in our current crisis:** When we joined together to celebrate Purim, we used groggers and other noise makers to drown out the

villain's name. But, as we contend with a growing refugee emergency, rising militarization in Europe, and threats of more drilling and mining here and abroad, it's important that our friends and family understand the root causes of these current crises. The real villain is the fossil fuel industry that is helping to finance Russia's attack on Ukraine and maintain its power over economies across the globe. Please read [this op-ed](#) from [The Forward](#) to understand the role of the fossil fuel industry in the war, global conflict, and the climate crisis.

- **Banking on our Future Toolkit:** Banks continue to finance, loan to, and invest in the fossil fuel industry, which is allowing it not just to continue, but to grow. Third Act has created a [toolkit](#) to help you, your friends, and family take the pledge to “break up” with the largest banks that won't change their investment portfolios. You can also read Rabbi Mordechai Liebling's [blog](#) about this growing cross-generational movement.



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

- **Tell Congress We Need Clean Energy, Good Jobs, and Justice (Dayenu):** One of the best ways to counteract the fossil fuel industry's role in financing the war in Ukraine, and in the climate crisis generally, is to make massive public investments that put us on the path to 100% clean energy. Please take a moment to [call your Senators](#) and ask them to swiftly pass a reconciliation bill that prioritizes a transition off fossil fuels.
- **Staying Grounded and Taking a Stand (Americans of Conscience):** AOC founder Jennifer Hoffman shares [her perspective](#) on how to get from here to there on any journey. And, you can look at the latest [Americans for Conscience checklist](#) for some suggested actions you can take to support democracy, equality, voting, and decency. We are a big tent for all people who want a kinder, flourishing nation.



Coming Soon! Look for more details in the next issue of the SJ Digest

- **Canal Community Days:** Canal Community Days is the [C&O Canal Trust's](#) annual public volunteer program. Each year, the Trust recruits and manages hundreds of volunteers to undertake a range of preservation, beautification, maintenance, and conservation projects along the 184.5-mile length of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, working closely with the National Park Service to identify priorities that can be completed by volunteers of all ages. Student Service-Learning hours are available. There are several Canal Community Days volunteer events coming up: **April 23 at Great Falls, May 7 throughout Frederick County, and May 14 in Williamsport.**