



DHJC Social Action Committee

socialaction@dhjc.org

A mitzvah is a commandment from God to do a good deed to contribute to “Tikkum Olam” the repair of the world. Our heritage teaches that the world can be repaired by one person at a time, requiring each of us to take responsibility to help, to heal and to enhance the community in which we live. The DHJC Social Action Committee is a small, very active group trying to make a difference with our programs and the support we provide to those in our community. Our focus is on doing - leading activities to better our congregation and the communities around us. We are always looking for new members with new ideas. Maybe today’s the day you say “now it’s time -- sign me up to join the DHJC Social Action Committee.”

We usually meet the first Sunday of every month at 10:00 AM in the temple lobby. For more information about any of our programs contact us at socialaction@dhjc.org.

Current Committee Members – April 2011

Debbie Biederman (Co-Chair)

Cooki Cohn

Robin Davidson

Alice Fossner

Ellen Gordon

Jackie Hasson

Gail Holsborg

Karyn Likerman (Co-Chair)

Dinah Raful

Charlotte Rosenzweig

Kathy Siegelheim

Doreen Skolnick

Michael Kessler - Temple Board Liaison

NEW -- Tzedakah Collection

We now have a Tzedakah Collection box in the lobby located above the goods collection bins. The money collected will be used by the Social Action Committee to support local families in need. Please consider giving on your way in to shul.

Ongoing Collections

We continue our ongoing collections with the items below.

- English language paperback books for Israel's school children (Pre K through 12th grade)
- New seasonal clothing for children and adults for Gerard Ryan Outreach Center
- Diapers and formula for Gerard Ryan Outreach Center
- Working and non-working cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers program
- Used eyeglasses

Collection bins are located in the Temple Lobby

For information about our committee or any of our programs please email us at socialaction@dhjc.org

Ongoing Programs

Books for Israel Project

The government of Israel has had to divert funding from its schools to provide for national defense. Therefore, Israeli public schools need English language reading material to help the children prepare for life in our global community. We partner with specific schools and collect paperback books in good condition for school reading levels pre-K to grade 12 -- early reading books, dictionaries, chapter books. Books can be dropped off in the Social Action Collection box in the foyer. Donations for shipping costs can be made payable to: Dix Hills Jewish Center – Social Action Committee.

Cell Phones for Soldiers

We have an ongoing partnership with the Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute (MSAWI) and the Cell Phones for Soldiers (CP4S) program. By collecting and recycling used cell phones, CP4S turns the funds received from the re-cellular company into prepaid calling cards for soldiers to use to call home. We donate our collected cell phones to MSAWI in memory of temple member Stuart Wolfer who died in Iraq in 2008. MSAWI is committed to supporting US troops stationed abroad through its Dandelion Projects. Visit www.msawi.org to learn more.

Hanukkah M'Yad L'Yad Collection

Dix Hills Jewish Center Social Action Committee regularly partners with M'Yad L'Yad (Helping Hands), a Long Island organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of the needy in our community. The anonymous pairing of volunteer sponsors with recipients encourages ongoing relationships and provides friendship and dignity, as well as material support. Each Hanukkah we conduct a gift drive for the children of M'Yad L'Yad families. To learn more about M'Yad L'Yad, visit www.myadlyad.org. Look for more details and collection dates in mailings and emails.

Health & Wellness Speaker Series

The Dix Hills Jewish Center Social Action Committee proudly presents the next session of the Health & Wellness Speaker Series - presentations that will provide information you need to care for yourself and those you love. Look for more details and speaker dates in mailings and emails.

Mitzvah Day

Since 2002, the DHJC Social Action Committee has sponsored Mitzvah Day. Mitzvah Day at DHJC is when everyone – individuals, couples, seniors, children and families – can make a difference by doing something for the larger community. The Committee organizes a variety of mitzvah projects from making toiletry kits for the homeless to Locks for Love hair collections to sending note cards to Israeli and U.S. soldiers. We invite you to translate your talents and resources into good deeds for the community. We hope you can join us this Fall for this year's Mitzvah Day. Look for more details in mailings and emails.

Partnership with Gerald J. Ryan Outreach, Wyandanch

The Dix Hills Social Action Committee continues to reach out to the greater community by giving available time and assistance to the Gerald J. Ryan Outreach Center located at 1434 Straight Path, Wyandanch – just south of the Wyandanch train station. The center services over 600 family units with social services and financial education. They provide emergency food, clothing and housing interventions, employment referral and job readiness services and after school tutoring programs. The Center has suffered severe cuts in funding and is desperate for your donations to help its clients. Please contribute new or very gently used clothing to the Social Action bins in the foyer of the DHJC lobby. We deliver these clothes weekly to the Wyandanch Outreach

Center. There is always a need for new or gently baby clothing as well as disposable diapers. The center cannot have enough of these items!!

If you are available any time during their hours of operation they can use your help their clothing and food services.

Clothing Center: Help arrange clothes and assist clients Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Food Center: Help stack shelves and freezer with food, unload boxes, and assist clients Monday through Friday 9:00 – 12:00 and 1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Prom Dress Collection

Each Spring we collect new and gently used prom dresses, Sweet 16, bridesmaid's dresses, and accessories (including dressy shoes, evening bags, and costume jewelry). Donations of gowns & accessories are distributed to teens with limited financial means so that they can enjoy dancing the night away at their proms & graduations ceremonies and have happy memories of their high school years. Ask your family & friends to make room in their closets & recycle for a wonderful program. Look for more details and collection dates in mailings and emails.

Shabbat Assisted Living Program

Our Shabbat services at local assisted living facilities continue to bring happiness to Jewish seniors in our community that may have not attended a Shabbat service in many years. We're not sure who enjoys the services more – the seniors or our volunteers who come to lead prayers, have challah and sing. This is a great mitzvah to do with your children. A Shabbat kit with prayers and instructions is provided.

Volunteer at Bender Library

Your Bender Library at the Dix Hills Jewish Center is a Judaica resource for the congregation. Up-to-date newspapers, magazines and books are always available. Our Resource section is well-known and respected for its wealth of materials. The Library needs volunteers to extend borrowing hours, prepare books for shelving, put new and borrowed books on shelves, and do many other necessary activities to keep the library working smoothly.

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