

# THE TIKKUN OLAM REVIEW

## תיקון עולם



**WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT  
IS NOT RIGHT, NOT FAIR, NOT JUST,  
YOU HAVE TO SPEAK UP. YOU  
HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING; YOU  
HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.**

**– JOHN LEWIS**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

- \* We are dedicated to promoting Justice and Equity in our synagogue, in our lives and in our community.**
- \* We can never fully know what another person's life experience has been, but we can open our hearts and our minds to listen and to learn.**

## TIKKUN OLAM HIGHLIGHTS 2022 -2023

🥂🥂 Happy, Healthy, Fulfilling 2023 to you all! 🥂🥂

Please enjoy reading our second annual edition of ***The Tikkun Olam Review***. As you read and learn what the Tikkun Olam Committee had been all about thus far, think about which areas of Social Action call to you. Please join us at our monthly meetings, or if you are unable to join and would like to be involved contact Vicki Prusnofsky- [victoriaprusnofsky@gmail.com](mailto:victoriaprusnofsky@gmail.com). Also, watch for the announcements of our Tikkun Olam Shabbats featuring discussions of timely issues and guest speakers.

## **TUKKUN OLAM AND REFUGEE**

## **RESETTLEMENTCOMMITTEE**

### **MEMBERS**

**Vicki Stein Prusnofsky, Chairperson**

**Rabbi Shoshana, Clergy Advisor**

**Jill Liflander, Hebrew School Director**

**Jackie Goldner**

**Denise Hahn**

**Irene Herz**

**Susan Leffler**

**Linda Levine**

**Ellen Most**

**Nancy Rikoon**

### **NEWSLETTER STAFF**

**Linda Levine, Editor in Chief**

**Vicki Stein Prusnofsky, Writer,  
Editor**

**Irene Herz, Technical Advisor**

## **RABBI'S REPORT**

- Rabbi continues to be a member of the Somers Police Advisory Committee.
- Rabbi spoke about DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) at the Somers Hanukkah lighting.
- Rabbi acquired a UJA grant for the Garden of Hope, participated in events and raised awareness among Northern Westchester leadership.
- Rabbi arranged for Keshet training for HCS.
- Rabbi continues to participate in the Yorktown/ Somers Interfaith Clergy Council.
- -Rabbi attended Westchester Jewish Council meetings including the Greening Committee.
- -Rabbi spoke at events in response to Ukraine War violence targeting the LGBTQ community.
- Rabbi works closely with our Hebrew School integrating Tikkun Olam issues, DEI themes with Torah study and prayer and 2e/Neurodiverse issues including participation in Somers' Yom Ha Shoah Ceremony and growing our active 2e Jewish community Facebook page to over 200 members.
- Rabbi worked closely with an Eagle Scout member of HCS to set up an outdoor Bima.

## Hebrew School Director's Report

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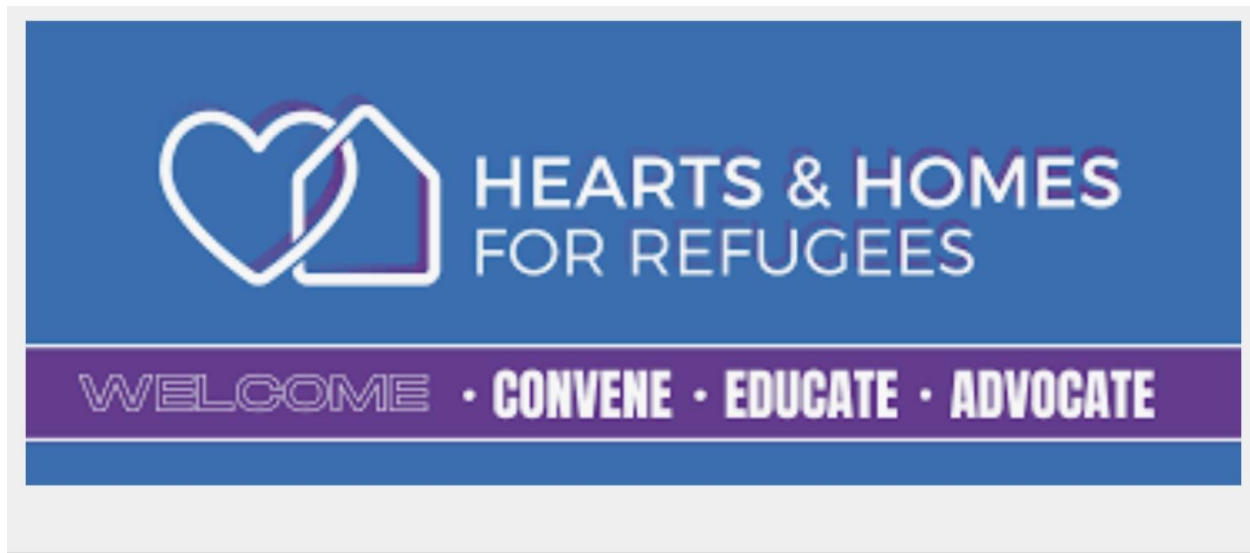
**CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST  
ALL FORMS OF INJUSTICE TO  
YOURSELVES AND OTHERS, AND  
YOU WILL SET A MIGHTY EXAMPLE  
FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

– BERNICE KING

- **Each week** students bring in money for tzedakah and non-perishable food items. In December the food was donated to The Northern Westchester Community Center and the tzedakah money was donated to HIAS.
- Sixth and seventh graders designed, created and donated colorful puzzles to the children of the RSHM Life Center in Sleepy Hollow, New York. The RSHM life center's mission is to "welcome the needy, especially women and children, and to create with them a culture that nurtures human development."
- Hebrew School students send cards to folks who are ill, who have suffered a loss, or celebrated life cycle celebrations.
- For Purim, students made another non-perishable donation to the Northern Westchester Food Pantry and a sizable donation to MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

## **Community Events**

We participate with the following organizations that are standing up against hate and bigotry and promoting inclusion.



Working with community partners and trained volunteers, Hearts and Homes has resettled and supported refugees in Westchester County since 2010

## **Community Engagement**

**HCS helped resettle a family from Afghanistan in Yorktown. Helping with everyday living needs, English instruction, and identifying employment opportunities**



# Hudson Link

for Higher Education in Prison





**Hudson Link provides college education, life skills and re-entry support to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated men and women to help them make a positive impact on their own lives, their families and communities resulting in lower rates of recidivism.**

### **Community Engagement**

- **Congregation organized a drive to raise awareness about the recently released incarcerated and donate school supplies.**

## The Frederick Douglass Project for Justice



This is an organization fighting for Justice in the court and prison systems as well as providing support to recently freed individuals and wrongly incarcerated individuals.

The project arranged prison visits (virtual during the pandemic) where insiders and outsiders share their humanity.

The program provides hope and encouragement to human beings who are often invisible in our society and helps them to feel visible, heard and valuable leading to a greater success rate upon release

### Community Engagement

- CHS members participated in several ZOOM conversations with inmates at a Colorado prison.



Osborne offers a wide range of direct services to justice system-involved people and their children and families. Our programs and services are evidence- and experience-based and designed to reduce crime and reliance on incarceration, heal the damage and trauma of crime and incarceration, and enhance opportunity for those affected by crime and incarceration.

#### Community Engagement

- HCS volunteers were trained to help newly released inmates prepare resumés and practice interview techniques.

## The Uyghur Genocide-



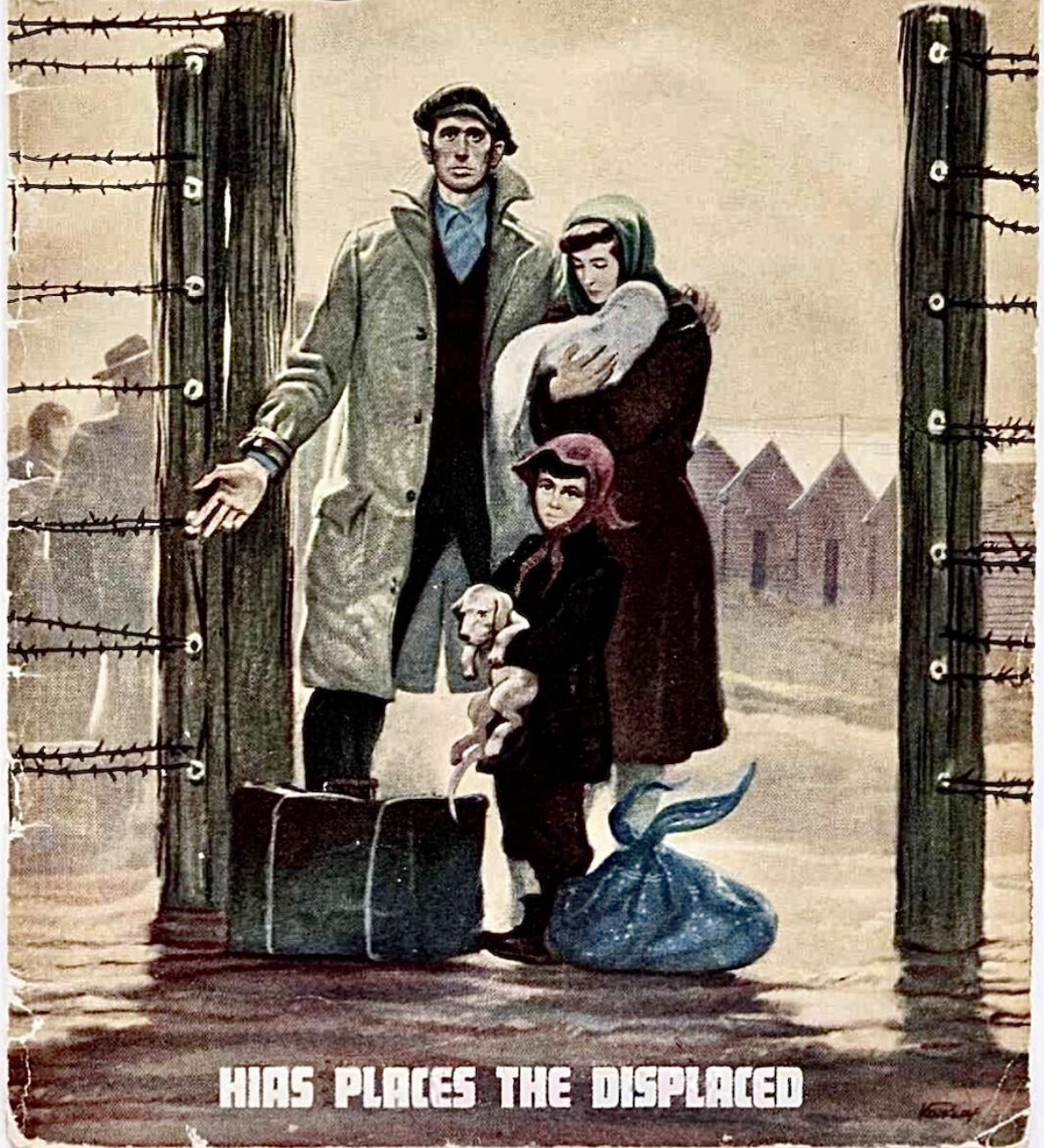
## Community Engagement

- We wrote letters to automotive car parts companies to encourage them not to buy products produced by Uyghur forced labor.



# HIAS

ANNUAL REPORT  
1946



**HIAS PLACES THE DISPLACED**

## **Hebrew Immigration Assistance Service**

**A nonprofit organization that provides humanitarian aid and assistance to refugees. It was originally established in 1881 to aid Jewish refugees. Since its inception, HIAS has helped resettle more than 4.5 million people from Africa, Latin America, Europe and the Middle East**

### **Community Engagement**

- **HCS, in conjunction with the Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration, held a Refugee Shabbat. Iryna, a Ukrainian asylum seeker, mother of two young children visited and spoke about her journey from Ukraine to Poland and then to the United States with help from HIAS and WJCI.**



Originating in Galveston Texas in 1865, this Federal Holiday commemorates the emancipation from slavery in the United States.

#### Community Engagement

- Daks Armstrong, a Yorktown Heights African American Guidance Counselor, presented an enlightening and interesting discussion on Juneteenth and African American history in the northeast United States.





The Yorktown Garden of Hope is a community-driven organic garden providing fresh vegetables to regional Northern Westchester County, NY food banks, as well as organic gardening training.

### Community Engagement

- HCS and their families participate in a multi faith event of opening the garden and preparing the soil for planting. HCS volunteers are actively involved.





I swore never to be silent  
whenever and wherever human  
beings endure suffering and  
humiliation. We must always take  
sides. Neutrality helps the  
oppressor, never the victim.  
Silence encourages the  
tormentor, never the tormented.

Elie Wiesel

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 22,2023 Shabbat: Our own Rabbi Emeritus Fred Schwalb will offer a presentation on Israel.**

### **PROGRAMS UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

- **We are working on participating in a Midnight Run providing food for the homeless.**
- **We are looking into a presentation for Juneteenth 2023.**
- **Our proposal has been approved for a new English language speakers' conversation/ social group for Afghan women under the auspices of Hearts and Homes for Refugees.**

**Thank you to all those who participated in all the above efforts and programs.**

**Please join us with your creative ideas. Watch for meeting times in Happenings or contact Vicki Prusnofsky**

**at 914-645-2159, or at**

**[victoriaprusnofsky@gmail.com](mailto:victoriaprusnofsky@gmail.com)**

✦  
“Do not be daunted by the  
enormity of the world’s grief.

*Walk humbly now.*

*Do justly now.*

*Love mercy now.*

You are not expected to  
complete the work, but neither  
are you free to abandon it.”

✦ -Rabbi Rami Shapiro