

Chesed and Social Action Committee Report February 2024

Ken Malley, VP for Social Justice, Chesed & Cultural Affairs

Israel 75 Steering committee will be meeting on 2/26/2024 to discuss events and activities around Israel to discuss:

- Yom Ha'Atzmaut on Tuesday May 14th Israel theme/style for Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner prepared by Brotherhood.
- Ways to support Israel in community and We STAND WITH ISRAEL to raise fund to support.
- Jan. 1 -Feb 29 Leket Israel The National Food Bank.
- Opportunity to Partner with Beth Israel to assemble Comfort Kits to send to Israeli Children.
- Comfort Kits are designed to help children in disasters and traumatic situations. The kits are easy to assemble and include small items and toys, plus guidance on six skills to practice to “feel better.”
- Comfort Kits help children feel better and cope with problems, ranging from dealing with pain or illness to coping with trauma, loss, and displacement. Using the items and practicing with the guidance in the kits is a healing intervention, appropriate for initial disaster-care of children.
- Comfort Kits are as simple as a few items in a backpack or tote bag. Here is a list of typical items in a comfort kit (the smaller items are placed in a colorful organza gift sack in the tote):
 - Animal finger puppet(s)
 - Bottle of bubbles
 - Mini squeeze “stress” ball
 - Pre-sharpened pencil or colored pencils with sharpener
 - Small notebook
 - Biodots and explanation
 - Stickers
 - Blank, empty box to assemble and decorate.
 - Crayons
- Comfort Kits are designed to help children feel calmer and regulate their feelings in situations that are stressful and traumatic. The kits can simply be given to children to play with on their own, but they are most effective when adult caregivers use them with children. We provide ideas for activities that adults and children can do together with Comfort Kits:
- Planning for Purim packages to be sent out to college students the week prior to Purim (Week of March 17th)

In Touch List and Communication

- Minyan –group is looking to support and participate in Friday Oneg Shabbat.
- We are looking to restart Oneg Shabbat when there is no Friday night dinner.
- Target to start in March in conjunction with the return to Minyan in the Chapel.
- Emanuel Cares continues to send requests for kindness outreaches to members who are not well or may need assistance.

Refugee Shabbat-

Yashir Koach to Rabbi Small and Dr. Hilda Slivka for their work in Commemorating the 6th Annual Refugee Shabbat a project of HIAS and for Rabbi Small's beautiful Prayer written for HIAS Shabbat 5784.

May we see the day when each person and every family may live in security and free of want.

'Each under their fig tree' Micah