

**SAJ SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
THE MITZVAH SHEET**

"IN THESE TURBULENT TIMES, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT WE BE INVOLVED IN TIKKUN OLAM. HERE ARE LOCAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS WHICH DO GOOD WORK IN BRINGING BOTH PRACTICAL HELP AND HOPE INTO THE WORLD."—Anne Meyer, z"l, Former Chair, SAJ Social Concerns Committee. Please contact Judy Bass at jbb@jbbasslaw.com or Myra Zuckerbraun myramiller@yahoo.com to join the Social Concerns Committee.

1. **SYNAGOGUE SHELTERS FOR THE HOMELESS:** Think of giving up one night and staying up in one of our three synagogue shelters for the homeless. For their addresses, please see the end of this listing.
2. **FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY.** Provides meals to 300,000 New Yorkers daily. The Food Bank is the recipient of the SAJ's Yom Kippur canned food drive. You can volunteer at the Food Bank's warehouse or Community Kitchen of West Harlem or through other programs citywide. Older children are welcome. Donations are also appreciated. Contact Peter Jones (who spoke at the SAJ Social Concerns Shabbat in 2009) at 212-566-7855 or pjones@foodbanknyc.org. www.foodbanknyc.org.
3. **JCC LITERACY PROGRAM:** The JCC will pair you with a child in one of our West Side public schools. Give the gift of literacy to one of these children. Call the Volunteer Coordinator, Judy Gross, at the JCC, 334 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10023 at 646-505-4450, jgross@jccmanhattan.org.
4. **MAZON** is the Jewish response to hunger. We are asked to give 3% of the cost of your *simchas* (weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, etc.). Send your check to MAZON, East Coast Office, 10495 Santa Monica Blvd. #100, Los Angeles, CA 90025, 310-442-0020, www.mazon.org
5. The **JEWISH FUNDS FOR JUSTICE**, where our own Donna Katzin Altschuler is on the board, fights for justice wherever poverty and injustice exist in America. They are pledged to the prophetic vision of supporting all efforts of people who stand up to better their condition. "The most meritorious degree of charity is to anticipate charity by preventing it." – Maimonides. The JEWISH FUNDS FOR JUSTICE can be contacted at (212) 213-2113; 260 5th Ave., Suite 701, New York, NY 10001, www.jewishjustice.org.
6. **JFJ TZEDEC FUND** In 2006-2007, the SAJ Social Concerns Committee, following up on a series of programs on microcredit, raised over \$13,000 for a loan to the JFJ Tzedec Fund. The funds are loaned to credit unions and other institutions in the New Orleans Katrina region. The SAJ is the first synagogue to participate in this JFJ fund.
7. **PROJECT EZRA** is a grassroots, hands-on organization that touches the lives of many Jewish elders in need on the Lower East Side, including crisis intervention and advocacy, transportation, group activities, visiting homemakers, and direct relief. Please call 212-982-4124 or write to Project Ezra, 465 Grand Street, New York, NY 10002, www.projectezra.org.
8. **ONE STOP SENIOR SERVICES** needs volunteers to work in their office; contributions are also welcome. ONE STOP helps older adults with legal, housing, Medicare, and other problems. Interested congregants contact Kay Dundorf at (212) 864-7900, ext. 11. ONE STOP is located at 747 Amsterdam Avenue, 3rd Floor (near 96th Street), New York, NY 10025, www.onestopseniorservices.org.
9. **DOROT:** With your support, DOROT serves the homebound, fragile, elderly and lonely population on the Upper West Side. There are holiday food deliveries, mostly by young volunteers, who often form adopted-grandparent relationships. Through conference calls, DOROT developed the University Without Walls. These conference calls also take place before holidays and on Friday morning for Shabbat.. Different congregational rabbis participate in these calls. For Rosh Hashanah, the shofar is blown over these wires. DOROT is at 171 West 85th Street, New York, NY 10024; telephone (212) 769-2850, www.dorotusa.org.
9. **CITY HARVEST.** City Harvest is a food rescue organization serving New York City for over 25 years. They collect excess food from the food industry, restaurants, grocers, farms, etc. and deliver it free of charge to community food programs throughout the city. They even have a kosher food delivery program.

They will also pick up excess food or leftovers from individuals. There are opportunities to donate food or volunteer your time. Call 917-351-8700. www.cityharvest.org. If you know someone who needs food, refer them to the NYC Hunger Hotline, 866-888-8777.

10. **THE AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE** is headed by our own Ruth Messinger. Their work goes on in underdeveloped countries by giving grants to community organizations that support small enterprises that are often run by women. This benefits the whole community. The AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE is truly our goodwill ambassador. For information, call (212) 792-2900 or write 45 West 36th Street, New York, NY 10018 www.ajws.org.
11. The **NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIAN JEWS (NACOEJ)**, founded by Barbara Ribakove-Gordon, is the life-line to the Ethiopian Jews both in Ethiopia and Israel. Barbara and her staff have traveled many times to both countries, bringing food and clothing. For information, contact NACOEJ at 132 Nassau Street, Suite 412, New York, NY 10038; (212) 233-5200, www.nacoej.org.
12. The **NEW ISRAEL FUND** works for peace, pluralism and tolerance, democracy and social justice in Israel, respect for all religions and, of course, Torah. Working to improve the status of women, it has opened the first shelter for battered women. Contact them at (212) 613-4400, 330 Seventh Avenue, 11th floor, New York, NY 10001, www.nif.org.
13. **THE ABRAHAM FUND** works for co-existence between Israeli and Arab citizens in Israel. The slogan is "Co-Existence Is the Only Alternative." They fund many educational programs that often start with pre-school and continue through higher education. Young people play and study together, at times involving their parents, and learn to appreciate each other's culture. Hopefully, new leadership will evolve. The Abraham Fund is at 9 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10022; (212) 303-9421, www.abrahamfund.org.

HOMELESSNESS IN NEW YORK

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE TWO FAMOUS SAFETY-NETS FOR THE HOMELESS IN NEW YORK:

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE HOMELESS (an interfaith organization serving the homeless) and the **COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS**. Contact the Partnership at 305 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001-6008; (212) 645-3444 or the Coalition at 89 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10277-1289; (212) 964-5900, www.partnershipforthehomeless.org

THREE SYNAGOGUE HOMELESS SHELTERS

Synagogues and churches have taken in homeless persons for more than ten years (Mayor Koch asked us in 1983). We in the SAJ have helped by volunteering in three synagogues on the Upper West Side. We would like you to volunteer at least one night during the winter at one of these synagogue shelters: Eight to ten guests arrive around 7:50 PM and are picked up by 6:45 AM. All guests have been screened. Men and women stay in separate rooms. The synagogues supply snacks for their guests.

1. **B'nai Jeshurun**: B'nai Jeshurun has shelters at two locations, and a Soup Kitchen.
Coordinator: Channa Camins - (212) 787-7600 X229 (voice mail)
Each shelter has two shifts: 7:00 - 9:00 PM to set up and 9:00 PM - 6:45 AM to stay over night.
Church of St. Paul and St. Andrews at 86th Street at West End Avenue, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Synagogue on West 88th Street between Broadway and West End Avenue, Mondays and Tuesdays.
B'nai Jeshurun also has a **Soup Kitchen**. Volunteers are needed for Thursday mornings.
2. **Ansche Chesed** at 100th Street & West End Avenue
Coordinator: Charlie Davidson - (212) 222-2840 (home)
The shelter is open every night. There are two shifts -- 7:00 - 9:00 PM to set up and 9:00 PM - 6:30 AM
3. **Rodeph Sholom**, 7 West 83rd Street
Coordinator: Jay Kranis, (212) 362-9341 (home); (212) 984-7862 (work)
This shelter is open Monday - Friday. There is one shift -- 7:45 PM - 6:30 AM.