

# Minutes

## Social Action Committee -TJC -EDITED MINUTES

DATE

February 21, 2024 EDITED VERSION 2/23/24

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TIME

7:30 PM via zoom – 9:15 PM

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THIRD MEETING OF THE SOCIAL ACTION  
COMMITTEE 2023-2024

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### REPORTS

Members of the Committee met via Zoom to discuss the continued work of the Social Action Committee with ongoing projects, and to hear of requests for new initiatives. Members discussed how to have engage wider TLC participation and to figure out how to better inform the congregation about the work. Members of TJC are deeply involved in all aspects of social action and community service in Princeton and surrounding communities. Discussion was had as to how the Committee can continue its mission by looking at ways to:

1. Look at the TJC calendar and “organize” drives and initiatives clearly.
2. Better inform the congregation about opportunities to volunteer through creative use of media available.
3. Present a clear statement of the congregants’ work and the TJC’s commitments to Social Action writ large.

**[At the TJC Board Meeting of 2/22/24 I mentioned the activities discussed and brought up items 1,2 and 3 as well as the Social Action Imperatives Handbook, ArmInArm and the JFCS request.]**

On the Zoom:

Lynn, Judy L., Sara, Louise, Debbi, Pamela, Dee, Bob, Linda, Michelle,

### Blood Drive

The Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8 am to 12:30 PM. The drive will be on the bus. Sign-ups wanted but day of donors also welcome. Donors can be ages 16-76. Those over 76 are welcome with a doctor’s note. DONATION TIME IS ABOUT 1 HOUR.

FAQ’s: Folks using blood pressure and diabetes medicines can donate.  
Folks on Blood thinners **can not**.

Contact: Lynn Ross

Discussion about whether TJC can/should/may have a list of donor blood type on file in case of emergency need. How could it be stored or accessed was talked about.

### **Not in Our Town Princeton**

Having continuous conversations about race, diversity, equity and inclusion. As a rule, except for November 2023, meetings are held the first Monday of each month in the Princeton Public Library.

The current issue being studied and worked on is called, **Truth and Transformation**, where with the Princeton Human Rights Commission, along with Faith based organizations and the Princeton Public Library are looking at the issue of reparations for African Americans to address longitudinal effects of racial discrimination. Mention was made of New Jersey's passage of a bill calling for a taskforce to study reparations.

There is an effort to show the movie, "Cost of Inheritance" later this spring or next Fall. There will also be three sessions in the truth and Transformation programing; one on slavery, one on the local faith institutions and one addressing Morven's history.

Linda mentioned a Princeton Police incident with a Redding Circle resident's granddaughter, who upon trying to visit her grandmother was stopped and handcuffed and ticketed. That individual is in need of legal representation. NIOT will be seeking a meeting with the police.

Linda O. will provide information to Michelle A. with information to write and article for US1.

An item not discussed this month but may be coming up is:

**Racial and Social Justice Work Awards** each year.

The event that usually takes place in June.

Wilma sent the following after the meeting: Our NIOT Unity Awards will be **Thursday June 6 at 6:30 PM with doors opening at 5:30 for a light supper**. We will be at the Unitarian Congregation of Princeton on Cherry Hill Rd. Info on applications will come in early March.

We will look to post this event once the date is set and we get further information..  
Contacts: Linda Oppenheim, Wilma Solomon, Miki Mendelson, Robert Karp

## **Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Committee**

The work of the Refugee Resettlement Committee is ongoing and there continues to be need for volunteers with varied skills. Here is a partial list of the volunteer work that is always in need of volunteers:

Teachers-ESL with experience a plus.

Tutors to help with studying and learning about the USA.

Drivers as those arriving have many scheduled appointments for varied reasons and need help getting around.

Donations-ongoing for clothing, household items, housing etc.

There is a signup genius for items needed.

Donations of money.

Attorneys/legal help with applications and review of documents.

Many families are being resettled in the area. There is a young family with a few month-old newborn, and a number of Haitian families (numbering about 100 people). Housing continues to be an issue for the newly arrived.

There are some folks being sent from New York here to New Jersey.

Contact: Louise Sandburg

## **Gun Violence Prevention Project**

### **GUN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY**

#### **A panel discussion**

**Sunday, February 25th, 4:00 p.m. ET on Zoom**

**[RSVP HERE](#)**



**A flyer was sent around but the hyperlink is above. **THIS SUNDAY.****

Contact: Sally Steinberg-Brent

**TJC Garden –**

There are a few students who have been helping but **Volunteers are needed on an ongoing basis.**

Contacts: Wilma Solomon

## **FOOD MATTERS**

### **ArmInArm**

There is a request from ArmInArm for volunteers. Here are the opportunities:

#### **Volunteer at our Trenton Pantry**

*\*Located at 48 Hudson Street, Trenton NJ Monday- Wednesday from 9AM to 12PM*

*\*It is street parking-volunteers are advised to park on Tyler Street.*

Pantry Volunteers may be responsible for:

- **Intake Support:** Recording (pen and paper) basic information ( name, address, # of people in household) from community members prior to them receiving their groceries
- **Bagging:** Traditional bagging/ replenishing of non-perishable groceries, fresh produce and frozen meats

~Pantry Volunteers should dress comfortably & appropriate for weather conditions as we have our garage door open when serving clients. Sneakers and closed toed shoes are preferred for safety.

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#### **Volunteer at our Mobile Pantry**

*\*Located at 127 Academy Street, Trenton on TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS from 9AM to 12PM*

*\*Located at 601 Hamilton Ave, Trenton (front entrance lot) on 1st & 3rd WEDNESDAYS from 9 AM to 12PM*

*\*Located at 434 Bellevue Ave, Trenton (parking lot) on 2nd & 4th WEDNESDAYS from 9 AM to 12PM*

*->Each location is in a parking lot and volunteers can park there.*

Pantry Volunteers may be responsible for :

- **Intake Support:** Recording (pen and paper) basic information ( name, address, # of people in household & signatures) from community members prior to them receiving their groceries
- **Bagging:** Bagging produce and frozen meats

~Pantry volunteers are outdoors for our mobiles so please dress comfortably and appropriate for weather conditions. Sneakers and closed toed shoes are preferred for safety. Please check your resources on the weather prior to coming to a food distribution outdoor event. We will keep you updated if there are any cancellations.

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#### **Volunteer at Mill One**

*\*Located at 1 N. Johnston Ave, Hamilton NJ (enter at A1 Entry) on Mondays from 1:30PM to 3:30PM, Thursdays 9 AM to 12 PM & the 1st & 3rd Saturday's of the month from 10 AM to 12 PM.*

*\*There is a parking lot for volunteers to park.*

Volunteers may be responsible for:

- **Bagging:** Packing non-perishable bags of groceries and restocking shelves.

~Pantry volunteers are indoors and should dress comfortably. Sneakers and closed toed shoes are preferred for safety.

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#### **Volunteer at our Princeton Pantry**

*\*Located at 61 Nassau Street, Princeton NJ*

*\*Volunteers can park on the street*

Volunteers may be responsible for:

- **Bagging:** Packing non-perishable bags of groceries and restocking shelves.
- **Home Food Deliveries**

**In discussion**, there is a suggestion to ask ArmInArm if they would open on a Sunday for volunteers from TJC. There are multiple opportunities to volunteer.

### **Princeton Cornerstone Community Kitchen**

**Princeton United Methodist Church (repeat from last meeting as work continues)**

TJC members are slotted to work on dinner the 1st Wed of every month

but Cornerstone has dinner every Wednesday.

Individual TJC members work every week doing:

11:50 am cutting fresh fruits and vegetables.

1:00 -2:30 PM cut bread and prepare dessert.

5:00 to 6:30 Dinner is served volunteers help serve.

Volunteers also can share meals.

There is a food pantry and toy and clothing available.

### **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen**

72 ½ Escher Street, Trenton

TJC members slotted to work the 4th Tuesday of every month.

Food Prep is listed as 9 AM with Volunteers for lunch service at 9:45 AM

And 3:15 for dinner service

Presently there is one group that leaves from TJC Parking lot at 9:20 AM for work on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month and are back by 1:40 PM.

Another group leaves from West Windsor to travel to Trenton.

There may be individual volunteer opportunities because.

both a lunch and a dinner are served M-Th, Lunch only on Friday and Saturday.

Individuals can contact TASK on their own.

Contact: Sara Just

### **Send Hunger Packing Princeton**

No Report. This is an ongoing program.

Contact: Ross Wisnick

### **Send Hunger Packing West Windsor-Plainsboro**

The Send Hunger Packing West Windsor-Plainsboro [www.shupwwp.org](http://www.shupwwp.org)

Provides six weekend meals to students in the West Windsor-Plainsboro schools in grades K-6 who are eligible for free and reduced lunches. The program hosts two Little Free Pantries, one at the WW Arts Council and the other at the Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church. To supplement, a few times during the year, grocery store cards are distributed.

SHUPWW-P had a robust food collection at the MLK Day of Service held at the West Windsor Senior Center.

The program, part of Mercer Street Friends, was also asked to help provide Family Food Bags to the families in the upper grades who are NOT part of the weekend food program. And continue to distribute grocery store cards at two times (or more as funds are available) during the school year.

**Volunteers and donors are needed on an ongoing basis.**

Contact: Melissa Hager

### **Jewish Family and Children's Services**

JFCS has a long-standing relationship with the TJC. JFCS has a mobile refrigerated van able to take the van into the community. JFCS also has an onsite pantry.

At this time, JFCS has asked TJC to have a food drive to provide snacks/breakfast foods for children who will be in a summer program. This drive would be in connection with the JFCS's awards day for "health and Healing" going to be held at TJC on Sunday, **April 14, 2024.** **Final approval for this will come from the administration.** Here is the list of the needed items:

**Apple sauce cups**

**Fruit cups**

**Granola Bars with/without nuts**

**Raisins-dried fruit**

**Nuts**

**Pretzels**

**Breakfast Bars**

**Single-serve healthy cereal**

If final approval is provided, JFCS can supply the flyer.

Contact: Pamela Zaifman

### **Interfaith Stitchers for Peace**

Different area congregations host a "Knitting Circle" of sorts where folks come and knit or crochet on a Sunday afternoon to share a love of a craft and discuss matters of interest.

**3/17 TJC** time 2pm to 4 pm

4/17 Nassau Presbyterian, Princeton (check as not 100% happening)

6/2 Harlingen Church, Belle Mead, 2 pm – 4 pm

Please **save any plastic bags your newspapers** come in as the stitchers use them to weave mats used for sleeping. The groups has

created for TASK: 6 sleeping mats, 32 hat and scarf sets, 34 scarves, 17 hats and other items.

Contact: Judy Leopold



## **HOUSING MATTERS**

### **Princeton Community Village**

The history of Princeton Community Village was mentioned explaining the importance of the community relationships having started many years ago continuing to have a significant impact on Princeton housing availability. That ongoing importance is demonstrated by the availability of a unit for a refugee family. There is a new refugee family coming to live on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We were reminded that there is a 1,000 person waiting list for affordable housing units in Princeton.

Contact: Sara Just

### **TJC Green Team**

No one at the meeting addressed TJC Green team and perhaps this dovetail into the Sustainability Committee. Action items and volunteer opportunities TBD.

### **Social Action Imperatives Handbook**

This Handbook with modules was developed with lesson plans to inform and engage community members, both internal to TJC and externally. Much discussion was had about how to rollout and when this would take place. From the last meeting, this Committee understood there would be an educational session either at a Shabbat or at Shavuot. A member indicated that the latter was not or may not happen that the issue of WHAT would be the subject of this year's Shavuot learning would be up to the Religious Affairs Committee NOT Social Concerns.

In discussion of how to make the Imperatives accessible, after much discussion, there was consensus that each individual or team would create a 1-3 minute “tick tock” type video about the area in which they are engaged and send that to Michelle A.

The hope would be to have material that could be put on the Lobby monitor at TJC, used in teaching and support the work of the “Imperative of Social Justice.” The timing and rollout of the educational piece is something the Committee would like to bring to the Board.

Contact: Robert Karp

### **Other Matters**

TJC CALENDER: suggestion is to sit down now to plan out the next year’s collection drives in advance to provide clarity of purpose, advanced knowledge and coordination between all the good works of this Committee and others.

TJC Website: Put minutes and other information on the TJC website under a Social Concerns Tab.

A SHOW OF TJC’s embracing of social concerns: There is a request that somehow the committee persons work be demonstrated and supported by signs, posters or another appropriate way so that anyone entering the TJC will know what TJC stands for. The example given was something like the LBGQTQ flag.





## **BLOOD DRIVE**

**@ The Jewish Center  
Sunday, March 10**

**8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/tjc0310>

**This blood drive is being organized by The Jewish Center and the Princeton First Aid & Rescue Squad**

For more information, contact Lynne Ross,  
Chair: [lplross@yahoo.com](mailto:lplross@yahoo.com)

For medical or travel related questions  
call 800-933-2566

**The Jewish Center | 435 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540**

Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.  
Please remember to eat, drink and bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo. If you have a medical related question visit [nybc.org/eligibility](http://nybc.org/eligibility) or call 800.688. 0900

New York Blood Center draws and provides blood to hospitals and patients in the greater New York metropolitan area including to Princeton Penn Medicine and RWJ hospitals and beyond.

