

Volume 2: May 5, 2021

General information and News: All three Oseh Shalom Social Justice working groups will meet together on **June 2 at 7 PM** to share their efforts to date and identify opportunities for working together going forward. Look for the agenda and other details in coming weeks.

**Racial Justice:** Members of the Oseh Shalom Racial Justice Working Group held a spirited discussion on the book, Such a Fun Age. Our next discussion will focus on the film, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom. Look for upcoming information on the meeting date and time.

- **NEW** Participate in the National John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Action Day on **Saturday May 8, 2021**. There are events all over the region. The event in Silver Spring is sponsored by **Do the Most Good** and begins at 9 AM with a voter registration drive. Sign up [here](#).
- **NEW** The **Maryland Poor People's Campaign Prince George's County Region** will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday May 10, 2021 at 6:30 PM**. RSVP [here](#). Learn more about the Maryland Poor People's Campaign [here](#).
- **NEW** On **Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 7 PM**, Ilana Kaufman, Director of the Jews of Color Initiative, will share her new research project on the lived experiences and perspectives of Jews of Color across America. Register for the webinar [here](#).
- **NEW** On **Thursday May 13 at 7:30 PM**, **MomsRising and the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)** are holding a special and timely discussion for parents on how to stop ongoing incidents of anti-Asian racism. Register [here](#).
- **NEW** **Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)** will be joined by author Tema Okun and other guests for a discussion on White Supremacy Culture Characteristics on **Thursday May 13, 2021 at 8 PM**. Register for the webinar [here](#). As a registration fee for this webinar, as you are able, SURJ is asking you make a \$10 (or more) donation to Earthseed Land Collective, a Black and Brown-led center for community resilience focused on collective healing, cultural arts, food justice, food sovereignty, and cooperative learning in Durham, NC.
- **NEW** On **Monday May 17, 2021 at 7 PM**, the **League of Women Voters of Montgomery County** is sponsoring a panel discussion on the role of the police in responding to mental health crises. The panel will feature Ms. Bernice Mireku-North, Esq., co-chair the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force; Dr. Rolando Santiago, Chief of the Behavioral Health and Crisis Services; and Ms. Cari Guthrie Cho, CEO of Cornerstone Montgomery. Register [here](#).
- **NEW** **The Movement for Black Lives**, along with the Institute for Tax and Economic Policy, National Women's Law Center, and the Action Center on Race and the Economy, held a discussion on the discriminatory effects of current tax code on BIPOC. Watch a

recording of the webinar — [In Plain Sight: The Racism Hiding in our Tax Codes here](#) (use password `jF?x81g#`).

- **NEW** Check out the [recordings and resources](#) from the [Jews, Race, and Religion lecture series](#) that was offered through Reconstructing Judaism.
- **Courageous Conversation Academy** has released its [speaker series for May and June](#). For more information and to register, click [here](#).
- **NEW JUFJ** is asking Montgomery County residents to take action against the new Community Resource Officer (CRO) program. Even if you have spoken out against School Resource Officers (SROs) before — the action alert has been updated to contact County Executive Elrich as well as the County Council to tell them to prioritize real student safety. Click [here](#) to take action.

**Immigrant Justice:** Pres. Biden has just raised the cap on the number of refugees allowed in the US for the remainder of the Federal fiscal year. Read about how faith-based organizations are now poised to reinvigorate their refugee resettlement efforts in this [Washington Post article](#).

- **NEW** Please mark your calendars for a **Refugee and Immigration Advocacy Town Hall** on **May 27, 2021 at 7 PM**. Find out what is happening with refugees, asylum seekers, and immigration policy at the national level, and how we can help. Bill Frelick, Director of Human Rights Watch's Refugee and Migrant Rights Division, will introduce his work at Human Rights Watch and will moderate our discussion. Bring your questions about refugee, asylum, and immigration issues and how we can get involved in advocacy efforts - this will be an open discussion. Zoom details coming soon.
- **HIAS Call to Action** - HIAS is leading the Jewish response to the refugee crisis, and is asking for support by responding to [this request](#) on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers. As displaced individuals struggle to navigate a challenging refugee and asylum system — compounded by the difficulties of the pandemic — displaced communities need our support. The responsibility to welcome the stranger has never been more important.

**Environmental Justice:** The Oseh Shalom EJ Working Group had a blast celebrating Earth Day 2021. Our next meeting is May 5, 2021 at 7 PM. We are working on scheduling a web lecture on community solar.

- The **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series** will feature a discussion on **Wednesday May 5, 2021** from Noon to 1 PM of the **Groundwork Trust** community organizing efforts, which seek to link evidence of structural racism to current environmental conditions. Register [here](#).

- **Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake** is holding a webinar on **Thursday May 6, 2021** to discuss Environmental Justice in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Register [here](#).
- **NEW** The **Sierra Club** monthly panel discussion will be held on **Wednesday May 12 at 5:30 PM**. This month, the discussion will be about the film Driving While Black: Race, Space, and Mobility in America. You can watch [this free documentary](#) prior to the panel then join the webinar. RSVP [here](#).
- The **White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)** will hold a public meeting on **Thursday May 13, 2021 from approximately 2:00pm – 6:00pm (ET)**. Registration is REQUIRED – click [here](#) to register. When registering, please provide your name, organization, city and state, and email address for follow up. Please also indicate whether you would like to provide public comment during the meeting, and whether you are submitting written comments at the time of registration.
- **NEW** Join the **Maryland Chapter of Sierra Club** on **Tuesday May 18 at 7 PM** to hear about the new legislation passed during the most recent Maryland General Assembly session. Sign up [here](#).
- **NEW** On **Wednesday May 19, 2021 at 2 PM**, the Environmental Protection Agency will be holding the second National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call. These calls are to inform the community and other stakeholders about EPA's EJ work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with EJ advocates. Register [here](#).
- The **Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health program** at the University of Maryland (CEEJH) will be holding workshops on **Tuesday May 18, 2021 at 5:30 PM or Saturday May 22, 2021 at 10 AM** to introduce the AARP-funded Community Block Assessment and Digital Literacy project. Please fill out the linked form [here](#) if you are interested in participating.
- The **Bren School of Environmental Science & Management** is putting on its 3rd annual Environmental Justice (EJ) Symposium on **May 20-21, 2021**. This year's symposium will be a virtual event which will allow participation from a wider variety of individuals. They are planning to host up to twelve 4-minute-long flash talks on various EJ topics.
- **NEW** **Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake** is offering the next Faithful Green Leaders Training, beginning **June 10, 2021 at 7 PM**. Training takes place over three consecutive weeks. RSVP [here](#).
- **NEW** If you have access to Apple Podcasts or iTunes, you can [listen](#) to Rabbi Rebecca Richman of Philadelphia's Germantown Jewish Centre talk about environmental justice and the legacy of environmental racism.
- **NEW** **Citizens Against Beltway Expansion** is asking you to [send a letter](#) to the members of the Maryland Board of Public Works, urging them to delay a vote on the first contract for the I-495/I-270 toll lanes until the final environmental impact statement is issued.
- **NEW** **Blue Water Baltimore** has three job openings in development and outreach/advocacy. All the details may be found [here](#).

- You can listen to the recording of the **Interfaith Power & Light (IP&L) webinar**, “Sacred Ground: a message of hope” on either [Youtube](#) or [Facebook](#). IP&L has also issued a call to action to sign a [petition](#) to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack urging him to prioritize resources for BIPOC and non-agribusiness farmers.
- The **Maryland League of Conservation Voters** is asking you to [sign the pledge](#) to be a conservation voter.
- The **Climate Citizens Lobby** has active chapters across the region who train volunteers who are serious about solving climate change to work with members of Congress across the political spectrum to find common ground on climate change solutions. Learn more about CCL [here](#).
- The **Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights** is looking for volunteer advocates all over the state to encourage their local and state legislators to pass legislation that would ensure that everyone has the right to a healthful environment. Learn more about the Campaign [here](#).
- The **Audubon Naturalist Society** is recruiting for a paid Water Quality Research & Outreach Intern. This position is particularly well suited for a graduate student in environmental science, biology, or a related field. The internship runs from April 2021 through Winter 2021. Interested individuals should send a resume and cover letter to [eliza.cava@anshome.org](mailto:eliza.cava@anshome.org).