



North Shore Congregation Israel

Tikkun Olam Catalogue: Opportunities to Better our World

**Mitzvah
goreret
mitzvah**

**One mitzvah
leads to
another**

What is Tikkun Olam?



*Before God created the World, there was only God. When God decided to create the World, God pulled back in order to create a space for the world. It was in that space that the universe was formed. But now, in that space, there was no God, God created special Divine Sparks, light, to be placed back into God's creation.

When God created light and placed the light inside of Creation, special containers were prepared to hold it. But there was an accident. A cosmic accident. The containers broke. The universe became filled with sparks of God's Divine light and shards of broken containers.

Our tradition teaches us that one of our tasks is to gather the sparks of God's light back together. In this way the work of Creation will be completed.

This is called Tikkun Olam, repairing the World.

(*a paraphrasing of the teaching of Jewish Kabbalist Yitzchak Luria by the Ziv Foundation)

Many modern commentators understand the broken shards to represent the broken pieces of our world – the inequities, the destructions, the struggles, the hardships. And so the interpretation follows that, as God created us b'tzelem Elohim, in the Divine Image, our actions should mimic those of God as well. Therefore, it becomes our responsibility to gather the shattered shards and piece them back together again, so that our world can be what God originally intended to be: whole.

NSCI CARES: EVERYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

NSCI offers a wide variety of opportunities for everyone, regardless of age, to contribute to our effort as the Jewish people to make the world a better place. This catalogue lists many of the projects that will be offered this year at the synagogue. Some of them are "one-time-only" opportunities and others ask for a more regular commitment. It is our hope that every congregant will pick at least one activity of which to be a part.

Think of what a difference we can make if we all do something!

Here's a Summary of our Projects:

- Adult Mitzvah Corps
- Books on Tape
- Chai at Beth Emet Soup Kitchen
- Feed the Homeless
- Gates of Learning Preschool Projects
- Glencoe Interfaith Builders Habitat for Humanity House
- JCFS Holiday Gift Program
- Maot Chitim Packing and Delivery
- Mitzvah Day
- Mitzvah Knitting
- Monthly Mitzvah Collections
- New Orleans Trip
- Operation Backpack
- Our Sister FSU Community: Novograd-Volinsky
- Religious School Social Action Programs
- Shabbat Grocery Deliveries
- Shabbat Rides
- WITS: Working in the Schools

NSCI Cares: Operation New Orleans **February 12-15, 2009**

Join NSCI clergy on a service-based trip to help with the restoration of New Orleans. The trip is open to individuals and families with children 12 and over. We will be hearing from a number of speakers who will update us on the status of the restoration in New Orleans, sharing in a New Orleans Shabbat experience, and volunteering at different not-for-profit agencies to support the immediate needs of those "on the ground" and well as contribute to the ongoing rebuilding process. The trip involves a significant amount of physical activity, so potential participants should keep this in mind. To see the itinerary, click on the link on www.nsci.org. The trip has limited space, so if you are interested, you can reserve a spot with a deposit of \$200 per person. Because the trip is of a volunteer nature, it is tax deductible! The cost of the trip is approximately \$850* per person, which includes airfare, hotel, and most meals.

Deadline to sign up is Oct 15. **Questions? Cantor Goldstein or Rabbi Geffen can answer them. They can be reached at 847-835-0724, cantorgoldstein@nsci.org and rabbigeffen@nsci.org.**

*Funds for this trip were provided, in part, by a grant from the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism. In addition, the trip would not be possible without the generous financial support of NSCI's Sisterhood and Brotherhood.

Habitat for Humanity



Glencoe Interfaith Builders (GIB) is a collaboration of eight congregations serving Glencoe and the surrounding communities that help build homes in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity Lake County. We encourage everyone 16 years old and older to sign up to help with the house. Volunteers can sign up anytime at the GIB website: GIB4habitat.org.

For more information, contact our congregational liaison, Dave Rothschild at 847-579-1770.

Operation Backpack

Every August, we collect, pack, and deliver essential school supplies for the Jordan Community School in Chicago where 96% of the students' families cannot afford to buy these materials. Donations can be dropped off at NSCI throughout the summer. The supplies are usually packed the third or fourth Sunday in August. Keep your eyes open come Summer 2009 for the packing date for this most important project.

For more info, contact Lois Scheyer at loisscheyer@aol.com.

Adult Mitzvah Corps

NSCI Adult Mitzvah Corps helps different Jewish charitable organizations once or twice a month. Adult men and women congregants of all ages are welcome to join us every time or once in a while.

To get your name on the volunteer list or for questions, contact Tracey Meyers: 847-242-1234

Feed the Homeless

One Sunday a month, NSCI comes together first to prepare hot and bag meals and then to deliver them to a number of shelters and food-pantries in the area. It is a fun, hands-on way to feed those who otherwise would not have a meal that day. Advance sign-up is required.

To get your name on the list or for questions, contact Mary Lee Behn at 847-835-0724 x627.

CHAI Feeds the Hungry

On Wednesdays, November 19th and January 14 (4-7 pm), Chai @ NSCI will cook and serve at the Beth Emet Soup Kitchen in Evanston. Do a family mitzvah! Parents and children come together for this wonderful opportunity to serve the community. Children must be older than 5. Volunteering involves shopping in advance and preparing tables and food, greeting, serving and cleaning up that day. Space is limited.

To sign up or for questions, contact Karen Silbar: k-search@comcast.net or at 847-433-5887.

Books on Tape

Congregants regularly have the opportunity to record a new children's book on tape for the autistic children's programs at the Jewish Council for Family Services. Recording sessions are about 20 minutes long, and will be held between 10:30-12:30 on the following Sundays: October 26, December 7, February 8, and March 1. Congregants are asked to purchase a new children's book and donate it along with the recorded tape.

For more information or to sign up, contact Jennifer McKeag at 847-331-1696 or at jennifermckeag@gmail.com.

Novograd Volinsky Phone Calls

NSCI has had a relationship with the Jews of Novograd-Volynsky in the Ukraine since 1993. One Sunday morning a month, we have a phone conversation with N-V community members (with the aid of a translator of course). In addition, we send money, clothing, religious articles, medicine, music tapes, and religious school art projects. We are always looking for more people to attend the phone calls, as well as donate any of the above items. What a unique opportunity to get to know and help our fellow Jews in the former Soviet Union!

For more information, contact Cecile Levy at 847-948-9404 or celevy@comcast.net.

Mitzvah Knitting

The Mitzvah Knitting group, now in its 3rd year, has knitted chemo caps for the Cancer Wellness Center and blankets for Project Linus. Often, young daughters of our sisterhood members eagerly join us. We will meet at the Temple one evening a month and one daytime meeting each month to knit. All levels of skill are welcome.

Please call Iris Gottlieb 847-835-2445 or e-mail her at got1222@aol.com to join in!

Shabbat Rides

NSCI members offer rides to other members who would not otherwise be able to get to Shabbat services. The rides are free. Volunteer drivers are needed. If you come to services on Friday nights and/or Saturday mornings anyway and have room for an extra person or two in your car, this is an easy mitzvah!

To volunteer, please call Serane Blatt at 847-835-0724.

It is not your responsibility to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.
Pirke Avot

Shabbat Grocery Deliveries

Once a week, volunteers shop for and deliver groceries to individuals and families in need. This is a great way, in a small amount of time, to truly help out our local Jewish brothers and sisters who need some extra help.

For more information, contact Ann Weisberg at 847-433-2368 or aweisberg@nssed.org.

Synagogue Wide Monthly Mitzvah Collections

Each month, we collect various items for donation to different organizations and causes around the Chicago-land area according to their needs.

In addition, you can always drop off:

- Non-perishable kosher food for the Ark
- cell phones to be donated to Shalva
- old ink cartridges to support our archives.

For the specific monthly drives, check the bulletin each month in the Tikkun Olam Opportunities section.



Religious School Tikkun Olam Projects

- Sixth Grade Buying and distributing groceries, visiting the ARK
- Bnai Mitzvah Mitzvah Point Project
- JCUA Project
- Mitzvah Corps
- Sixth Grade Mezuzah Project
- Sukkot Food Collection
- T.A.G. Gemilut Hasadim Project
- Sixth Grade Tikkun Olam Retreat
- Tzedakah Support for: JUF, Shalva, Jewish Women's International, Or Hadash, Koby Mandell Foundation, etc.
- JNF Tree Planting
- Walk With Israel
- Mitzvah Day After

For more information, contact Rabbi Spicehandler at 847-835-0724 or educator@nsci.org.



*What does God require of you:
that you should do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with Adonai, your God.
Micah 6*

Gates of Learning Preschool Tikkun Olam Projects by Month

- Sept: Kosher Food Collection for the Ark
- Oct: New Hat and Mitten Collection
- Nov: Bag lunches for Beth Emet Soup Kitchen
- Dec: Small, new toys for children at Children's Memorial and bingo prizes for the CJE. collection
- Jan: Baking for the Beth Emet Soup Kitchen
- Feb: Tree planting.
- Mar: Recycling project.
- April: Ark Food Collection
- May: New board games, card games for Camp One Step at a Time

For more information, contact Marsha Richman at 847-835-0724 or marshar@nsci.org.

Jewish Child and Family Service Holiday Gift Program

Once again, NSCI will be participating in JCFS' Holiday Gift Program by providing holiday gifts for 75 area children whose families are in need. Stop by the synagogue office in November to get the wish list of a child, purchase an item/items from the list, then bring the gift/s back to the office by December 1 so JCFS can distribute them in time for the winter holiday season.

For more information, contact the synagogue office come November: 847-835-0724.



Maot Chitim Packing and Deliveries

Beginning before the High Holy Days and before Passover, anyone 12 years old and older is needed in the warehouse to assemble boxes and to put non-perishable food items in the packages. On the day the packages are delivered, everyone 12 years old and over is needed as early as 6:00 AM to help complete packing by putting perishable food items into the packages. Anyone and everyone, including singles and families with small children, are invited to help out with delivery of the packages.

For more information, call Maot Chitim of Greater Chicago at (847) 674-3224, or email us at volunteer@maotchitim.org.



WITS: Working in the Schools

NSCI currently sends volunteers to both the Hibbard School and the Jordan School in Chicago. Both schools are in need of volunteers to work with their students on a regular basis, serving as both tutors and mentors. Volunteers make a once-a-week commitment to WITS; this is a great way to make a difference in lives of today's youth.

For more details, contact Lindsey at 312-368-9487 or Lindsey@witsontheweb.org.





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Making the World Better Can Start Right Here: Volunteer to Help NSCI!

Volunteering is a great way to get connected, to meet others, and to strengthen our community. NSCI has a variety of opportunities throughout the year, whether you have several hours or just a few throughout the year to share. You can usher at services, help out with congregational holiday and Shabbat dinners, assist in the office, whatever matches us with your talents and interests!

Contact Serane Blatt at 847-835-0724 or Seraneb@nsci.org for more information.

Help Bring More Tikkun Olam to NSCI

Got an idea for a great hands-on Tikkun Olam project and want to make it real? Let's find a way to make it happen through the synagogue!

Contact Rabbi Geffen at 847-835-0724, rabbigeffen@nsci.org, or better yet, in person!

Mitzvah Day 2009

Keep your eyes open for the date of what will be our congregation's 5th annual Mitzvah Day. It is a day when we hope all of our members will be engaged in doing a mitzvah. We learn in our tradition that each of us has a responsibility to make the world a better place, a responsibility not always easy to fulfill, but something that Mitzvah Day makes easier for us to accomplish.

The hope is that Mitzvah Day will continue to be a fabulous way for us to kick-off the year together in the spirit of mitzvot, actions that we will continue to engage in throughout the year once Mitzvah Day draws to a close. As we learn, "mitzvah goreret mitzvah" – "one mitzvah leads to another"; so the key is that each of us begin somewhere, and what better way than to begin together.

MITZVAH DAY TASK FORCE MEMBERS NEEDED!

- Have you participated in Mitzvah Day and want to get more involved in the planning that goes into it?
- Do you have an idea for a new project to bring to Mitzvah Day?
- Do you have constructive feedback for how to make Mitzvah Day even better?

Then you should be on the Mitzvah Day Task Force.

Speak to Rabbi Geffen for more information.

