

Service Learning

<http://www.jrf.org/service-learning>

JRF assists its member congregations as they engage in a wide variety of service-learning initiatives. Many of these were highlighted, with articles and reflections, during the JRF Omer Learning Initiative in 2008.

Some of these activities include the JRF Teen-Parent Week of Service, international trips run by the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) and domestic initiatives sponsored by Spark: the Center for Jewish Service Learning at the Jewish Funds for Justice (JFSJ).

Ongoing Efforts in Darfur

For more information visit: www.jrf.org/darfur

Immigration

For more information visit: <http://jrf.org/immigration>

PEARL: Providing Education and Resources for Leadership

The PEARL series of teleclasses, launched in the Winter of 2008 and facilitated by senior members of the JRF staff, include best practices from selected congregations from across the movement. Three of these sessions were in the Tikkun Olam track:

- Sustainable Synagogues, Part 2: JRF Congregations Best Practices
- Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof: Actively Pursuing Social Justice: Congregational Based Community Organizing and Congregational Advocacy
- Living our Values of Tikkun Olam Inside and Outside: Processes and Programs in our Congregations; Taking Action in the Larger World

Download resource packets and audio files from all PEARL sessions at:

<http://jrf.org/PEARL> and <http://www.jrf.org/omer>

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JRF Tikkun Olam Update

Please refer to the following links to find specific resources for *tikkun olam*:

- Anti-hunger and poverty: <http://jrf.org/hunger>
- Congregation-Based Community Organizing: <http://www.jrf.org/cbco>
 - Ending Genocide in Darfur: <http://jrf.org/darfur>
 - Immigration: <http://www.jrf.org/immigration>
- Omer Learning Initiatives: <http://www.jrf.org/omer/2009>
- Resolutions and External Affiliations: <http://www.jrf.org/external-affiliations>
 - Partner Initiatives: <http://www.jrf.org/sign-ons>
 - Service Learning: <http://jrf.org/service-learning>
 - Sustainability and Environment: <http://jrf.org/climate>
- Tikkun Olam Resources Library: <http://jrf.org/resources-library>
- Tikkun Resources Outside JRF: <http://jrf.org/tikkun-olam-issues>

JRF External Affiliation Partners

JRF works with a variety of external partners on a North American or Global level, both in an on-going and situational way throughout the year. Our most frequent partners are the Religious Action Center, The Jewish Council for Public Affairs, MAZON, and a variety of interfaith coalitions.

You can see a list at: <http://www.jrf.org/external-affiliations>

JRF's Sustainable Synagogue Initiative

With the enthusiasm around JRF's Omer Learning Initiative, as well as the solid response of JRF congregations to our Sustainable Synagogue Initiative, JRF is continues to deepen its greening work with member communities next year.

http://www.jrf.org/Sustainable_Synagogues

Our hope is to motivate and educate our congregations in sustainable practices, with the goal of reaching 100 percent participation in the years ahead, recognizing those JRF communities who excel at sustainable practices our Convention.

A full listing of the 7 weeks of teaching packets from the Omer Learning Initiative is available at: www.jrf.org/omer

The three related Tikkun Olam conference calls held as part of this year's PEARL initiative are available at:

www.jrf.org/PEARL-resources

Information on JRF's Sustainable Synagogue Initiative and other environmental resources can be found on the JRF website's environment pages at:

www.jrf.org/climate

Additional Resources for Sustainable Community

- JCPA/COEJL Environmental Policy: <http://www.coejl.org/about/policy.php#climate>
 - Report on Climate Change and Poverty: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/60/27/2502872.pdf>
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Birkat HaHammah: The Blessing of the Sun

In addition, 2008-9 (5769) will be the little known Jewish year of "Birkat HaHammah" the "blessing of the sun." JRF is part of a national coalition that will use this rare event to focus on solar power and energy stewardship. This event takes place Wednesday at sunrise April 8, 2009.

See <http://www.jrf.org/birkat-hahammah> as it goes live!

Congregation Based Community Organizing

JRF's Congregation Based Community Organizing (CBCO) grant continues for JRF in 2007-2008, thanks to the Jewish Funds for Justice. Over the past few months, JFSJ has worked with clergy, lay leaders and community organizers across the country to produce *K'hilot K'doshot: Holy Congregations, Just Communities*, a resource booklet designed to introduce synagogues to congregation-based community organizing. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please contact the CBCO team at:

CBCO@JewishJustice.org

The booklet features a number of JRF congregations, and includes an insert creating by JRF and JFSJ for Reconstructionist communities! Please also see the RT article on CBCO at:

www.jrf.org/cbco and http://www.jrf.org/rt_summer_07

JRF Resolutions and External Affiliations

Initiatives in the larger world supported by the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

www.jrf.org/external-affiliations and <http://www.jrf.org/sign-ons>

Anti-Hunger and Poverty Initiatives

The Child Nutrition Seder

For Passover in 2009, the JCPA is offering a phenomenal mobilizing event through which JRF communities, congregations from every Jewish stream and local JCRCs can engage community members in meaningful anti-poverty advocacy: The Child Nutrition Seder.

For details see: <http://jrf.org/Child-Nutrition-Seder>



JRF endorsed and also took part in this national interfaith coalition

<http://www.jrf.org/ONE-AntiPoverty> and <http://www.one.org>

JRF's resources are now part of the toolkit available through ONE to organize a ONE Sabbath event at your house of worship: <http://www.one.org/onesabbath/jewish.html>

Download a toolkit and take action to become part of ONE Sabbath. Also watch the new international multi-faith video ONE has produced with religious leaders speaking on this issue, including the Reconstructionist movement: <http://www.one.org/joinonesabbath/>

Together, as people of faith, we can bring light where there is darkness and answer the call to bring hope and justice to the world's poorest people.
