

Tikkiah

Jewish Community Action to Launch Tzedek Institute!

Jewish Community Action is launching the Tzedek Institute—a community organizing approach to bringing the Jewish community together to solve the tough challenges of our time, while strengthening our own community and our relationships with other communities.

Through intensive Organizing Training, Leadership Development and Base-Building, we will develop and sustain a large network of Twin Cities Jews who will be powerful enough to influence public decisions and institutional actions that affect all of our lives.

The challenges of our day are serious. All of us wonder about what type of future we are creating for our children and our children's'

children. But we know that community organizing can bring about positive social change, improve our communities, and pave the way for future generations. We know that the people who make decisions and shape policy need to hear from a powerful, organized base of community stakeholders. Our community has the opportunity to put our Jewish values into action, pursue *Tikkun Olam*, and at the same time strengthen the vibrancy of our own community.

We hope you will join us on this journey.

For more information about the Tzedek Institute please contact Adele Brown, adele@jewishcommunityaction.org or Melissa Rudnick melissa@jewishcommunityaction.org, or call us at (651) 632-2184.

About the Seeds of Justice Fellowship

Jewish Community Action is now accepting applications for the 2011-2012 Seeds of Justice Fellowship.

As a "seed," I have learned to use arts, politics and culture to address social inequalities...Through seeds of justice I have seen the faces beyond just the words Tikun Olam - repairing the world. For me, hearing the stories of people about to lose access to health care was deeply moving. Even more impactful was working with others in the community to reinstate GAMC - health care for those living significantly below the poverty line. ~ Hannah Nemer, Fellow



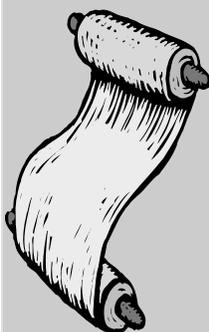
Founded in 2009, the Seeds of Justice Fellowship engages young people in community organizing with JCA, other organizations and individuals. Fellows will gain a wealth of skills, get valuable real life experiences and much more! The fellowship runs from September through April and requires a time commitment of 7 hours per month. Though JCA is committed to heavily subsidizing the fellowship, we request a \$118 payment to JCA to help cover costs.

For more information please contact Lauren Bastien, at (651) 632-2184, email lauren@jewishcommunityaction.org, or visit our website: www.jewishcommunityaction.org.

Seeds of Justice combines social justice, arts and culture to train young people to help create a better community, and a better world.

*No one will be excluded from participating if the cost is prohibitive.

Priority registration is given to early applicants.



Annual Celebration!

July 17, 2011—Theodore Wirth Park (Pavilion) in Minneapolis

- 10:00 am — 1:00 pm with a short program at 11:15 am
 - Celebrate JCA's recent accomplishments
 - Award presentation to leaders of the NCRC
- Light Picnic Food Provided • Free and Open to All

To RSVP, contact Vic at (651) 632-2184

Get Involved in I Am Minneapolis: A Campaign for a City ID Card

Jewish Community Action and partners Mujeres En Liderazgo, Unite Here Local 17, the Family Partnership and other allies are working on a campaign to create a city ID card in Minneapolis. The idea was inspired by cities around the country, including San Francisco and 4 others, doing the same at the realization that there is no humane and just immigration reform on the horizon. The ID would help to integrate communities by making accessible the things those with documentation and citizens may take for granted. The card would benefit all Minneapolis residents by making housing, banking, and more accessible, as well as by offering perks such as local business discounts and more. Eventually, campaign organizers hope to include a bank card, bus pass, and library card function. While the card would not act as a driver's license, it would be an official government recognized identification card. Official support has come in from multiple organizations, individuals and businesses, as well as from the Minneapolis Chief of Police and 4 city council members. If you want to get involved in making this card a reality, contact Lauren Bastien at (651) 632-2184 or email lauren@jewishcommunityaction.org.

JCA Responds to Tornado Aftermath and Foreclosures

In the aftermath of the tornado that devastated north Minneapolis on May 22nd, Jewish Community Action and our partners in the Northside Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) joined the response, with the placement of 70 volunteers at an emergency triage and an assessment doorknock in late May. We helped connect scores of residents with emergency basic needs and other forms of free resources. We met several residents

dealing with significant property damage and facing foreclosure. One of those residents, Ms. Cathy Spann, became the focus of an advocacy campaign early in June to persuade JP Morgan Chase Home Mortgage to extend her redemption period and allow her the time to secure funds to buy her house back out of foreclosure. JCA and NCRC celebrated a victory with a similar case in which our advocacy push persuaded CitiMortgage to give NCRC resident leader Carmelita

Patrick extra time to buy back her home, with financing through Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and Build Wealth Minnesota.

Please join us for weekly foreclosure prevention doorknocks at 5:30pm at the Minneapolis Urban League at 2100 Plymouth Ave North in Minneapolis. For more information and to RSVP, contact Dave at (651) 632-2184 or email david@jewishcommunityaction.org.

JCA and Coalition Working to Extend Legal Status for Liberians

Jewish Community Action is again playing a lead role in the work of the Coalition for Permanent Residency to obtain legal status for Liberian immigrants in the United States. Minnesota is home to one of the largest Liberian communities in the United States seeking to extend legal status beyond September 30, 2011. Congressman Keith Ellison became the lead author of the legislation to provide permanent legal status for Liberians this year along with Senator Reed from Rhode Island. Due to the unlikelihood of passing this legislation, JCA and the coalition, are joining with groups across the country to convince President Obama to once again extend legal status through an executive order called Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) for at least one or two more years. We will need your support in writing to President Obama.

Stops for Us Coalition Recognized with Environmental Justice Award

The *Transportation Equity/Stops for Us Coalition*, of which JCA is a founding member, will receive one of the Environmental Protection Agency's National Achievement in Environmental Justice Awards this summer for its work to secure the three additional stations as part of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit system in 2010.

This award recognizes the coalition's three-year campaign to secure stations in the most transit dependent and low income areas, and to make sure the LRT line will better serve all people in the community—connecting people with jobs, housing and education.

JCA is on Facebook and Twitter!

Check out our updated website!

Follow us today!



Staff Happenings...

L yudmyla Petrenko, a Community Organizer/ Programmer with both JCA and Sabes JCC,



Photo: Kamil Dadashev.

was presented with the **Susie Selcer Staff Leadership Award** on May 17, 2011 at Sabes JCC's Annual Meeting. Through VOICE:

Community Building Initiative, Lyudmyla engages immigrant senior citizens from the former Soviet Union. Lyudmyla has been on the JCA staff since 2009.

J CA recently welcomed two members to its staff. Kami Hall, Development and Communications Associate, began at JCA in April 2011. Kami brings several years of work experience within the non-profit sector—most recently with the local Girl Scout council. Kami holds a B.A. in Gender Studies and an A.A.S. in Multimedia/Computer Graphics. She develops and plans communications vehicles for all print/electronic publications, and

participates in fundraising activities. Kami will begin work on an M.S. degree in Gender & Women's Studies this fall. Kami has lived in Minnesota for 15 years and has a son in elementary school. Reach her at kami@jewishcommunityaction.org



Kami Hall.

Velva Stewart joined JCA and NCRC staff in May 2011, thanks to a generous grant of funds from Atlantic Philanthropies, administered by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC). Velva will continue to occupy a leadership role with NCRC, and will organize specifically with older residents around issues of foreclosure prevention and financial education, among other issues. Velva has lived in north Minneapolis since 1968 and has been deeply involved in community work throughout her life. She served as a Board member of Pilot City Health & Wellness Center, as the

Board Chair of Harrison Neighborhood Association for many years, and has also worked as a paralegal and community organizer with young women and senior citizens at The Way community center. Velva has coached a community men's softball team for 10 years and is an avid league bowler and dart player. She retired from a position with Hennepin County in order to organize with JCA and NCRC. Reach her at velva@jewishcommunityaction.org.



Velva Stewart. at

V ic Rosenthal, JCA's Executive Director, met President Obama at a White House event that celebrated national Jewish Heritage Month on May 17, 2011. Vic is a leadership team member of the National Jewish Social Justice Roundtable.



Vic Rosenthal at the White House.

Join Jewish Community Action today!

I want to become a member. I've selected my payment option below.

Name(s) (as you'd like it to appear on our roster and acknowledgment)

Address:

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Call me! I want to get involved!

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\$54 \$108 \$180 \$360 Other \$____

I am enclosing a check made payable to Jewish Community Action.

Please charge my (circle one) Visa / Mastercard for the amount above.

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Yes! Count me in! I want to address Minnesota's social and economic justice challenges.

Your membership is important to us. Any contribution, regardless of size, is welcomed.

Your membership is tax-deductible.

T'kiah

The Voice of Jewish Community Action

Jewish Community Action
2375 University Ave. W., Suite 150
Saint Paul, MN 55114
voice: 651-632-2184
fax: 651-632-2188
internet: www.jewishcommunityaction.org

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JCA's Mission: To bring together Jewish people from diverse traditions and perspectives to promote understanding and take action on social and economic justice issues in Minnesota.

Subscribe to JCA's bi-weekly News You Can Use
(send an email request to kami@jewishcommunityaction.org) for
upcoming dates and action alerts.

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