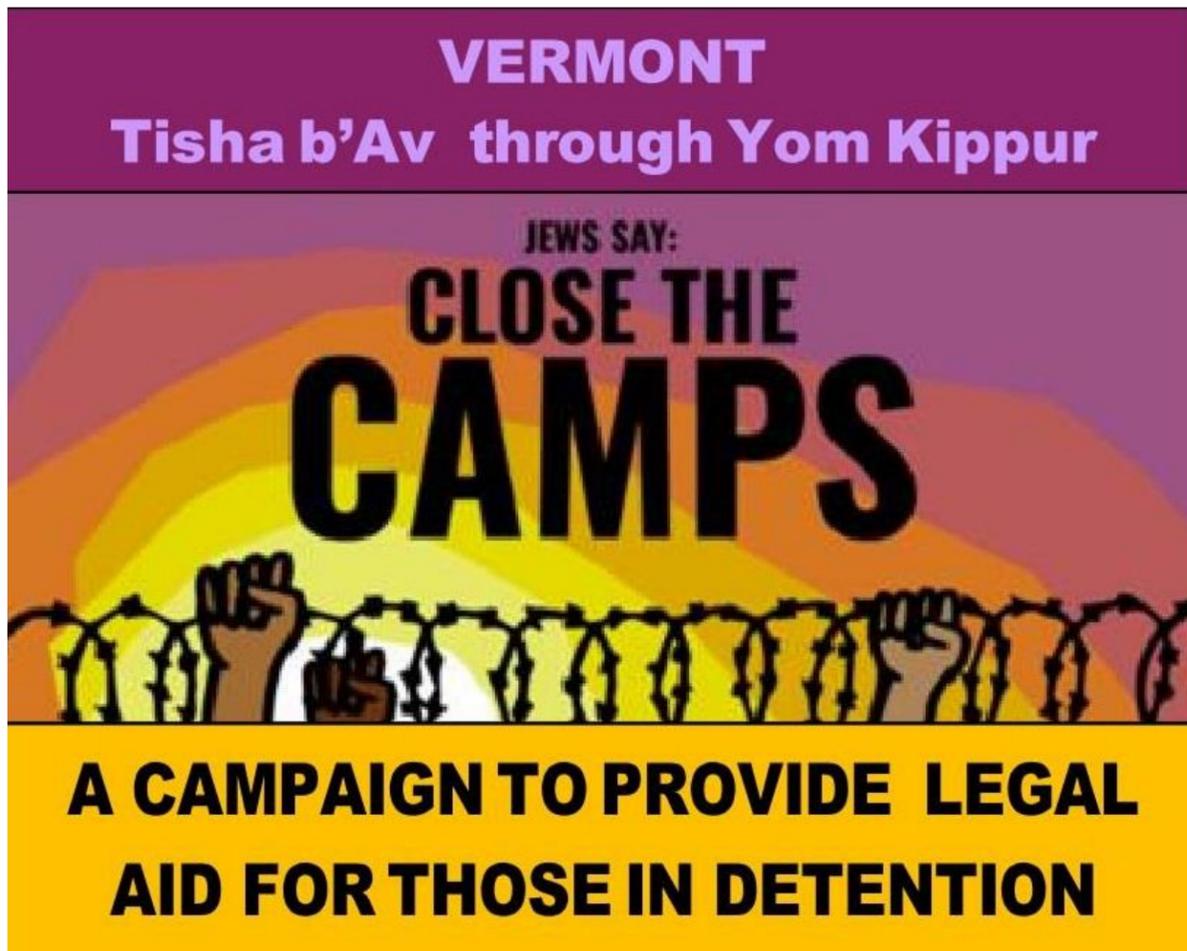


Hello Temple Sinai!

In this week's email -

[CLOSE THE CAMPS CAMPAIGN](#)
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JOINING THE VERMONT JEWISH COMMUNITY IN RAISING FUNDS FOR LEGAL AID TO HELP THOSE SEEKING IMMIGRATION OR ASSYLUM



<https://fundly.com/raising-funds-for-legal-aid-to-help-those-in-detention-a-ca>

Across North America, Jewish communities are taking action and raising money to help those in detention, separated from their families, and those seeking legal asylum. The Reform Movement's Religious Action Center has been at the forefront of this response. Together with other organizations like the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, The National Council of Jewish Women, and T'ruah, The Rabbinical Call for Social Justice, our movement has created a campaign beginning on the recent day of remembering, Tisha b'Av to take actions to improve the treatment of those detained by ICE. The national campaign is called "Close the Camps" and Temple Sinai is participating in it, continuing our participation up and through the High Holy Days.

In Jewish tradition, there is no holiness without justice; a good society must have a fair and accessible legal system. Regardless of your personal views about what the right immigration policy should be, as Jews we can surely support access to the legal system, and the advice needed to navigate it.

To that end, I have worked with our Social Action Committee to organize a Jewish community response to the appalling treatment of immigrant communities, refugees, and asylum seekers over the past years. I spoke with colleagues like Rabbi Amy Small that had been to the border, and with leaders in our national movement and asked them what we could do that help actual people in need. Over and over again, I heard there was tremendous need for legal aid, and so together with other Jewish clergy in the state, we have set up a campaign. Some congregations are using the Close the Camps name, while others are tailoring it to their congregations. In all cases, this campaign will continue until Yom Kippur. The campaign's goals are to: 1) to educate our communities about this situation; 2) include prayers and readings about this in our services, and particularly our High Holy Day services, and; 3) raise \$7500 to support three organizations providing desperately needed legal services to those being rounded up, separated from families, seeking asylum or facing deportation.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, GIVE SOMETHING. I know we are all constantly bombarded with this sort of fundraising campaign, and I appreciate all you do already, but let's show that the Vermont Jewish Community, and Temple Sinai will offer not just 'thoughts and prayers' but much needed funding to help those in need of legal aid.

Here are the organizations the campaign is supporting:

- **LOCAL:** [Vermont Freedom Bail Fund](#)

A tax-deductible fund available to bail out immigrants living in Vermont held on immigration charges. Immigrants with any chance of release from ICE prison need bail in order to be freed from the prison system to rejoin their families and communities, have wider legal options, get help in preparing their cases, and be able to earn their living.

- **NATIONAL:** [HIAS – Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society](#)

HIAS has historically protected those fleeing violence, persecution and torture, defending them against deportation by securing humanitarian legal status and keeping families united through reunification. As refugees' access to protection is increasingly restricted, HIAS' U.S. legal program seeks to safeguard and increase rights for refugees and other displaced people upon their arrival to the U.S. and throughout their journey to citizenship.

Guided by our Jewish values and history, HIAS provides services to all immigrants in need of assistance, regardless of their national, ethnic, or religious background. Today, HIAS' U.S. Legal Protection team seeks to provide various forms of humanitarian relief to their clients who arrive in desperate need of protection.

- **SOUTHERN BORDER:** [Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center](#)

Founded in 1987, Las Americas is a homegrown non-profit dedicated to serving the legal needs of low income immigrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, victims of crime, and families seeking reunification. Las Americas' attorneys and staff are committed to providing legal representation to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. The El Paso port-of-entry sees the second highest number of people crossing into the United States by land, second only to San Diego. Since our inception, Las Americas has provided representation to more than 30,000 low-income immigrants in El Paso. Las Americas' clients come from all over the world, and our staff has helped clients from countries as far as Burma and Cameroon.

SERVICES THIS SHABBAT

PRE-ONEG

Friday, August 23—5:30pm

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, August 23—6:30pm

This Shabbat, we will have our usual festive song-filled service, in English and Hebrew, so come, sing, be with community, and remember what really matters in these busy lives of ours. SERMON WILL BE ON "TWEETING ETHICS" (about Jews, loyalty, and party politics).

And we will continue with this niggun we started last week: The Crakow Niggun:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNmjxOK-Kc>

MORNING SHACHARIT SERVICE

Saturday, August 24—9:30am

Our more traditional service, chanted mostly in Hebrew, and including some of the 'greatest hits' of Jewish song. It is a great way to become familiar with and relax into the core spiritual practice of our tradition. All are welcome.

TORAH STUDY, PARASHAT EIKEV

Saturday, August 24—10:30am

Our Torah Study is inclusive and discussion-centered, where we endeavor to understand the Torah portion of the week, and relate it to the issues of the day and the issues in our lives as modern people. Join our vibrant group of people for an intellectual and spiritual reflection and exchange of ideas.

This week our Torah study will begin its new format, with the first 45 minutes devoted to the Torah portion, and the second 45 minutes devoted to the prophetic narrative books of Joshua and Judges. ***It would be great if you could read the chapters in Joshua before Torah study.*** If you don't, no worries. It will be possible to catch up.

In Torah, we begin the book of Deuteronomy with [Parashat EIKEV \(Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11\)](#) (Click for URJ's Page on this Torah Portion, with modern commentary.) Click here for [Parashat EIKEV at Sefaria](#) with clickable commentary. (Just click on any verse and a list of commentary options opens up on the left) Deuteronomy begins Moses final teachings to the people before they cross the Jordan. It includes different versions of things we read in Numbers and we can consider those differences.

In **THE BOOK OF JOSHUA**, we will read **CHAPTERS 6-8**. [Click here for a link to the text at Sefaria.](#) We will consider Joshua and the Battle of Jericho, considering its magical, spiritual, moral and literary meanings. Please join us.

TRY THIS AGAIN....

SONGS, SCHMOOZE, AND S'MORES— 7:00pm **{RAIN OR SHINE}**



It rained last week, so this week, let's just have it rain or shine. If it is raining, I will need help bringing in the gaga-pit, and we might need to boil hot dogs and heat s'mores in the oven, but we will have fun.

If it is not raining, we will be out back around the firepit for campfire songs, barbeque and s'mores. Bring Your Own Food to grill on our grill (no pork/shellfish). Bring a blanket or folding chairs and some bug spray.

We will sing American and Jewish camp songs, so if you play an instrument and want to join in, please bring it, and if there is a camp song you just love, teach it to us! *If you don't feel like singing, we can also talk about any topic you like: Israeli elections; Jewish activism, the meaning of Shabbat – just ask!* At 8:30pm we'll end with a short Havdalah service.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A group of local organizations including Temple Sinai have been working to create a food pantry in South Burlington. The primary people have done an absolutely outstanding job in moving this forward. We have a place on Dorset St, and now the space is being prepared. To that end, this Sunday, there is a call for volunteers so if you can, please do! Once the pantry opens, Temple Sinai will be having regular shifts. And our High Holy Day Food Drive will, I hope, go to our new local pantry.

They have purchased a very large window to install where the barn doors are and a 36-inch exterior door to put in where the overhead door . These will be available for installation this weekend. So, we're looking for some skilled labor to help install them. Have you the skills to help frame and install a large window and or door? We need your help.

In addition to the skilled help to work on installing the window and door. We will also need some fewer specific skills to help loading the rest of the debris into the truck for transport to the dump and some help in completing the filling in of the pits in the floor.

Work hours are 8:00am to noon on both Saturday August 24th and Sunday August 25th.

Please sign up to help [here](#) and if you don't have the specific skills we're in search of but know people who do please forward this to them and encourage them to be part of this community wide effort.

Also, if you're able to post this in your Front Porch Forum, please do so to help us spread the word

FINALLY, HERE ARE MY REMARKS AT A RECENT RALLY AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE ON CHURCH STREET.

