

## **B'Yadeynu activities for 2017-2018**

### **Summary**

#### **September 2017**

Sponsored educational programming to learn about the immigration process and the work being done to help refugees resettle in our country. The guest speaker was Chris George from IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services, New Haven, CT, [www.irisct.org](http://www.irisct.org)) IRIS helps refugees in Connecticut on their path towards citizenship and independence.

Kol Nidre Food Drive benefitting Anna Rosenberg Kosher Food Pantry and the West Hartford Food Bank. This was very successful, surpassing previous years. Well over 200 bags of food were donated. Monetary donations were sent to JFACT for the kosher meals for seniors program (\$250.00).

#### **October 2017**

Began a working relationship with Windsor Refugee Resettlement Community that is helping an Iraqi family resettle in West Hartford. Provided help in the form of volunteer time. Recently provided funding to allow children in the family to continue their English language instruction over the summer.

Donation of \$250.00 was made to send water filtration systems to victims of the hurricane in Puerto Rico. Filtration systems were sent to the neediest families so they might have clean water.

A collection of personal hygiene items was also collected for the victims of the hurricane. An additional collection drive was organized for folks from Puerto Rico moving to Hartford.

#### **November 2017**

Lillian Harris Turkey drive benefitting Foodshare. Monetary donations were made to the Anja Rosenberg Kosher Food Pantry and to Foodshare (\$150.00 each).

#### **December 2017**

Collaborated with the rest of the Emanuel community to organize the Hanukkah Light One Candle Event. Monetary donations benefitted IsraAID's efforts to help the Yazidi people.

B'Yadeynu also organized volunteers and found donors for the annual Red Cross Blood Drive.

#### **January/February 2018**

Sixty eye glasses were collected for VSP Global "Eyes of Hope" campaign. VSP is an international vision services company that donates eye care visits and distributes glasses to needy people all over the globe.

**March 2018**

Songwriters in the Round event sponsored by B'Yadeynu and The Connecticut Coalition for Yazidi Relief. Talented local musicians shared their time and talents to help raise over \$2,500.00 for IsraAID and Yazda. These two nonprofits maintain programs which benefit the survivors of the Yazidi Genocide.

**April 2018**

Rabbi Small's Passover Fund. Contributions were made to the following organizations: 1) Foodshare: Greater Hartford's Regional Food Bank; 2) Anja Rosenberg Kosher Pantry: Jewish Family Services' program that distributes food, toiletries and cleaning supplies to people in need in the Hartford community; 3) Yazda USA: A global Yazidi organization helping the survivors of the Yazidi Genocide; 4) Friends of Yemin Orde: Supports Yemin Orde Youth Village which is a home, school and safe haven for immigrant youth at-risk in Israel; 5) Beit Uri Village in Afula provides programming for 100 special needs children and adults in Israel. They attend school, create arts and crafts, care for the animals and the land and run a café-gallery that is open to the public.

**May/June 2018**

B'Yadeynu is currently gathering research about the global refugee crisis and ways the committee can become involved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Risa Davidson and Janet Wallans, co-chairs