

## Tzedek Report

The next general Tzedek meeting will be October 20, 7:30 p.m.

Tzedek, JCA Racial Justice Initiative met on August 26. We heard reports from the various sub committees.

Amy Mittelman reported on the Book and Film Study Group:

They met twice and discussed Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. Their next meeting will be on October 4 where they will discuss Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*. In November they will read, Julius Lester's *Lovesong: Becoming A Jew*. All are welcome.

Jaymie Chernoff reported for the Action Subgroup:

The group is doing a "deep dive" into issues related to the Amherst town government and policing. They are also talking to the local ACLU and Lois Ahrens, *The Real Cost of Prisons*. They want to look at undoing inequity in policing and stopping the schools to police to prison pipeline. The group has been active in other ways such as working with the Western Mass Bail Fund. The group contacted two local groups, Racial Equity Task Force, and Amherst and Defund 413. They are planning to have Zoom conversations with a variety of people and groups. The first conversation was September 10 with Dee and Amilcar Shabazz from the Racial Equity task Force.

Aaron Berman reported on the Partnerships Subgroup:

Among the subgroup's activities, Randy Stein is going to work with other faith-based groups to develop a Haggadah. The group is exploring connections with Goodwin AME Church, Springfield No One leaves and the Asylum Network. The group is also exploring inviting Imani Chapman to speak.

Jeff Gold reported on the Reparations Subgroup:

The group met twice and are studying the issue of reparations. They meet every three weeks. Their goal is to eventually bring this issue to the whole JCA community. They have been talking to the Amherst Reparations Committee. The group is exploring speakers and conversations with communities that have undertaken reparations.

Lisa Kirschenbaum reported on the Vetting subgroup:

It is an active group with shared, equal responsibility. After vetting Springfield No One leaves, the group received \$2200 in donation. They are trying to stay local in future endeavors but will go to the broader community if necessary.

In general conversation, there were questions about the chain of command for Tzedek. Amy clarified that Tzedek is part of Tikkun Olam so if a point person is unsure of the viability of an action they can talk to Amy, Jeff or Rivka who in turn will be in communication with Judith Souweine and Amy Rothenberg, the co-chairs of Tikkun Olam.

Amy M. has created a Google calendar for all Tzedek related events which all point people have access to. She has also created a Google Group with an email address. This is for all people involved in Tzedek.

All Tzedek activities are open to all JCA members.