

August 4, 2022

Tikkun Olam is Not One Size Fits All

I used to find the concept of *Tikkun Olam* daunting. How could I, one person, repair the world? Intellectually, I knew that this obligation was not mine alone. Rather, it is for each of us to commit to acts of *tzedakah* (charity), *chesed* (kindness), and *tzedek* (righteousness) in order to continue making the world a better place. But this intellectual knowledge, and even acceptance, does not provide a road map to how, where, or what. And it is the how, where, and what of social action that is really what many find daunting.

I believe that *tikkun olam* can come in many forms, as can action. There is action in learning, cooking, conversing, reading, donating, and lobbying, to name only some examples. The goal is to make an impact - and unlike when you are shopping for that perfect pair of shoes, or need the right size sheets for your new bed, there is no perfect size or style for acts of *tikkun olam*.

This past week, the WRT community was extremely busy performing just deeds...

On Monday, many gathered in the WRT kitchen to cook hot meals and pack sandwich bags for the clients of Hope Community Services in New Rochelle, NY. This is a monthly commitment that WRT has made to HOPE, and with the dedication of our community members, a commitment that we are able to fulfill each month. It involves shopping, baking, cooking, driving and packing. Each month, volunteers can be found in the WRT kitchen; some volunteers come when their schedules permit, while others volunteer every month.

On Wednesday, as part of the Religious Action Center Every Voice, Every Vote campaign, many of us gathered in the social hall to write postcards urging registered, infrequent Black Florida voters to vote in the upcoming Florida primary. The postcards are non-partisan, and encourage early voting and bringing ID to avoid Election Day challenges and intimidation. For those that were unable to attend, but wanted to participate, I prepared postcard kits for them to pick up at WRT and write at home.

On Sunday, while Rabbi Blake delivered his sermon, "You've Stayed Too Long on This Mountain," at Greater Centennial AME Zion Church, joined by many WRT congregants both in person and via zoom, WRT hosted Supplies for Success under our tent. We were joined by approximately 130 volunteers of all ages, and were able to back almost 500 backpacks that went directly to Hope Community Services and Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Yonkers, NY.

While some people wrote, some people gathered to listen, others cooked, and still others packed food and school supplies, we did so with the common goal of bringing more light into this world. Our world, and each one of us, were a bit better off because we participated.

To learn more about Cooking4HOPE visit: <https://www.wrtemple.org/impact/cooking4hope/>

To learn more about Every Voice, Every Vote, visit: <https://rac.org/take-action/every-voice-every-vote>

To read Rabbi Blake's sermon, visit: <https://rabbiblake.org/> and click on [You've Stayed Too Long on This Mountain](#)

To read more about Supplies for Success, visit: <https://patch.com/new-york/rye/400-volunteers-fill-1000-backpacks-needy-students-westchester>, <https://www.theexaminernews.com/local-synagogue-packs-school-supplies-for-kids-in-need/>,
<https://app.criticalmention.com/app/#clip/view/f3cc333f-d976-4d64-83c1-3938703e43c4?token=28bf223d-4ded-438d-9197-e7b0f03ffa6a>