



JEWISH COALITION *for*
IMMIGRANT JUSTICE NW

Newsletter

March 31, 2023 • 9 Nisan 5783

A DROP OF HONEY

As Passover creeps into my consciousness, one image from the Exodus story is banging around my head. I see the Israelites, running from enslavement, chased by an army, approaching the Red Sea. What choice did they have but to throw themselves into its waters, and hope for safety, for a better life on the other side?

The echoes with today are loud. I see people running to Turkish ports from Afghanistan, from Syria, from Somalia, crowding into rubber dinghies and pushing off, hoping to reach safety in Europe. I see children wading through the Rio Grande, clinging to a parent's hand, hoping only to make it to the other side. On our festival of freedom, let's mark our safety by working for the safety of everyone whose circumstances cause them to run.

By Beth Fine
Community Engagement Committee

**Celebrate Passover with the Jewish
Coalition!**

Happy Passover in Jewish Languages



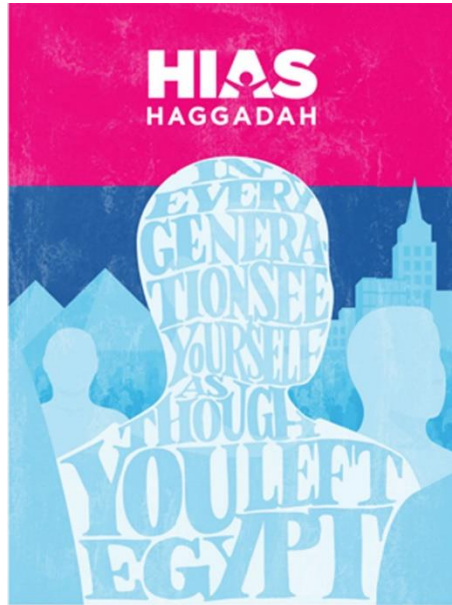
Image via the HUC-JIR Jewish Language Project, jewishlanguages.org

Passover Recipes

Check out [Mizrahi and Sephardic Passover Recipes](#) from [JIMENA, Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa.

Love chocolate, butter and sugar on your matzah? For a delicious Ashkenazi style Matzo Almond Roca dessert, try [this recipe!](#)

HIAS Haggadah: Weave Stories of Today's Refugees and Asylum Seekers into Your Passover Seder



HIAS highlights how Passover is shaped by the Jewish story of fleeing persecution and oppression and the stories of the refugees, asylum seekers, and forcibly displaced people in the United States and in more than 20 countries around the world.

[Download the full HIAS Haggadah here.](#)

In the newly updated HIAS Haggadah, there are stories of past and present refugee crises — asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border, refugees fleeing Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and many others who were supported by HIAS at some point in their refugee journey.

At your Seder, may you connect the foundational Jewish story of liberation with the vital work of welcoming the stranger and protecting the refugee today. For ideas about how to incorporate the HIAS Haggadah at your Seder, [you can watch the *Bringing Refugee Stories to Your Seder* webinar here.](#)

Get ready for Passover with Casa Latina

Need help with house cleaning for Pesach? Casa Latina is a community-based organization which works with Latino immigrant domestic workers and day laborers. By hiring from Casa Latina, you are not only getting a clean house or garden, but you are also advancing the power and well-being of Latino immigrants by providing jobs to our members.

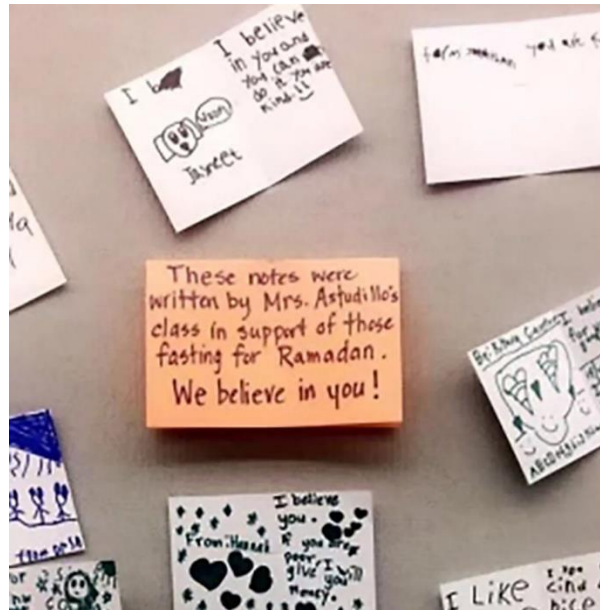
100% of the wages go to workers! Workers are trained in gardening, moving, painting, event support, housecleaning and more. We even have a group of workers who took a workshop on how to do Kosher housecleaning!

To hire a worker, it's easy. Call the Workers' Centers or fill out a form online via the website www.casa-latina.org. You can call (253) 886-3351 if you live in South King County or (206) 956-0779 x3 in Seattle. Thank you for your solidarity!

Ramadan Greetings



Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim friends and community! May this be a meaningful, holy month of prayer, fasting, and being in community. Ramadan goes from March 22nd to April 20th. We stand in solidarity with Muslim neighbors in recognizing that the Christian-centric Gregorian calendar doesn't always make room for when and how we celebrate holidays that correlate with lunar calendars.



Check out [this story](#) in *The Seattle Times* about community leader Shukri Olow's Ramadan Affirmation Card Project for Muslim students fasting for Ramadan.

ACTIONS

Act to Support the Afghan Adjustment Act

Dick and Carrie Stein, Jewish Coalition leaders and Temple B'nai Torah members, provided emergency temporary housing for three young Afghan men with humanitarian parole status in January of 2022. One stayed for six weeks, and they continue to provide support for him. It has been very hard even for these seasoned advocates to find him legal assistance to file an asylum application.

In a few months, his parole status will expire, and he will have no protection from deportation. He can't go back to Afghanistan. The Taliban have terrorized his family and beaten a family member twice, demanding to know his location. We owe him, and thousands of others, respect and protection from deportation. After fleeing violence and persecution – often because of their brave work in service of U.S. interests – Afghan evacuees deserve to live their lives in stability and safety, without the fears, limitations, and uncertainty that temporary immigration status entails.

1. **EMAIL:** [Send your Senators an email](#) urging them to cosponsor and support the Afghan Adjustment Act.
2. **CALL:** Call your Senators and ask them to grant Afghan evacuees a clear pathway to permanent residence by passing the Afghan Adjustment Act. Dial **202-224-3121** and a switchboard operator will help connect you directly to your Senators.
3. **GET SOCIAL:** Post on social media to share why you support the [Afghan Adjustment Act](#) and urge your friends to join you.

SYNAGOGUE SPOTLIGHT

Herzl-Ner Tamid Supports 15 Immigrant and Refugee Households



Image used with permission.

"We are grateful that we're able to help others," writes a member of **Congregation Herzl-Ner Tamid**, whose Social Action Committee has created an effective program to support refugee and immigrant resettlement at Jewish Family Services (JFS).

Thanks to the efforts of ten collection captains and many donors, Herzl has purchased all the items needed to set up fifteen immigrant and refugee households through JFS. This beautiful project is held every year at Herzl for two months, usually February and March. Thank you for this meaningful contribution to welcoming immigrants and refugees!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

JCIJ Communications and Fundraising

JCIJ is expanding our Communications and Fundraising capacity. This is an opportunity for skilled and passionate people to join a dynamic Jewish group devoted to the advocacy, dignity, well-being, and joy of immigrants. We are creating a website and other comms tools, and developing philosophy and practices for fundraising.

You don't have to commit for life! Join us for short projects OR stay until justice is won! [Sign up here.](#)

Accompaniment with Colectiva Legal del Pueblo: Asylum Pro Se Clinics

Want to support immigrant community members on their paths to asylum? Are you proficient in Spanish? Would you be available to support JCIJ's partner org, Colectiva Legal del Pueblo, at their upcoming Asylum Pro Se Clinics? These clinics are offered to provide community members the opportunity to complete their Form I-589, Application for Asylum and Withholding of Removal, in a timely fashion, before their one year time limit runs out. Considering the huge demand for legal services, this can be a real worry for community members seeking asylum.

Colectiva requires that the accompaniment volunteers attend one Asylum Pro Se Clinic to shadow a legal team employee in order to learn how to fill out forms. The volunteers will be trained to assist clients to complete their Form I-589 in English. This process is straightforward since Colectiva asks clients to complete an intake packet in preparation for the clinic. Colectiva will then verify the volunteer's ability to work independently with attendees at the next Asylum

Pro Se Clinic with an attorney review of all work. Colectiva's legal team will be on hand to answer questions, work with clients with more complicated cases, and review volunteers' work.

The next Colectiva Asylum Pro Se Clinic will be held on Saturday April 22, 2023 from 9:30am - 4:00pm at Colectiva's office, located at [13838 1st Avenue South](#), Second Floor, Burien, WA 98168. Additional Asylum Pro Se Clinics are scheduled for August 19, 2023 and December 2, 2023.

To volunteer at an Asylum Pro Se Clinic, contact reception@colectivalegal.org for more information.

We hope next month to begin inviting you to other accompaniment activities for Colectiva even if you are not fluent in Spanish. See the Accompaniment Committee report in this newsletter and sign up [here](#) to join future accompaniment!

Volunteer at NWIRP's Gala

NWIRP is looking for volunteers for Registration, Set-up and Greeter for their upcoming gala. Time commitments to choose from are Thursday April 20th, from 2-6pm, 3:45-7:30pm or 4-6:30pm. A volunteer meal will be provided, and you will be able to attend the program as well.

Sign up to volunteer at NWIRP's Gala [here](#)!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accompaniment

We are actively engaging with our immigrant justice partners at Colectiva Legal del Pueblo to set up Accompaniment Volunteer Opportunities in support of their clients. You can read in the Volunteer Opportunities section of this newsletter about one such opportunity specifically for interested proficient Spanish speakers amongst our readers.

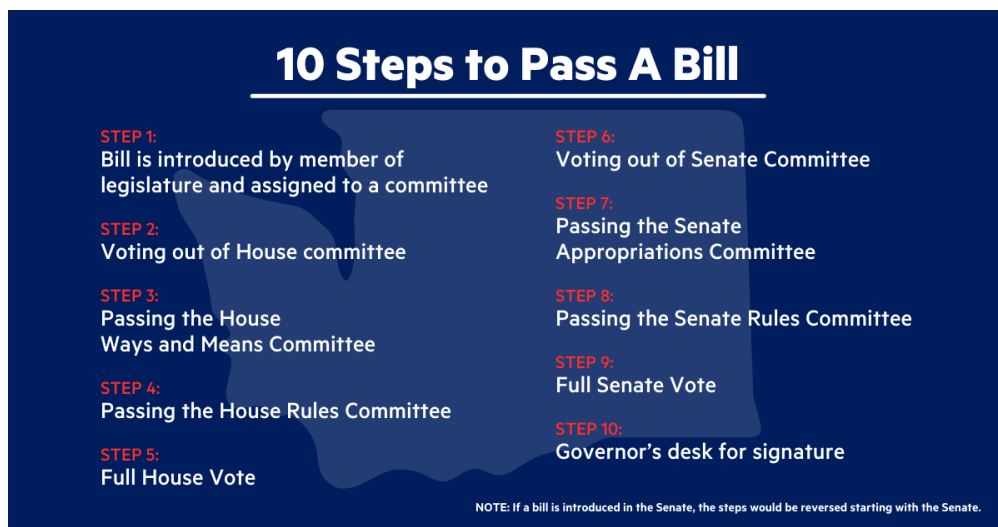
Immediate volunteer needs include helping to organize Colectiva's clothing bank and providing legal clerical support, neither requiring special language skills. We'll open additional opportunities to our JCIJ network soon. We also continue to focus on accompaniment requests to immigration court hearings and various other types of appointments.

Please join us! We meet the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Let us know [here](#) of your interest, and we will be in touch.

Advocacy

Federal Immigration - Opposing the Biden Administration's Asylum Ban: We reached out to 38 northwest rabbis, asking them to sign on to the HIAS clergy letter, which reads in part: *President Biden, we call on you as our president and as a fellow person of faith who believes in human dignity to withdraw the proposed asylum ban and institute a more just and compassionate system that reflects the best of America.* We also asked you to submit unique Public Comments opposing the proposed asylum ban, and many of you took action! Thank you!!

Statewide Immigration - See update below about Legislative session - we have less than one month to go!



Working Families Tax Credit - Do you qualify or know someone who does? Thanks to immigrant justice advocacy, qualified undocumented families can apply. [Learn more here.](#)

JCIJ Advocacy Committee meets virtually the second Sunday of each month. [Join](#) our next monthly meeting on Sunday, April 9th from 4-5:30pm!

Community Engagement

We are conspiring to develop inviting ways for individuals to take action in support and advocacy for immigrants, and we will continue to plan collection drives for 2023-24. If you are interested in joining this important work, please sign up [here](#).

JCIJ Book Club

The Immigrant Justice Book Club has changed the day of our virtual meeting. We will now meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Our next meeting will be May 2nd. We will be discussing *The Naked Don't Fear the Water: An Underground Journey with Afghan Refugees* by Matthieu Aikins. This book is a true story about a reporter (the author) and his Afghan friend as they leave Afghanistan and flee to Turkey and Europe and become refugees. Two members of the book club have personal experience working with Afghan refugees in Seattle and will also share their stories.

If you are interested in joining and/or have a suggestion for a book, please contact JCIJ or sign up [here](#).

LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Unemployment for Undocumented Workers (HB 1095/SB 5109)

Unemployment Benefits for Undocumented Workers built a powerful base of co-sponsors and got the furthest it has gotten in passing out of the House and Senate Labor Committees. Unfortunately, it did not get a hearing in the House and Senate Budget Committees.

With budget constraints and concerns of the cost deemed too high (NOTE: Undocumented immigrant workers are already paying taxes without receiving benefits), we have our work cut out for us in the interim to build support and an even stronger shift in narrative. THANK YOU for taking action with JCIJ this year to move this bill! We will gear up for an even bigger fight next year.

Budget Updates

Legislative Session goes until April 23rd, and the Senate and House released their budgets.

- Both budgets fund the DSHS Naturalization program at \$3.5M in both SFY 24 and 25 (a \$954,000 increase per year from current levels);
- Both budgets fund the WA New Americans program OneAmerica runs at \$2M in both fiscal years (a \$1M increase per year from current levels); and
- The Senate budget funds the Legal Support and Community Safety program at \$8M in both fiscal years (a \$4M increase per year from current levels), but the House budget does not provide an increase.
- Health Equity for Immigrants did not get sufficient funding.

Stay tuned for future Action Alerts as we fight to ensure these immigrant justice priorities get funded!

EVENTS



The NWIRP 2023 Annual Gala is happening in a few weeks, and we would be honored to have you join us at our table on **Thursday evening, April 20, at 5:30pm at the Seattle Westin**. This NWIRP gala is a chance to honor outgoing Executive Director Jorge L. Barón for his powerful 15 years of leadership and advocacy.

For tickets, visit www.nwirp.org/gala and list "Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice (JCIJ)" as your Table Captain. To be more inclusive and make its events more accessible, NWIRP uses a sliding ticket scale. Current ticket prices: \$200, \$150 or \$100.

If you can't attend this year, please consider being our virtual guest by making a gift online and note "JCIJ" as your table captain.



Blooming into Liberation

"10 años de Servicio"

Join Colectiva Legal del Pueblo's 10 year anniversary and fundraising gala!

Friday May 19, 2023

6 - 10 p.m.

[Des Moines Beach Park Event Center](#)

Early-bird tickets can be purchased here until April 15th!

For tickets, visit [this site](#) and list "Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice (JCIJ)" as your Table Captain. Colectiva uses a sliding ticket scale. Current ticket prices: \$125, \$75, and \$50 for immigrant community member. If you can't attend this year, please consider being our virtual guest by making a gift online and note "JCIJ" as your table captain.

There will be delicious dinner served up by **EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY**, drinks, an online auction where you can bid on a pair of **Alaska Airline tickets**, **Mariner tickets**, a local get away and more! We'll have a super fun **dessert dash** with amazing cake and pastries, an inspiring **raise the paddle** (to raise money for our work), **photo booth**, **music by MARIACHI NOREST**, dancing and celebration!

IN THE NEWS

[**This is pretty simple, Mr. President: Don't Restart Family Detention**](#)



Joe Biden

@JoeBiden

United States government official



Children should be released from ICE detention with their parents immediately. This is pretty simple, and I can't believe I have to say it: Families belong together.



nytimes.com

U.S. Must Release Children From Family Detention Centers, Judge Rules (Publ...
The order, which cited the severity of the coronavirus pandemic, applies to children held in the nation's three family detention centers for more than 20 ...

7:42 PM · Jun 27, 2020

The Biden administration is reportedly planning to detain large numbers of immigrant families again this spring. This is part of the administration's plan to replace [Title 42](#) with a new policy that will make it very difficult for the majority of migrants crossing the border to qualify for asylum in the United States. This article was shared by the American Immigration Council.

[Record Numbers of Migrants Are Dying at the U.S. Border](#)

In their desperation to reach the U.S., more migrant men, women, and children are navigating dangerous waters and isolated terrain, leading to higher numbers of deaths. "I've been working on the border for almost four decades and never saw tragedies of this magnitude," said Maverick County Sheriff Tom Schmerber.

[Read more](#). This article is from the *Wall Street Journal* and was shared by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network and the National Immigration Forum.

States Lead the Way in Banning Immigration Detention Centers

Bills attempting to ban certain immigration detention centers have been introduced in multiple states. Following the lead of states like [New Jersey](#) and [Illinois](#), New Mexico and Colorado have bills pending that would drastically decrease immigration detention with the hope that this would lead to an end of immigrant detention altogether in their states.

Ending immigrant detention by attacking it at the state level is a relatively new strategy by immigrant rights organizations. California was the first to enact a ban on some immigration detention centers in [2017](#). In 2019, California banned private, for-profit immigration detention centers. However, in 2022 this ban [was found](#) to be unconstitutional by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Washington state's bill to end private detention closely mirrors California's bill and is expected to be challenged. [Read more](#). This article was shared by the American Immigration Council.

Dispelling the Myth: How Undocumented Immigrants Pay Taxes and Contribute to the US Tax Base

As Tax Day approaches, it is important to acknowledge the tax contributions made by immigrants— especially those who are undocumented. These contributions play a vital role in the funding and sustainability of America's public services and programs. [Read more](#). This article was shared by the American Immigration Council.

Florida Has Everything to Lose if it Repeals Instate Tuition for Undocumented Students

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis in his steady attacks on immigrants recently [announced](#) a legislative proposal that would eliminate in-state tuition for undocumented immigrant students, many of whom were brought to this country as small children and have only ever known Florida as home. This would double the cost of tuition causing further financial hardship in accessing higher education.

If in-state tuition for Dreamers and undocumented students is repealed, the economic consequences facing Florida are devastating. When Texas considered a similar proposal, the Council's research [showed](#) the state risked losses of \$213.6 million in wage earnings and \$184.2 million in spending power without these graduates. That's nearly \$400 million in lost economic activity in just one year. This article was shared by the American Immigration Council.

WATCH + LISTEN

The Impact of the Asylum Ban

Watch this video from Catholic Legal Immigration Network about the proposed new asylum ban. It explains that the proposed rule is essentially an asylum ban and an entry ban with limited exceptions. It describes how the rule would negatively and disproportionately impact asylum seekers arriving at the U.S. southern border.

[Advocate for Asylum Seekers at the Southern Border | Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. \(CLINIC\)](#)

Reintroducing Family Detention

In this news segment [Democracy Now on Reintroduction of Family Detention](#), Amy Goodman speaks with Silky Shah, executive director of Detention Watch Network and Mike Ishii, co-founder of Tsuru for Solidarity, who joined the call to stop family detention.

SONGS IN THE KEY OF JCIJ

Curated by Dina Burstein

[Gesher \("The Bridge"\) | Yosef Goldman and the Hadar Ensemble | Live at BJ](#)

Because I am writing this during the Hebrew month of Adar, when our joy increases, I think it is time for a sing-along. Maybe you know this song already, but even if you don't, I know you will pick it up as you sing. The words mean, "The whole world is a very narrow bridge, and the essence is to not be afraid."

[That's What Friends Are For - Dionne Warwick, Elton John, Gladys Knight, and Stevie Wonder \(Lyrics\)](#)

This song was released as a charity single to support AIDS research and prevention in 1986. Perfect for our Adar sing-along.

[Cecilia by Larry and Joe](#)

World-class musicians Larry Bellorin and Joe Troop met in North Carolina. Larry is a legend of Llanera music, a construction worker, and an asylum seeker from Monagas, Venezuela. Joe is an acclaimed bluegrass and oldtime musician who returned to North Carolina to make music and volunteer in the immigrant rights movement after a decade making music with his band Che Appalache in South America.

[Bolbole Mast](#)

Chloe Pourmorady is the lead vocalist and violinist of the amazing Chloé Pourmorady Ensemble, a Los Angeles-based group who perform a blend of Persian and Sephardic Jewish harmonies. Bolbole Mast, or Drunken-Singing Bird, is an original song by the band.

**Be in touch with the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW
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