***Stay Inspired.***

**Help Repair the World**

***(A work in progress…)***

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Many of us were inspired by Rabbi Julie's [**Rosh Hashana sermon**](https://files.constantcontact.com/467783a7001/aab686a5-d577-44e4-b448-e7b2f4cc7908.pdf) this year - the concept of PCS working toward becoming one of the 36 Lamed Vavnik communities. **How can PCS contribute to repairing the world? What individual and group social action and tikkun olam projects can we participate in every day/week/month/year?**

**I want to offer 36 ideas - throughout the year - as we inspire each other to work toward becoming a Lamed Vavnik community.**

*Please be in touch with any ideas that you would like to share with PCS as part of our mission to become a Lamed Vavnik community.* ***We want to hear from everyone!***

**Idea #1:**

Protect the environment. Carry a multiple-use plastic water container (PCS has one for everybody!) at all times; talk to at least one person about stopping the use of single-use plastic bottle. Bring your own container to Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts.

**Idea #2:**

**Please assist us in providing necessary supplies to asylum seekers at the El Paso/Mexico border.**

Here is the summary of the background of the Jewish Asylum Seeker Initiative: Five faith communities in Albuquerque are working collaboratively to assist asylum seekers who enter the country in El Paso.

ICE will release an asylum seeker from custody at the border if the person/family has a sponsor. This coalition of faith communities has an arrangement with ICE in which ICE transports the families that have sponsors to Albuquerque (a 4 1/2-hour bus ride) and the faith communities provide basic necessities such as food and lodging to these families for 2-4 days while they make arrangements for transportation to sponsors' homes. Many of the asylum seekers have sponsors in the eastern part of the U.S., with a number who live in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and all along the eastern coast.

Two Jewish congregations in Albuquerque are part of the asylum-assisting faith communities, Congregation Albert and Nahalat Shalom.

We can provide essential items to the asylum seekers by purchasing gift cards from Walmart, Walgreens and Target. These cards can be ordered electronically and delivered directly to the Site Coordinator's email, [jcorley61@msn.com](mailto:jcorley61@msn.com). Walmart and Target gift cards are used to purchase items not donated such as sneakers, clothing and food/snack items. Walgreens' gift cards can be used to purchase needed medication and medical supplies.Please email Leslie Mack at [**lesrn3259@aol.com**](mailto:lesrn3259@aol.com), so that I can follow up to ensure delivery.

**Idea #3:**

**Assist in the democratic process** by encouraging at least one person to vote in the election on this Tuesday, November 5. Offer to assist in transportation, if necessary. Bring your children with you to vote to model the importance of voting. It is such an essential right in America because voting offers *everyone* a voice about who are our leaders in the government and the decisions that are made regarding such topics as education, health care and immigration.

**Idea #4**

Make a difference in the climate crisis by leaf mulching instead of collecting piles of leaves for pick-up. A lawn mower with a leaf mulcher allows leaves to be chopped into small pieces and composted in the lawn. It helps the environment by promoting healthier yards by improving soil health, drainage and water retention. It also reduces air pollution and fuel used as fewer vehicle trips are needed to pick up and dispose of leaves.

**Idea # 5**

Impact the lives of the youth living at the JCCA Edenwald Center by volunteering in the PCS Activity/Holiday afternoon on Sunday, November 17 at 2 pm. The developmental disabled youths who reside at Edenwald truly enjoy interacting with our PCS youth and adults, playing games, doing craft activities and just spending time together. It is a very meaningful afternoon; all participants are grateful for the shared time together!

**Idea #6**

Join other PCS members and friends on Wednesday night, Nov. 20 at 7:30 pm as we write postcards to our elected officials to appeal for more humane treatment of refugees and immigrants in our country. We need to stand against xenophobia and speak up for people who come to America seeking a safe haven for their family and

themselves.

**Idea #7**

Donate to the Open Door Medical Center's Baby Box project. You can help to provide essential newborn items such as diapers, sleepwear, an infant thermometer, diaper rash cream, small toys, board books, and other clothing to struggling parents in our local community. All parents want to give their children a healthy and safe start in life but, as we are aware, it is more difficult when you have limited resources. Please help these parents provide such basic items to their newborns.

We will be collecting the items at PCS - there is a collection basket in the back of the sanctuary.

**Idea #8**

During this holiday season, we can all help to keep our communities unique, enable more local ownership and create good jobs by buying locally.  In addition, local businesses donate more per sales dollar to local non-profits, events and teams compared to national chains.

**Idea #9**

Contribute toward working to end mass incarceration in our country. Several ideas include writing to our Congress people to support legislation that is effective toward lowering numbers of people in prison or contributing/getting involved in organizations such as **Witness to Mass Incarceration**, founded by Evie Litwick. Litwick has a history of being incarcerated and she speaks to different communities, especially synagogues, about how her connection to Judaism became her lifeline to hope. This organization has started **the Suitcase Project**, a project dedicated to providing fully stocked suitcases to newly released women and LGBTQ so that they have basic necessities to get started in their new life.

**Idea #10**

Help the victims of the Australia wildfires by doing one or more of the following: Support local Australian firefighting services by donating to Country Fire Authority or by bidding on donated books on Twitter #AuthorsForFireys. You can also help provide child evacuees a safe space by donating to Save the Children. Another way is to help the koalas by donating to the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital; the funds are being used to distribute drinking water stations for the koalas, locating injured koalas and bringing them to the hospital. More than 8,000 koalas have been killed by the wildfires.