

The Tzedek Committee's monthly e-newsletter, *In Pursuit*, is meant to spread awareness of events, activities and information on social justice issues in the community, regionally and around the country. We hope you find it interesting, educational and inspiring. Please let us know what you think at tzedek@tbanashua.org.

In Pursuit

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Tzedek, Tzedk Tirdof
Justice, justice shall you pursue, Deuteronomy 16:20

The TBA Tzedek Committee provides opportunities for social justice learning, dialogue, and action to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Our commitment to *tzedek* (justice) is covenantal and rooted in a Torah of *b'tzelem elohim* (we are all made in the image of God), and *chesed* (compassion for each other).

Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua, NH

Pride Issue

June 2022

Did you know? What does LGBTQIA+ (and more) stand for? See [Abbreviations Explained](#)

TBA and Nashua Pride

TBA's Tzedek (Justice) Committee will be a sponsor at **Nashua Pride on June 25**. Along with other organizations, we will have a table to distribute literature, engage with community members and represent our diverse and welcoming TBA community. **We will also be marching in the parade beginning at 2:00 pm that afternoon and welcome anyone to join us!** If you are interested in supporting our fundraising efforts to sponsor Nashua Pride, please make a donation here [Support TBA and Nashua Pride](#). If you have any suggestions for what we should have at our table, want to march with us, or if you'd like to assist in staffing the table on June 25, please email tzedek@tbanashua.org.



Seacoast Outright, TBA Tzedaka partner in 2021

Since the early 1990's, Seacoast Outright has been one of the only resources available to LGBTQ+ youth in the Seacoast area. Through educational programs, annual Pride celebrations, and youth support groups, Seacoast Outright's mission is to create a safe space for youth to explore the topics of gender and sexuality in a welcoming and understanding environment. Learn more about Seacoast Outright services and activities for youth and families here: www.seacoastoutright.org

UNH Safe Zones

UNH Safe Zones is an educational program to raise awareness of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Aromantic, Pansexual, and other (LGBTQIAP+) issues and contribute to a campus climate of inclusion. Our goal is to support LGBTQIAP+ faculty, students, and staff and take active steps toward reducing and preventing harassment, discrimination, and violence based on sexual orientation, romantic orientation, and gender identity or expression. Learn more here: [UNH Safe Zones Program](#) and here: [NH Resources](#)

LGBTQIA+ Mental Health Resources, National Alliance on Mental Health

Our community members who identify as LGBTQ+ often face daily discrimination and lack family support - both factors can increase risk for mental health problems including suicidality. Support from family members, friends, colleagues, and community members is critical. [NAMI New Hampshire Facebook](#) support groups are open to all. See also: [NAMI Support Groups](#), and: [Mental health and the LGBTQIA+ community](#), as well as: [more resources](#).

Take Action: Help end discrimination against LGBTQI+ people.

Call on Congress to take action. At American Jewish World Service (AJWS) we believe all people are infinitely valuable and equally deserving of respect, dignity and human rights. But around the world, LGBTQI+ people face daily discrimination, unjust laws and deadly violence that violate these basic rights and values. Urge your Senators to pass the Global Respect Act here: [Send a Message](#)

NH House tables LGBTQ bills that critics called discriminatory

Holly Ramer, AP News, 16 March 2022

The New Hampshire House ... shelved two bills critics said would have harmed the state's LGBTQ population by allowing so-called gay conversion therapy and discrimination against transgender people. New Hampshire banned the scientifically discredited practice of using therapy to "convert" LGBTQ children to heterosexuality or traditional gender expectations in 2018, but a bill introduced this year would have repealed that law. An amended version ... would have kept the ban in place but only in cases where such therapy is "against an individual's will." The bill was tabled, along with another bill that would assert "state recognition of biological sex." Read the full article here: [NH House Tables Bill](#)

NH House kills controversial parental rights bill opposed by Sununu

Sarah Gibson, New Hampshire Public Radio, 26 May 2022

The New Hampshire Senate approved the parental rights bill in a party-line vote, but the measure died in the House after some Republicans joined Democrats to block it. Republicans failed to muster enough support at the State House Thursday to pass a controversial parental rights bill that Gov. Chris Sununu was already vowing to veto. While the bill passed the Senate on party lines, it narrowly died in the House, after some Republican lawmakers joined with Democrats in opposition. NH House Bill 1431 would have expanded parents' oversight over their kids' curriculum and activities at public schools. And it would have expanded parents' ability to sue schools and teachers over grievances.

Learn more here: [NH House votes down HB 1431](#)

New Hampshire makes it easier for trans people to change their gender on IDs

Casey Quinlan, The American Independent, 25 August 2021

[New Hampshire] joins 16 others that have simplified the process of correcting gender markers on official identification documents. As of Aug. 2, 2021, residents of New Hampshire who want to change the gender marker on their state identification documents can do so without presenting a letter from a doctor attesting that they are undergoing "change of gender" care. Read the full article here: [NH Gender Marker ID Change](#)

Primary and specialty services for LGBTQ+ individuals

Core Physicians, an Exeter Health Resource, offers a wide range of primary and specialty care services and programs for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) individuals. Our goal is to provide dignified, non-judgmental services to help ensure those needs are met with compassion and expertise. We promote health and wellness and will always respect your need for privacy and confidentiality. Learn more here: [LGBTQ Health](#)

Jewish Queer Youth is growing. For closeted Orthodox and Sephardic teens, that ‘means the world’

Lauren Hakimi, Forward, 21 May 2022

Students come to Jewish Queer Youth secretly — through a Google search, a meme on social media, a pamphlet in their local pizzeria, a chat between two friends who suspect they might be the same in some way. “I told my parents I was hanging out with a friend after school,” said N., a Bronx area native who asked to remain anonymous because some of their family members don’t know that they’re trans. N.’s alibi was technically true. The friend was the person who’d told N. about JQY in their freshman year at a private Jewish high school, now six years ago. Together, the two attended one of JQY’s weekly events in Manhattan. There, they had access to social workers, kosher food, games and the sympathetic ears of mentors and peers who understood the weight of their secrets. Read the full article here: [Jewish Queer Youth](#)

Bills attacking LGBTQ rights are an assault on Jewish values — and Jewish teens

Idit Klein, Is Perlman, JTA, 14 March 2022

...Among over 100 pending anti-LGBTQ bills are the recently passed [“Don’t Say Gay Bill” in Florida](#) and the terrifying equation of trans-affirming health care with [child abuse by the governor of Texas](#). We are a queer Jewish communal professional and a non-binary Jewish college student. ...[W]e recognize that now is a time when we must fight for ourselves, and we call on our beloved Jewish community to join us in our fight for the rights of LGBTQ people everywhere. Read the full article here: [An Assault on Jewish Values](#)

For Families

Founded in 1996 in Greater Boston, Keshet is a national organization with offices in the Bay Area, Chicago, and New York, in addition to headquarters in Boston. Keshet is the only organization in the U.S. that works for LGBTQ equality in all facets of Jewish life — synagogues, Hebrew schools, day schools, youth groups, summer camps, social-service organizations and other communal agencies. We have developed the leadership of LGBTQ Jewish teens, trained Jewish educators to prevent anti-LGBTQ bullying and celebrate LGBTQ Jewish identity, and mobilized Jewish communities to protect marriage equality and transgender rights. Explore Keshet’s collection of articles, rituals, and Torah commentaries for LGBTQ parents and families here: [Parent & Family Resources](#). See upcoming events: [Keshet Events Calendar](#)

Upcoming Events

Rally for Massachusetts Families, Wednesday 1 June 2022, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET, In Person, Outside the Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon St., Boston. [RSVP for Rally](#)

LGBTQ Jews of Color Virtual Affinity Space, Monday 6 June 2022, Online, 5pm: [Jews of Color Affinity Space](#)

Tzedek Committee News

Mazel Tov to Marsha Feder for her new roles as President of TBA Sisterhood, and Board President of Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP)! Mazel Tov also to Laura Hegfield will step in as co-chair of the TBA Tzedek Committee with Liz Macedo.

To learn more about the work of the TBA Tzedek Committee, contact us here:

tzedek@tbanashua.org Committee co-chairs are Laura Hegfield and Liz Macedo. Send newsletter comments or suggestions to editor Fern Blood at feblood@comcast.net.